**Call for evidence on the electricity transmission, gas transmission and gas distribution business plans for RIIO-3**

1. BMA (Business Modelling Applications)
2. Northern Gas Networks (NGN) // Network Innovation Allowance (NIA) Funding – Chapter 3.5.2
3. Not Confidential
4. Having directly experienced Northern Gas Network’s (NGN) innovation leadership as part of its RIIO-2 business plan execution, BMA is pleased to see NGN’s ongoing commitment to funding innovation as reflected in its RIIO-3 business plan submission.

The specific NGN-led innovation initiative that BMA supported in RIIO-2 involved upward of 25 stakeholders across the energy value chain and provided a first of its kind whole energy system assessment, including all energy vectors, of the most cost-effective pathways to Net Zero by 2050. The initiative was called 2050 Costing the Carbon Commitment and collaborators included the likes of HM Treasury, DESNZ, Ofgem, NESO, the National Infrastructure Commission, and the Climate Change Committee, as well as network operators, energy companies, project developers, original equipment manufacturers, transport operators, and academia. NGN’s leadership, vision, and willingness to facilitate transparent evidence-based collaboration with stakeholders across the UK’s energy value chain was demonstrated throughout this initiative.

As a UK-based technology SME focused on whole energy system transition planning, NGN’s willingness to embrace BMA’s innovative AI-assisted energy infrastructure planning technology has been instrumental in our growth in the UK and the export potential of our Decisio™ Cloud for Energy (C4ET) planning platform. It has allowed us to demonstrate the value of comprehensive temporal, spatial, and financial planning and investment optimisation and has stimulated significant market interest.

The success of this initiative has resulted in a further innovation initiative to demonstrate the same whole energy system planning capabilities at a regional level, connecting the plans of distribution network operators (gas & electricity) with local energy transition and decarbonisation plans and regional objectives. Here again, NGN has demonstrated its continuity in thought leadership when it comes to delivering value and reliable services to energy consumers through a true whole energy system assessment and NGN’s optimal role within that energy system.