

Network Innovation Competition Full Submission

Supplementary Answer Form

Tick if this answer is Confidential:

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally:

Project code:	SGN_GN_01	Question Number	9
Question date	27 th August 2013	Answer date	29 th August 2012
Submission section question relates to	Section 6		
Topic	Project Readiness		
Question	Section 6 - p34 text 'we are also in the process of finalising another transitional IFI to NIA project with Synthotech Limited' etc. - Please clarify the potential duplication/overlap between the two streams of development effort (Synthotech and ULCR) and expenditure. Also, will the learning be shared as each development process progresses?		
Notes on question			
Answer	<p>The project entitled; SynthoTrax I-Seal Robots (Technical Feasibility Study), project reference NIA_SGN0003 commenced in January 2013 under IFI and is nearing completion under NIA. The initial phase of this project was funded from SGN's Innovation Funding Incentive (IFI) in 2012/13 (£52,920). The total outstanding expenditure is expected to be £17,332, of which 90% is allowable NIA expenditure.</p> <p>This technical project explores the feasibility of expanding the capability of a robotic platform; originally developed by Synthotech in 2009, which provided an inspection system for 18" to 48" diameter gas mains and a laser scanning system for 355mm to 630mm polyethylene gas mains operating at pressures up to 2bar.</p> <p>This new platform is referred to as SynthoTrax and its initial prototype does have similarities in terms of application to that already designed by ULC Robotics, as both seek to operate on a live network and seal leaking joints on larger diameter gas pipes internally, reducing the need for excavations to repair joints.</p> <p>However, the objectives of the NIA project are different to the NIC submission as the purpose is to carry out a feasibility study to investigate the potential to extend the capability of the prototype SynthoTrax</p>		

	<p>architecture to enable remote internal joint sealing of gas pipes. At this time it was determined that the proposed method under this project is infeasible.</p> <p>Nevertheless the study provides information that can be utilised throughout the NIC project, including a global assessment review of the technology available for each of the individual system components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Access Fitting · Access System · In-pipe robotic platform · Sealant Application System · In-pipe CCTV · External Support Systems <p>As this NIA project moves towards successful completion it has already been agreed that the learning from this project will be disseminated amongst the other Network Licensees in a clearly defined report. Yet more importantly will form a fundamental basis for SGN to work from when progressing the NIC project as the study.</p>
Attachments	
Verbal Clarifications (Consultants)	