Heat Network Vocational Course & Introductory Video Development

In 2020, the Heat Network Skills Review found that while there is a growing heat network market in the UK, there is a risk that the UK heat network supply chain may not attain the capability and capacity needed at a pace that keeps up with market growth. The sector already faces a skills gap, which is likely to become more acute as the industry grows. Recent work by BEIS[[1]](#footnote-2) has indicated that many existing heat networks in England and Wales are operating sub-optimally leading to customer detriment. Many network operators (particularly Local Authorities and Housing Associations) lack access to specialist staff and the time to identify and address issues.

As part of the Heat Network Skills Programme, BEIS are looking to develop a series of vocational **courses as a route to improving the capabilities of staff operating and maintaining heat networks,** particularly to support poorly performing communal and campus networks. Alongside the courses, this project will also include a series of introductory videos to highlight the courses produced, as well as careers in the heat networks sector.

These courses and videos aim to:

1. Provide access to free introductory training videos to upskill individuals responsible for managing buildings or procuring building services to improve the operation and maintenance of heat networks within buildings.
2. Support the upskilling of staff involved in commissioning and undertaking heat networks operation and maintenance through the development of accredited courses and online training videos.
3. Promote the heat networks sector and highlight the range of careers in heat networks through online videos.
4. Communicate the availability of the video and courses to a targeted comms campaign.
5. Share lessons from previous BEIS programmes as well as the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme so as to prepare the market for the future heat network standards and stimulate associated training provision.

*Operation and maintenance courses*

**Attendees are asked for views on what should be included in an operation and maintenance syllabus for heat networks within buildings. Current ideas for topics to cover include:**

* General heat networks (communal)
* Energy centre
  + CHP engines
  + Large scale boilers
  + Large scale heat pumps
  + Biomass
* Primary networks (flows, returns)
* Secondary networks
* Heat Interface Units (HIUs)
* Heat Network Optimisation (whole systems)
* Metering, billing, and data collection

**Attendees are asked for views on how we should be engaging with training providers through this project to encourage uptake of these courses?**

*Online training videos* (optional)

**Attendees are asked to consider if they can deliver this work in house, alongside the operation and maintenance course development**.

The videos will be short and practical using plain English and suggest further resources. They provide introductions to a topic area and create an awareness of best practice, enabling people to discern when networks might be performing sub optimally and sharing tips on how to make small changes that can improve network performance or how to identify an appropriate service provider. We envisage an **introduction series** as well an **issues series** being created. The issues seriesproviding more detail on problems in heat networks operation (12 or more videos). We will also produce a **careers and skills series** to highlight routes into the sector (~10 videos).

Required skills and experience:

* Technical expertise and understanding of the heat network sector
* Knowledge and experience of heat network operation and maintenance
* Knowledge of the UK qualification and training landscape
* Project management
* Technical drafting
* Industry engagement

Desirable skills and experience:

* Experience of developing and/or delivering training courses
* Existing links to training providers
* Videography

*Estimated Cost*

**Attendees are asked to consider the potential cost for both the development of the operation and maintenance courses and the training videos.**

1. The Market Framework consultation (February 2020); the Heat Network Optimisation Opportunities (HNOO) project (Jan 2020 – Mar 2021); Heat Network Efficiency Scheme Demonstrator (Oct 21 – Mar 22). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)