Views sought on future of gas

National Grid's Future of Gas project will launch today in London at an event that brings together gas shippers, power generators, network operators, policymakers and NGOs

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- **National Grid launches project to look at the future of gas and the gas transmission network**
- **Project will consider the role of gas in ensuring an affordable transition to low carbon**

National Grid's Future of Gas project will launch today in London at an event that brings together gas shippers, power generators, network operators, policymakers and NGOs.

The project will consider the following questions:

- What is the role of gas today?
- What might the future of gas look like in a number of different scenarios?
- What is the role of gas in the decarbonisation of heat?
- What is the potential for new, greener sources of gas supplies?
- Where the potential exists for innovation?
- What policy and regulatory interventions are necessary?

Nicola Shaw, UK Executive Director, said:

"We're in an era of unprecedented change in the energy sector. With the emergence of new technologies like energy storage and heat pumps, we need to consider the role of gas and the gas networks in a low carbon energy future.

"We need to ensure that the existing gas networks and assets help to provide customers' needs while keeping bills down. We will be inviting views on the future of gas, and I encourage people to join the debate."

Following this engagement and further analysis, National Grid aims to provide recommendations to government, the regulator and industry by the end of 2017.

Read the full Future of Gas document at http://futureofgas.uk or join the debate on Twitter (#FutureOfGas) or on LinkedIn.

At the same time, National Grid will publish the Gas Future Operability Plan and Gas Ten Year Statement 2016.

The Gas Future Operability Plan describes how our customers' changing requirements may affect the future capability of the National Transmission System (NTS) up to and beyond 2050 and the challenges that these may pose to NTS operation and our processes. The Gas Ten Year Statement provides our customers with up to date information about connection and capacity opportunities.

At the event in London, National Grid will also outline opportunities available from gas demand side response (DSR). Gas DSR allows large gas consumers to offer to reduce the amount of gas they use during times of system stress in exchange for a payment. The DSR methodology was developed by National Grid in conjunction with industry representatives, including end users and shippers and was successfully trialled in summer 2015.

1. The Future of Gas microsite is available at http://futureofgas.uk
2. The Gas Future Operability Plan and Gas Ten Year Statement is available on the National Grid website from Tuesday 29th November.
3. Further information on the Gas DSR is available at http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Gas-transmission-system-operations/Balancing/Gas-DSR/

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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