

## New legal panel firms

National Grid announces restructured and slimmed-down list of panel law firms

24 Aug 2015

National Grid, one of the largest investor-owned utility companies in the world, has revealed its new list of panel firms for the UK, bringing in four new names.

Addeshaw Goddard, Herbert Smith Freehills and Irwin Mitchell are new to a list of full service firms providing services across the organisation. They join CMS Cameron McKenna, DLA Piper, Eversheds and Linklaters.

Norton Rose Fulbright is a new addition to the list of firms selected to provide specialist support. Other firms retained to provide specialist support are Berwin Leighton Paisner, Bircham Dyson Bell, Dentons and Shakespeares Martineau. This support expertise covers both regulated and non-regulated property and planning, corporate services, as well as gas and electricity legal work.

In line with how the legal market is changing, all contracts will run for a shorter period of two years with an option to extend for a further two years.

Allison Kay, National Grid's group general counsel said

"Our review of the panel aimed to deliver an agile and smarter service delivery model with firms closely aligned to our business needs. Although the list of firms is shorter than before, we feel we've got greater coverage and focus.

"We plan to work with the firms in a closer way to ensure successful delivery and use operational excellence methods such as aligned objectives, closer management of the outcomes to be provided and two way secondments to provide deeper understanding".

National Grid went out to tender in March and the contract period begins in September. The list of UK panel firms has been reduced from 17 to 12, with 7 firms providing full services and 5 support firms.

Ends



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Notes for editors

### 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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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