



Innovation funding and competition: Further consultation on design and implementation

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Date – 26 June 2020

Intellectual Property Rights and Royalties

Q1: Do you agree with our proposed default arrangements for managing IPR and royalties? Do you think these arrangements work for different types of projects and activities (e.g. new technology vs. process innovation, roll-out activities etc.)?

Response - Firstly, the approach of differentiating between background and foreground IPR is appropriate. I agree with the proposed approach for background IPR, wherein the participant will own any pre-existing IPR. Re Foreground IPR, it fine to share the IPR between and innovators and extend the license to the other Water companies so that the customer should get the benefits.

Open data and information

Q3: Do you agree with the principle that data generated through the innovation competition should be open by default?

Response- I agree with the principle of open data as it will enable digitalisation in the Water sector and will also encourage other parties to come up with innovative ideas and solution.

It is equally important to have comprehensive policy to provide a direction to adopt an open data framework and associated benefits. Also, the policy should clearly demonstrate to incentivise the open data behaviour. This can be leveraged from the Energy sector.

It is recommended that the level of open data should be discussed and agreed with Industry participants.

Risk sharing

Q4: Do you agree with our proposed approach and that we should consider alternative arrangements beyond company contributions?

Response- I agree with the proposed approach, Water companies should be given an option to partner with third party technology companies. It will help generating the funding from Water companies and increase their contribution beyond 10%.

Risk sharing

Q5: Do you agree that a guideline minimum company contribution of 10% is appropriate in this context?

Response- Yes, there needs to be a provision for minimum contribution from Water companies. This will not only minimise the risk but also make them accountable and ensure the roll-out of the projects successfully.

Types of projects funded

Q6: Do you agree with the overarching approach we set out here?

Response- In principle, I agree with the proposed approach. While innovation is generally relates with new ideas or concept, it is equally important to have an outcome and associated benefits from the innovation to the wider Water companies. It should be considered in the funding criteria where companies needs to submit the business case demonstrating the impact and benefits for Water companies before the getting the required approval.

Types of projects funded

Q8: Do you agree with our proposal for ensuring roll-out is at the heart of the innovation competition? How might we reward both leaders and fast followers in?

Response- I agree with the approach and shared my inputs in response to Q6. The policy should have an option to incentivise the leaders and fast followers. One of the option is by giving relaxation in the minimum company contribution of 10%.

Updated principles

Q13: Do you agree with our proposed amendments to the principles? Are any further amendments to the principles required to reflect our approach to outstanding policy issues outlined in this document?

Response- I agree with proposed amendments. Also, propose to include the one as listed below –

It is mandatory for a Water company (where possible) to extend the innovation benefits to other Water companies and their customers where it is funded by Ofwat.

THANK YOU

A row of eight white dice with black letters on their faces. The dice are arranged to spell out the words 'THANK' and 'YOU' with a space between them. The letter 'N' is tilted upwards, while the other letters are upright. The dice are set against a plain white background.