# National Grid supports home learning and skills development with donation of 1,000 laptops

**20 May 2020**

Schoolchildren and young adults across the country are set to benefit from a donation of 1,000 laptops from National Grid.

The refurbished laptops, which are worth over £200,000, are being distributed in partnership with five charities with the aim of supporting people through the ongoing covid-19 lockdown. Eight hundred laptops are being distributed to primary and secondary schools to support home-learning for their pupils with the remainder going to youth charity The Prince's Trust.

Ian Jeffers, Deputy CEO of the Prince's Trust said: "Covid-19 has made life harder for young people who are already facing multiple barriers. The laptops from National Grid, along with connectivity packages, will make a significant difference to what our young people can achieve in the coming weeks and months and will be a key way for our network of volunteer mentors and youth workers to stay connected with young people during lockdown."

Over 50 laptops have already been distributed to Cambois Primary School in Blyth, Northumberland. Accompanied by 'Griddles' the teddy bear, the laptops will help young pupils to keep in touch with their teachers during the lockdown and will then be returned to the school for continued use once it reopens.

Jeremy Cohen, Head of Responsible Business at National Grid, said: "Even as thousands of primary schools prepare for the potential of re-opening next month, there can be no doubt that many children will be feeling the effects of time away from the classroom and either having to compete with other family members for access to technology or having nothing at all. We're delighted therefore to be working with these charities, which are playing an essential role in supporting schools and young people at this challenging time."

National Grid has also made a £500,000 donation to the National Emergencies Trust and the Trussell Trust and is encouraging colleagues to volunteer for half a day a week to support their local communities.

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
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