

Northern PowerGrid (northeast) plc  
Lloyds Court, 78 Grey Street  
NE1 6AF

Direct Dial: 020 7901 7295

Email: [Marzia.Zafar@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Marzia.Zafar@ofgem.gov.uk)

Date: 14 January 2025

Dear Northern PowerGrid (Northeast) plc,

**SIF Project Direction ref:** NPG/GeoGrid/RHLPDTF/Rd4\_Alpha

Northern PowerGrid (Northeast) plc submitted GeoGrid (the Project) to be considered for funding through the Alpha Phase of Round 4 of the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). In our<sup>1</sup> SIF Funding Decision issued on 14 January 2025, we selected the Project<sup>2</sup> for conditional funding for the Round 4 Alpha Phase and as a result we are now issuing this SIF Project Direction to implement that decision.

Northern PowerGrid (Northeast) plc must comply with the conditions contained in this SIF Project Direction as a condition of the Project receiving funding through the SIF. These conditions can be found in the Schedule to this document.

**Progression through SIF Phases**

The SIF consists of a multi-phase approach for Projects in order to mitigate the risk associated with innovations. The Discovery Phase focuses on feasibility, the Alpha Phase on experimental development, and the Beta Phase on deployment and demonstration. The Innovation Challenge issued for each Round will state if a Project can apply directly to Alpha or Beta, without the requirement to have progressed through Discovery and Alpha.

**Role of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)**

As per Chapter 1 of the SIF Governance Document<sup>3</sup> the role of UKRI is to deliver the SIF in line with the SIF Governance Document - administering the funding programme, monitoring the delivery of Projects, collating data from Projects on benefits, making recommendations to Ofgem on operational matters, supporting third-party innovators

---

<sup>1</sup> The terms 'we', 'us', 'our' refer to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. Ofgem is the office of the Authority.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise specified, defined terms in this SIF Project Direction have the meaning given to them in Appendix 1 of the SIF Governance Document.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/decision/updated-sif-governance-document>

and, where possible, successful Projects to become 'business as usual' activities. To support the success of the Projects and the SIF programme, we expect that the Funding Party and Project Partners collaborate with Ofgem and UKRI.

### **SIF Project Direction**

Paragraph 5.14 of the SIF Governance Document states that a SIF Project Direction will:

- Set out the Project-specific conditions, to which the Funding Party is committing in accepting SIF Funding.<sup>4</sup>
- Require the Funding Party to undertake the Project in accordance with the commitments made in the Application. Where appropriate, the SIF Project Direction may therefore include extracts from the Application or refer to specific sections of the Application.<sup>5</sup>
- Where applicable, set out conditions (such as Project stage gates) linked to milestones and deliverables, which Projects must meet.<sup>6</sup>
- Set out the SIF Approved Amount for the Project, that will form part of the calculation contained in the SIF Funding Direction issued by the Authority under chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document.<sup>7</sup>
- Set out the Project budget that the Funding Party must report against and how variations in the Project budget will be reported.<sup>8</sup>
- Where applicable, set out special information sharing requirements applicable to the Project.<sup>9</sup>
- Set out the mechanism for the Funding Party receiving the SIF Approved Amount as set out in the SIF Funding Direction.<sup>10</sup>

All SIF Project Direction requirements are detailed in the Schedule to this SIF Project Direction.

### **Decision**

Provided the Funding Party complies with the SIF Governance Document and with the Schedule to this SIF Project Direction, the Project is deemed to be an Eligible SIF Project<sup>11</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> 'Project specific conditions' detailed under Point 3 – 'Condition President' of this SIF Project Direction.

<sup>5</sup> As above.

<sup>6</sup> As above

<sup>7</sup> 'SIF Funding Amount' detailed under Point 5 – 'Condition President' of this SIF Project Direction.

<sup>8</sup> 'Annex 1 – Project Budget.

<sup>9</sup> 'Project specific conditions' detailed under Point 3 – 'Condition President' of this SIF Project Direction.

<sup>10</sup> 'SIF Funding Amount' detailed under Point 5 – 'Condition President' of this SIF Project Direction.

<sup>11</sup> The meaning 'Eligible SIF Project' is described in Chapter 2 of the SIF Governance Document.

This SIF Project Direction constitutes notice pursuant to section 49A (Reasons for decisions) of the Electricity Act 1989.

**Marzia Zafar**

**Deputy Director, Decentralisation & Digitalisation**

**For and on behalf of the Authority**

## Schedule to SIF Project Direction

### 1. PROJECT DETAILS

SIF Project Direction reference: NPG/GeoGrid/RHLPDTF/Rd4\_Alpha

Application number: 10145740

Project title: GeoGrid

Innovation Challenge/Project Phase: Reduce heat led peak demand through flexibility/  
Round 4 Alpha Phase

Project start date: 14 January 2025

Project end date: 13 August 2025

SIF Approved Amount for SIF Funding: £432,935

### 2. PREAMBLE

This SIF Project Direction is issued by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the "Authority") to Northern PowerGrid (Northeast) plc (the "Funding Party") pursuant to the SIF Governance Document issued pursuant to Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence. It sets out the conditions to be complied with in relation to GeoGrid (the "Project") as a condition of it being funded under the SIF Funding Mechanism.<sup>12</sup>

Unless otherwise specified, defined terms in this SIF Project Direction have the meaning given to them in the Licence or Appendix 1 of the SIF Governance Document.

References to specific sections of the Funding Party's Application in this SIF Project Direction are, for ease of reference, made by referring to the section number in the Funding Party's Application.

### 3. PROJECT-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In accepting funding for the Project, the Funding Party is subject to the following Project-specific condition(s):

#### ***Condition 1***

The Funding Party must not spend any SIF Funding until contracts are signed with the Project Partners named in Table 1 for the purpose of completing the Project.

---

<sup>12</sup> The SIF Funding Return Mechanism is defined in the SIF Governance Document.

**Table 1. Project Partners**

E.ON UK PLC
LANE CLARK & PEACOCK LLP
LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
STAR REFRIGERATION LIMITED
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

**Condition 2**

The Funding Party must report on the financial contributions made to the Project as set out in its Application. Any financial contributions made over and above that stated in its Application should also be reported and included on the Innovation Funding Service (IFS).

**Condition 3**

The Funding Party must make reasonable endeavours to participate in all meetings related to the Project that they are invited to by Ofgem, UKRI and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero during the Alpha Phase.

**Condition 4**

The Project will be allowed a flexible start date and duration within the 8-month period from the date the Project Direction is issued. The Project must tell the monitoring officer the start date and end date of the Project.

**Condition 5**

Prior to the end of the Phase, the Funding Party must present to the Monitoring Officer how the Project has engaged with other Projects of a similar nature, e.g. the United Downs Deep Geothermal Power Project in Cornwall, and completed lessons learned to ensure shortfalls are not repeated.

**Condition 6**

Prior to the kick-off meeting, the Funding Party must present to the Monitoring Officer a stakeholder engagement plan for the Project, focused on engaging with members of the public.

**4. COMPLIANCE**

The Funding Party must comply with Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence, the SIF Governance Document and with this SIF Project Direction.

## **5. SIF APPROVED AMOUNT**

The SIF Approved amount of £432935 (as detailed under Section 1: Project details of this Project Direction) will be recovered by National Energy System Operator from GB customers and transferred to the Funding Party. The Funding Party is responsible for notifying National Energy System Operator of the bank account details to which transfers must be made, in addition to completing Annex 2 of this SIF Project Direction. If a Funding Party is required to return funding to National Energy System Operator, the reverse applies. The Funding Party must provide bank account details to National Energy System Operator within two weeks of accepting this SIF Project Direction.

## **6. PROJECT BUDGET**

The Project Budget is set out in Annex 1 of this SIF Project Direction.

The Funding Party must report on expenditure against each line under the category total in the Project Budget and explain any projected variance against each line as part of its detailed report which is to be provided, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document. The Funding Party must report variations in the Project budget as outlined in Chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document.

## **7. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

The Funding Party must undertake the Project in accordance with the commitments it has made in the Application and with the conditions of this SIF Project Direction. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- (i) complete the Project on or before the Project completion date as detailed under Section 1 of the Schedule of this SIF Project Direction, and
- (ii) disseminate the learning from the Project at least to the level described in Chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document. Dissemination of learning must be carried out whether the Project was concluded successfully or otherwise.

## **8. REPORTING**

Ofgem and UKRI may issue guidance (and amend it from time to time) about the structure and content of the Project reporting required by Chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document. The Funding Party must follow this guidance in preparing the reports.

As set out in Chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document, the Funding Party may be required to submit an end of Phase report to the UKRI monitoring officer within six months of the Project ending, if the Project is not planning on submitting an Application to Beta Phase and, if the Funding Party submits an Application for the Project for Beta Phase but is not successful. Within this report, the Funding Party must submit information related to questions on Project delivery as detailed in Chapter 6, table 5 of the SIF Governance Document.

## **9. MONITORING**

The Funding Party must comply with any reasonable request for information by its monitoring officer at UKRI and with related deadlines. Ofgem, with the support of UKRI, will together monitor Project delivery, impacts and benefits. Throughout the term of the Project, progress is monitored by UKRI through a monitoring officer. The monitoring officer is the first point of contact for official notifications, queries and correspondence with UKRI and the Authority, unless otherwise required by this SIF Project Direction.

As detailed in Chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document, meetings with the monitoring officer will take place at regular intervals, as advised by Ofgem or the monitoring officer during the delivery of the Project, and at the end of each Project Phase.

## **10. EVALUATION**

The Funding Party has acknowledged when it submitted its Application for this Project, that reporting information and data gathered during the Project's timescales (as detailed in Section 1 of this SIF Project Direction) will be used to evaluate Project performance. In addition, the Funding Party may be required to provide requested information outside of the Project timescales and, in particular, for the period from the Project end date to the end of the SIF Programme. Further data and reporting information may be requested (frequency and method based on requirement) outside of standard monitoring and reporting requirements as deemed necessary. Further data and information requirements must be complied with by the Funding Party and Project Partners.

## **11. DATA SHARING**

As set out in Chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document, the Funding Party must follow the Data Best Practice Guidance issued by Ofgem with regard to all data gathered or created in the course of a Project. We expect the Funding Party to document any reasons, such as commercial sensitivities, for desensitising data. As defined by, and in

accordance with, Data Best Practice Guidance, Funding Parties must have a data triage process. Where multiple Project Partners are collaborating on a Project, the consortium must adopt a consistent Open Triage Process for the data related to the Project. Ofgem may require that Project information and data is also shared with other specified parties, such as parties working on complementary innovation funding programmes (subject to redaction of sensitive data).

## **12. CYBER SECURITY**

It is the responsibility of the Funding Party and all Project Partners to implement and maintain appropriate security measures to protect personal data in accordance with The GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)<sup>13</sup> and DPA (Data Protection Act) 2018<sup>14</sup>. Protection of computer systems from unauthorised access or being otherwise damaged or made inaccessible must be in place alongside effective working practices. These must be maintained in line with the Funding Party's IT management strategies and policies.

## **13. PROJECT MILESTONES**

The Funding Party must provide an outline in its end of Project Phase meeting with its UKRI monitoring officer that verifies the Project milestones have been achieved or explains why they have not.

Project milestones are outlined below in Table 2, based upon details contained within Question 7 and Appendix Question 9 in the Funding Party's Application.

---

<sup>13</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

**Table 2. Project milestone<sup>15</sup>**

Reference	Project milestone	Deadline	Overall objectives and key tasks	SIF Funding Request
Milestone 1	Project and Stakeholder Management	12 July 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Co-ordinate effective communication between all project partners to ensure all objectives within the project are successfully met</li> <li>2. Ensure all deliverables go through a thorough review to ensure consistency and final deliverables are of high quality</li> <li>3. Conduct regular checks of the project plan and risk register so that project is managed to time and budget</li> </ol>	£81,968
Milestone 2	Geothermal Source Analysis	12 July 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analysis of geothermal well data</li> <li>2. Develop models of geothermal system to simulate charge, discharge, and seasonal cycles to assess sustainability, based on geological factors.</li> <li>3. Assess broader potential in Leeds region for Leeds scheme expansion</li> <li>4. Assess UK level potential based on literature for UK level market assessment.</li> <li>5. Assess high level relationship of geothermal potential with grid congestion.</li> </ol>	£115,567
Milestone 3	System Optimisation	12 July 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of optimisation model to simulate geothermal well / HP Operation within the energy system.</li> <li>2. Collation of required data from WP2, University heat data, network capacity data, and external market data.</li> </ol>	£146,728

<sup>15</sup> As outlined in in the Application or Project Plan appendix.

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Heat system optimisation model modules to simulate the HP and DH scheme.</li> <li>4. Network capacity / constraint model to simulate HP in electricity market conditions.</li> <li>5. Estimation of performance in flexibility services market to ascertain flexibility value streams.</li> <li>6. Definition of modelling scenarios and boundary conditions.</li> <li>7. Model runs, sensitivity analysis, and write up.</li> </ol>	
Milestone 4	Cost Benefit Analysis, Commercialisation, and Market Potential	12 July 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Definition of Alpha CBA structure, boundaries, options, and scenarios.</li> <li>2. Construct outline CBA model to ascertain data requirements.</li> <li>3. Collation of input data from other WPs and third part sources.</li> <li>4. Running of CBA model.</li> <li>5. Assessment of UK level potential for concept roll out with market scenarios.</li> <li>6. Assessment of commercial delivery options / models drawing on case studies and other utility models.</li> <li>7. Write up of CBA, commercialisation and market study.</li> </ol>	£70,957
Milestone 5	Summary Report and Dissemination	12 July 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating of dissemination plan.</li> <li>2. Report structuring and outlining.</li> <li>3. Drafting contents for interim reports and deliverables.</li> <li>4. Collation of material for final reporting</li> <li>5. Additional dissemination activities - workshops, webinar, presentations, etc.</li> </ol>	£17,715

## **2. USE OF LOGO**

The Funding Party and the Project Partners, External Funders and Project Supporters or subcontractors<sup>16</sup> must not use the Innovate UK/UKRI and/or Ofgem logo for purposes associated with the Project in any circumstances.

As an alternative for use of both Ofgem and UKRI logos, all external Project communications must include the following standard form of wording:

- (i) "this project is funded by network users and consumers under the Strategic Innovation Fund, an Ofgem programme managed in partnership with UKRI."

For additional guidance, refer to the communications and media guidelines for competition winners, detailed as part of your delivery pack. These guidelines are designed to help with some suggestions and encourage you to take a proactive approach to communicating about your Project.

## **3. SHARING OF LESSONS LEARNED**

The Funding Party is required to ensure that the sharing of lessons learned and the facilitation of knowledge transfer is conducted as effectively as possible, to ensure that all parties, and therefore all consumers including future consumers, can benefit from Projects.

As outlined in Chapters 3 and 6 of the SIF Governance Document, we require the Funding Party to work collaboratively with other Networks and third-party innovators to disseminate the learnings and data from Projects and ensure that these are publicly available. This includes taking part in annual events.

## **4. COLLABORATION**

The Funding Party must collaborate with third-party innovators as Project Partners, as well as work closely with other parties in the energy supply chain, as set out in Chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document.

## **5. AMENDMENT OR REVOCATION**

As set out in Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document, this SIF Project Direction may be amended or revoked under the following circumstances:

---

<sup>16</sup> As detailed in the Application.

- (i) if the Funding Party considers that there has been a material change in circumstance that requires a change to the SIF Project Direction, and the Authority agrees; or
- (ii) to reflect amendments made to the Licence.

## **6. HALTING OF PROJECTS**

This SIF Project Direction is subject to the provisions contained in Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document relating to the halting of Projects. By extension, this SIF Project Direction is subject to any decision by the Authority to halt the Project to which this SIF Project Direction relates and to any subsequent relevant SIF Funding Direction issued by the Authority pursuant to Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence.

Further to the requirements in Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document, in the event the Authority decides to halt the Project to which this SIF Project Direction relates, the Authority may issue a statement to the Funding Party clarifying the effect of that halting decision as regards the status and legal force of the conditions contained in this SIF Project Direction.

### **NOW THEREFORE:**

In accordance with the SIF Governance Document issued pursuant to Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence of the Licence the Authority hereby issues this SIF Project Direction to the Funding Party in relation to the Project.

This constitutes notice of reasons for the Authority's decision pursuant to section 49A (Reasons for decisions) of the Electricity Act 1989.

Failure to comply with the conditions of this SIF Project Direction means that Ofgem may treat all or part of the SIF Approved Amount received by the Funding Party as SIF Disallowed Expenditure.

## ANNEX 1: PROJECT BUDGET

<b>SIF Project Direction costs</b>	
Cost Category	Total Project costs (£)
Labour	458,241
Materials	3,000
Subcontracting	-
Travel and subsistence	8,986
Other costs	11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>481,227</b>

Project Partner	Total project costs (£)	Project contribution (£)	Total SIF Funding requested (£)	Project contribution (%)
NORTHERN POWERGRID (NORTHEAST) PLC	£22,050.00	£2,367.00	£19,683.00	
E.ON UK PLC	£20,268.00	£2,027.00	£18,241.00	
LANE CLARK & PEACOCK LLP	£167,730.00	£16,773.00	£150,957.00	
Leeds City Council	£8,645.00	£865.00	£7,780.00	
STAR REFRIGERATION LIMITED	£23,007.00	£2,307.00	£20,700.00	
University of Leeds	£239,527.00	£23,953.00	£215,574.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£481,227.00</b>	<b>£48,292.00</b>	<b>£432,935.00</b>	<b>11%</b>

**ANNEX 2 TO SCHEDULE: TEMPLATE OF BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED TO EITHER NGT ([BOX.GSOSETTLEMENTS@NATIONALGRID.COM](mailto:BOX.GSOSETTLEMENTS@NATIONALGRID.COM)) OR NESO ([revenue.invoice@nationalgrideso.com](mailto:revenue.invoice@nationalgrideso.com))**

**Company name:**

**Primary Contact Details (only one contact permitted)**

First Name:

Last Name:

Email address:

Mobile phone number:

Work phone number:

**Address details**

Address name:

Street address:

City:

State / region:

Post code:

PO box: (if applicable)

PO box post code: (if applicable)

**Banking details**

These should be evidenced in non-editable format. The evidence provided must show company name and bank details and it should be dated within the last 6 months.

Any of the below documents will suffice:

- Bank statement (scanned document)
- Void cheque
- Paying in slip
- Screenshot of online banking (showing a logged in account with bank account and sort code, with browser visible)