National Grid awarded £23 million for three major innovation projects

National Grid awarded £22.8 million by Ofgem for three innovative projects, across its electricity transmission, gas transmission and gas distribution business.

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National Grid has been awarded £22.8 million through Ofgem's Network Innovation Competition, to fund work on three ground-breaking projects.

The Network Innovation Competition is an annual opportunity for companies to compete for funding, for the development of new low-carbon technologies.

The first of three National Grid projects to receive funding includes plans to convert an existing substation into a state-of-the-art off-grid research facility. The pioneering project, which has been awarded £12 million, will fully replicate a live substation environment, allowing live trials into low-carbon electricity networks.

A project to construct a commercial demonstration plant that will produce renewable, low-carbon methane (BioSNG), through the gasification of household waste, has been awarded £6 million. National Grid engineers believe BioSNG could eventually meet 40% of UK domestic gas demand, with customers benefiting from renewable energy being delivered directly through the gas network.

The third and final National Grid project to receive backing from Ofgem has been awarded £4.8 million. Project 'CLoCC' (Customer Low Cost Connections) will aim to minimise the time and cost of connections to the national gas transmission system, through pioneering changes to every aspect of the connection process.

John Pettigrew, UK executive director at National Grid said: "Today's decision by Ofgem to award National Grid £22.8 million, is a clear endorsement of all three projects and underlines the importance of what we are trying to achieve.

"The projects are great examples of our continued commitment to innovation in electricity transmission, gas transmission and gas distribution. The funding from Ofgem will help us get these new technologies out of the lab and into the business sooner, so consumers can really feel the benefit."

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Notes for editors

Electricity Transmission – 'Off-grid substation environment for the acceleration of innovative technologies'
https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/electricity-nic-year-three-screening-submission-offline-substation-environment-acceleration-innovative-technologies-oseait

Gas Distribution - 'Commercial BioSNG demonstration plant'
https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/gas-nic-year-three-screening-submission-commercial-biosng-demonstration-plant

Gas Transmission – 'Project CloCC' (Customer Low Cost Connections)
https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/gas-nic-year-three-screening-submission-new-approach-nts-connections

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news
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