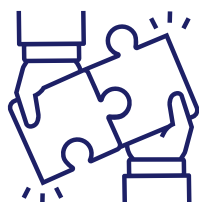


Energy Networks: Procurement of Innovation Review

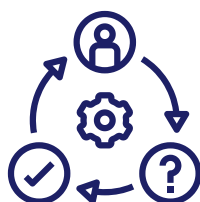
Background and approach

Acting on feedback from innovators, the EIC Partnership has been working with Baringa Partners to improve the process of procuring innovative solutions, as well as improving the overall experience of innovators when interacting with the industry.

The outcomes expected from this work include:



An improved understanding between innovators and networks on how best to work together



Increased and accelerated conversion from idea to trial to BAU



Lower costs to source and deliver innovation solutions for all parties



Increase in the overall benefits realised from innovation



The findings and recommendations overleaf were informed both by data returned in surveys sent out to the Network Partners and the Innovation Community and by data gathered through workshops and 1-1 interviews.

Whilst some quick wins have already been identified and implemented, the EIC is currently working with each network partner to define a shared action plan.



Energy Networks: Procurement of Innovation Review

Key findings

01: Inter departmental collaboration needs significant improvement, starting from the development of the Innovation Strategy through to transitioning innovation projects to BAU deployment and scaling

02: Networks are not articulating or qualifying the problem requirements effectively before issuing calls for innovation

03: Before contracting for the project stage, expectations are often not set with the Innovator on the route to scale beyond the innovation project

04: Intellectual Property Terms Conditions are a constant stumbling block and often are not reflective of the Network's position on IP

05: Better processes mechanisms need to be in place during project delivery to jointly discuss network and innovator performance, assurance, development and collaboration

06: There is no clearly defined process for transitioning co developed documentation and solutions from project to BAU

Key recommendations

01: Create an efficient end to end innovation deployment process to enable more productive and collaborative relationships between your organisation's functions in taking ideas from trial to BAU

02 Ensure a robust process for qualifying and prioritising problems' and innovation requirements prior to issuing calls for innovation

03 Document and socialise your "route to scale" procurement and contracting processes to ensure they are clearly communicated and understood by the business and your Innovators

04: Revisit your starting position terms and conditions around intellectual property, liability and insurance to ensure they are appropriate for innovation projects and partnerships

05: Conduct live innovation project health check(s) to ensure projects are on track for success and ready for BAU transition

06: Ensure the process for project to BAU transition is documented and understood by all who play a role in it

