

Non-Domestic Smart Energy Management Innovation Competition Frequently Asked Questions

Data and data access

Do we have to use smart meter data?

The intended focus of the Competition is on innovation using data from non-domestic fiscal meters within the scope of the smart metering roll-out. We are not excluding advanced metering data, as you can see from reading the briefing and the Invitation to Tender (ITT). We recognise that other data (such as through sensors) could be brought in and combined with smart meter data.

How do I get access to smart meter data?

We encourage interested parties to talk to suppliers for access to data. Evidence gathered by the Smart Metering Implementation Programme shows that suppliers do provide free access, even though they are not required to.

Current SMETS meters probably won't gather the high frequency data required for disaggregation and the competition seems to preclude hardware change.

The capability of the meter was designed to support a range of functions and services, which potentially include forms of disaggregation, based on an assessment of costs and benefits. However the Smart Energy Code (SEC) modification process can be used to suggest changes to meter specifications. See the SEC website for further details: <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/>

Is there a technical specification for the Customer Access Device (CAD) to allow consumers to directly access their consumption data?

There's no specification for CAD per se. The Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) (<https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/document-download-centre/download-info/gbcs-v2-0/>) sets out the technical details of the data available to CADs and how they can access it. Section 7 in the GBCS would be a good starting point. Other CAD functionality is up to developers. SEC members can raise modifications using the process detailed here: <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/document-download-centre/>

What interfaces are acceptable for the data tool?

We have not stipulated any requirements as to the channel(s) through which data and/or resulting analysis and advice is delivered.

Characteristics of non-domestic organisations

What is the significance of the distinction made between chains and independents? What do you anticipate will distinguish solutions for chains?

Our research showed that whether or not sites are part of a multi-site organisation was an important factor in determining their approach to energy management (see the published research for further details). We therefore anticipate that differing solutions may generally be appropriate; however proposals which cover both are also eligible for funding.

What is the propensity to switch supplier in the proposed segments? Do they typically buy directly from the utility or via an energy broker?

Ofgem has quantitative research on micro- and small business customers. Data on business switching rates and influencers is available here:

[https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2017/04/ofgem -
micro and small business engagement 2016 - research report.pdf](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2017/04/ofgem_-_micro_and_small_business_engagement_2016_-_research_report.pdf)

What sub-sectors are covered in hospitality?

Hospitality includes pubs and bars, restaurants and takeaways, cafes, hotels, hostels, hotels with restaurants and restaurants with rooms.

Competition parameters and partnerships

Should proposals be restricted to solutions around energy data provision and recommendations for the end user, or can proposals include tangible implementation measures?

We expect proposals to identify ways of using data to assist target organisations to manage down their energy use. Development or installation of physical energy efficiency measures (e.g. insulation or automated building controls) are unlikely to be considered eligible for funding under the Competition.

Will BEIS be supporting networking and consortium formation amongst parties interested in bidding in the competition?

We currently expect to arrange a networking event around the end of Phase 1 of the competition to help participants make contacts with other organisations that can bring skills and resources that might be needed in Phases 2 and 3. In the meantime we are looking into establishing an online forum to enable interested parties to identify each other and make contact.

Research considerations

What do you mean by “action research”?

Action research is a specific type of research methodology – which tends to be done within organisations, when working on challenges for which the solutions are not clear, and there are many different possible routes to solutions. The important difference is that the subjects of research (competition participants and also customers) are actively involved stakeholders in the process.

Intellectual property - what are the arrangements for ownership of IP?

These are set out in the ITT.

When and where will the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the Research and Evaluation Contractor be issued?

This will be issued shortly. We will include information on this in a further update.

What if I have more questions?

Please email smartenergymanagement@beis.gov.uk