

## NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

*Notes on Completion:* Please refer to the appropriate NIA Governance Document to assist in the completion of this form. The full completed submission should not exceed 6 pages in total.

### Project Registration

**Project Title**

Common Information Model

**Project Reference**

NIA\_WPD\_016

**Project Licensee(s)**

Western Power Distribution East Midlands, Western Power Distribution South Wales, Western Power Distribution South West, Western Power Distribution West Midlands

**Project Start Date**

May 2016

**Project Duration**

18 Months

**Nominated Project Contact(s)**

Jennifer Woodruff - Innovation & Low Carbon Networks Engineer

**Project Budget**

£751,744

**Problem(s)**

DNOs typically have asset data residing in several separate systems. The data held supports the function of each system e.g. asset management, geographical representation or network control. The systems will differ in the assets that are included and may not reference the same asset with the same unique reference. Additionally there may be a reliance on manual processes to keep systems aligned. This leads to the following problems

1. It is hard to identify and rectify data quality issues
2. A dataset that is rich enough to support complex analysis cannot be exported from any one system.
3. Individual data formats slow the adoption of new software as the custom tailoring of data is expensive and time consuming.
4. Exchanging data with third parties is also time-consuming and may not provide all the data required.

**Method(s)**

The Common Information Model for electricity is an international standard developed to support exchange of electrical network information and could be used to support the information layer of the smart grid architecture model. Project FALCON successfully combined data for the 11kV network from key systems to create an Integrated Network Model and this project will initially build on that work to create a comprehensive, accurate and portable network model in CIM format. The benefits of having data in this format will then be tested to determine whether there is a business case to convert and maintain data in this format and a requirement in the future for our software to support CIM format.

**Scope**

The main areas of work within the project are;

1. Extending the process of matching data from the various systems to 33kV, 66kV and 132 kV networks
2. Test the benefits of having a network model in CIM format network in terms of software adoption and integration. i.e. test the hypothesis that having a CIM format model greatly simplifies the process of adopting a different planning tool, supporting a suite of niche planning tools, or creating interfaces between systems.
3. Test the benefits of having a network model in CIM format in terms of data exchange with third parties. i.e. data exchange over

DNO boundaries, with National Grid or IDNOs, Local Authorities, Academic bodies. etc.

4. Test the benefits of having CIM format network models when creating system interfaces.

PowerOnFusion is expected to be used as a repository for the CIM format network model and to support testing of import, export and interfacing functions.

### Objective(s)

- 1 To extend the existing Integrated Network Model for 11kV to export data in CIM format.
- 1 To create a replicable process to combine data for 33kV and 66kV and 132kV networks to identify data quality issues and provide a CIM format output.
- 1 To test the benefits that arise from creating a CIM format network model in terms of software adoption, information exchange and system interfaces.

### Success Criteria

- 1 A specification is written and tested for the network area.
- 1 A usable CIM format model has been produced to include 33kV, 66kV and 132kV networks.
- 1 The format model will then be shared with interested 3rd parties.
- 1 Feedback Question provided to third parties and the responses returned are then used to further inform next steps.

### Technology Readiness Level at Start

4

### Technology Readiness Level at Completion

5

### Project Partners and External Funding

CGI: £63,078

### Potential for New Learning

Expected learning includes;

1. The number of data discrepancies in existing systems.
2. The processes required to create CIM format data models.
3. The benefits of CIM format data models.
4. Whether it is worth spending time and money on a CIM, i.e. does it actually deliver something that delivers measurable value to the business
5. Does having a standard format actually just lead to excessive customisation?
6. What is the existing level of data quality? (And how can the business measure quality?)
7. What is the best way to perform text matching on non- identical items? i.e. same words but not necessarily in the right order?
8. How can we improve data quality by identifying discrepancies between datasets? ( How do we measure existing vs new)
9. How much simpler is the process of importing data into planning tools using CIM? (improving the options to adopt better planning tools or support multiple planning tools)
10. What value do third parties put on having CIM data available for their use? Does it simplify data exchange with third parties?
11. Can the use of CIM format data improve the options to support local control algorithms?
12. Does the use of CIM format data simplify the creation of interfaces between systems either as point to point interfaces or message based?

### Scale of Project

The project scale is at 33kV, 66kV & 132kV. The 132kV networks have been included to enable data exchange with National Grid.

The network area selected will result in a network model being available for other projects. It is anticipated that should this prove successful that a project based in BaU, but potentially run by WPD Future Networks Team, will then be established across the whole geographic footprint.

### Geographical Area

The project will use a specific region (Cornwall) within WPDs DNO area which will act as an initial feasibility study. This will then be extended to other areas within the South West to widen the variety of assets included and reflect a variety of legacy data but the initial

proof of concept has sufficient scale to test the hypothesis.

**Revenue Allowed for in the RIIO Settlement**

N/A

**Indicative Total NIA Project Expenditure**

£619,799

# Project Eligibility Assessment

## Specific Requirements 1

**1a. A NIA Project must have the potential to have a Direct Impact on a Network Licensee's network or the operations of the System Operator and involve the Research, Development, or Demonstration of at least one of the following (please tick which applies):**

A specific piece of new (i.e. unproven in GB, or where a Method has been trialled outside GB the Network Licensee must justify repeating it as part of a Project) equipment (including control and communications systems and software)

A specific novel arrangement or application of existing licensee equipment (including control and/or communications systems and/or software)

A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the Network Licensees System

A specific novel commercial arrangement

## Specific Requirements 2

**2a. Has the Potential to Develop Learning That Can be Applied by all Relevant Network Licensees**

**Please answer one of the following:**

i) Please explain how the learning that will be generated could be used by relevant Network Licenses.

The learning from the project will include;

- 1 Details of the CIM data scheme adopted.
- 1 An overview of data quality issues found at different voltages.
- 1 Results of the tests to import, export and interface CIM data.
- 1 A view of the degree to which CIM format eases software adoption.

This could influence the data strategies of other DNOs who would be able to share any software / algorithms developed to manipulate asset data to CIM format.

ii) Please describe what specific challenge identified in the Network Licensee's innovation strategy that is being addressed by the Project.

**2b. Is the default IPR position being applied?**

Yes

No

**If no, please answer i, ii, iii before continuing:**

i) Demonstrate how the learning from the Project can be successfully disseminated to Network Licensees and other interested parties

ii) Describe any potential constraints or costs caused or resulting from, the imposed IPR arrangements

iii) Justify why the proposed IPR arrangements provide value for money for customers



i) Please provide an estimate of the saving if the Problem is solved.

There will be financial gain associated with the benefits listed below. These are particularly hard to measure but we have provided more information on them below;

1. Improved data quality.
2. Improved data sharing.
3. Reduced software adoption costs.
4. Improved reporting.
5. Supporting competition in network connection and connection planning.

A lot of the cost savings, should this method be proven, we believe will manifest themselves over a prolonged period. However, having undertaken the follow on measures to implement this solution across the four licensed areas we believe that there will be cost savings for the business which will therefore benefit customers directly through cost savings/better customer service and improved information sharing.

ii) Please provide a calculation of the expected financial benefits of a Development or Demonstration Project (not required for Research Projects). (Base Cost – Method Cost, Against Agreed Baseline).

The financial benefits of this work are extremely difficult to calculate because this is the first step in a complex chain of follow on events. One of the aims of this project is to understand the value of having the data in CIM format so it is difficult to state the value before the project. It is anticipated that if this project proves the hypothesis that a series of follow on projects will be undertaken within the business to a) detail the benefits from the results of this project and then b) create a programme of work based on the business case.

Should this project prove to be successful we anticipate the following outline benefits:

- 1 Improved data quality will lead to less data handling and validation- this may save a number of man hours of work across the business per annum. However, it is difficult at this point to put a precise number on this. This improved data quality will lead to simpler reporting, especially where the process to create the CIM results linking between data items that currently lack common keys.
- 1 Reduced Software adoption costs- the business, we believe, spends a relatively significant amount of money per annum “customizing” software to integrate with our current applications. We believe that this can be reduced by the use of CIM standards.
- 1 Improved data sharing- This is likely to increase the value to the third parties receiving the data rather as it should be easier for them to use with a wider variety of software packages. There is expected to be a reduction in cost where this data is shared back to WPD e.g. completed designs from an IDNO.
- 1 Improved losses assessment- if we can make more accurate losses assessments this may mean reduced costs to customers however we do not currently have a viable method for assessing the impact of this as this is a real unknown. This trial we believe will give us an insight into the potential for this. We have however come up with a broad estimate of what we think for the South West Region is a reasonable estimate of the benefits as follows:
  - o Reduced data handling we believe would save us one FTE per annum.
  - o Reduced software adoptions costs would save us one FTE per annum.
  - o Improved Data sharing could we think save us one FTE per annum.

Three FTEs we would think save us £180k per annum, but we think across the whole four GSPs this could increase to nine FTEs, of course this would be year on year savings and therefore it makes sense to undertake this analysis now. However the estimates are such that we think that this is a justification for undertaking this piece of research. We intend to undertake this project via a series of 6 sprints across the lifecycle in order to maximize the potential for early wins as well where the method is proven to work. This we feel will make the project results available on an incremental basis and provide early warnings and signposts.

In addition we believe that customers will see other perhaps less tangible benefits through customer service by way of better data/ more consistent data and better information sharing.

iii) Please provide an estimate of how replicable the Method is across GB in terms of the number of sites, the sort of site the Method could be applied to, or the percentage of the Network Licensees system where it could be rolled-out.

The learning from the CIM analysis work will be transferable to all other DNOs and we intend to proactively engage with them around the results on an ongoing basis.

iv) Please provide an outline of the costs of rolling out the Method across GB.

N/A

**2d. Does Not Lead to Unnecessary Duplication**



i) Please demonstrate below that no unnecessary duplication will occur as a result of the Project.

No other similar DNO projects are known.

ii) If applicable, justify why you are undertaking a Project similar to those being carried out by any other Network Licensees.

N/A