



Pavement Protection

Project summary

Industry Partner(s):

Northern Gas Networks, UK Power Networks

Innovator:

Centriforce, Engineering Plastic Supplies, MW Polymers

Challenge:

Maintenance and installation activities on underground network assets often require excavations. Following the completion of work and as part of the reinstatement process, the excavation requires backfilling and spoil needs to be removed from the site. This process tends to cause damage to the pavement, either due to the spoil itself or the mechanical means (e.g. single or clamshell buckets) used for handling the spoil, resulting in complaints from customers and fines from local authorities.

Approach:

A call was launched looking for a solution.

Outputs:

Three different SMEs proposed similar marketready products (rubber mats), which could be laid over the pavement -absorbing the impact from mechanical processes and providing an area for excavated material to be placed on top of. All three products were trialled by the networks in live environments: Subsequently, all were approved and the networks will now decide which product to implement based on the cost per unit.



Impact:

Incremental



Key benefit:

Financial

Preventing pavement damage mitigates the risk of fines from local authorities



Additional benefits:

Societal

Preventing pavement damage reduces the impact of network activities on local communities and infrastructure



Pace

16 weeks from call launch to trial