

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Network Innovation Competition (NIC)

Call for proposals **2018**

We want your ideas for the 2018 electricity transmission NIC programme

We're calling for proposals to develop substantial innovations for the UK's electricity transmission network. To help focus your ideas we have mapped out some key themes and ideas where we would welcome proposals. Read on to learn what our challenge areas are and the process for submitting your ideas.

- » Up to £70m of funding available
- » Submission deadline 8 December 2017

The 2018 themes



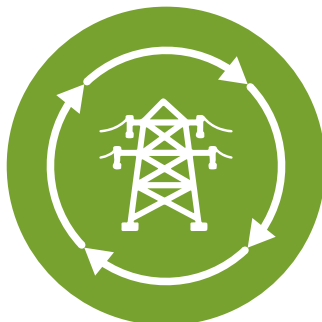
Less Visually Intrusive Transmission

Society expects that we do everything possible to minimise the visual impact of the electricity transmission network. We welcome submissions that help tackle this challenge.



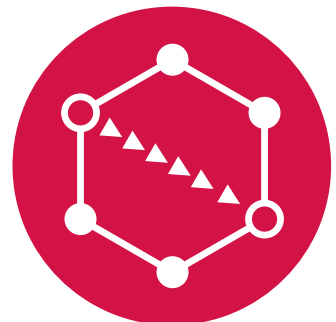
Exploitation of New Materials

As we design, build and maintain the electricity assets of the future, we must do so in the best way using the latest technologies and materials. Help us identify how we can use innovative materials through the supply chain.



Asset Life Extension

Managing Britain's electricity infrastructure effectively means getting the most out of our existing assets as well as building new ones. We are looking for solutions that will help us extend asset life through better maintenance and refurbishment practices as well as identifying novel asset management techniques.



Speed of Solution

Whether it's deploying assets or repairing faults on the system, providing a rapid solution is increasingly important. If you have a technology or innovation idea that can accelerate performance in these areas, we would like to hear about it.

Maybe you have an innovation idea that doesn't fit into one of our main themes. Tell us more about it and why you believe it can make a difference.

If your proposal leads to a successful bid in 2018 it would join our cutting edge NIC innovation portfolio alongside the Deeside Project.





Deeside

Europe's first innovation centre where electricity assets can be tested off-grid, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit the [Deeside Website](#)

Project value:
£12m

How to apply for funding ►

National Grid Electricity Transmission NIC call for proposals 2018

Theme	Challenge
Less Visually Intrusive Transmission 	Reduce the cost of undergrounding
	Investigate alternative transmission media
	Research visual concealment technologies
Exploitation of New Materials 	Use new technologies and materials through our supply chain
	Optimise asset design, build, and maintenance
Asset Life Extension 	Improve maintenance and refurbishment practices
	Developing novel asset management techniques
Speed of Solution 	Develop technologies to allow faster deployment of assets
	Faster discovery and repair of faults

NOTES ON NIC There is a fund of £70m available each year to the electricity networks. Projects must be innovative, save network customers money and have a carbon or environmental benefit. Proposed projects go through an Initial Screening Proposal (ISP) stage in April 2018. This is when Ofgem will give a go/no go decision to proceed to full project submission. Costs for development of the project are not recoverable. To find out more please visit our website www.nationalgrid.com/innovation

The process

If your proposal shows merit but is not progressed via NIC we will look at whether it can still be funded as an NIA project from our £5m/year allowance.



You can download a proposal submission and guidance document [form here](#). If you have any questions, require subject matter expert (SME) advice on completing a proposal, or to submit your proposal, please contact us at Box.eto.innovationteam@nationalgrid.com

Submission deadline 8 December 2017