

30/11/15: North West power network given £5.5m innovation funding boost

Electricity North West's latest innovative project, which will help prepare the North West network for renewable energy and safeguard costs for customers, was awarded £5.5m funding today.

The region's power operator was one of two electricity distribution companies to win funding from the government's energy regulator, [Ofgem](#).

The new pioneering project, Celsius, which is the first of its kind in Great Britain, will manage the temperature of electrical equipment in substations and allow additional capacity to be released from existing assets and reduce the cost of network reinforcement for customers.

The fifth consecutive competitive bid win, Celsius, is funded under the Network Innovation Competition which replaces the Second Tier Low Carbon Networks Fund in RII0-ED1 and allows the development and demonstration of new technologies.

Steve Cox, head of engineering for Electricity North West, said: "We are delighted that Ofgem recognised the great potential of Celsius and the positive impact it can have on the power network at this crucial and exciting time for the energy industry.

"This funding means that we can help prepare the North West's electricity network for a low-carbon future and the increase of electric vehicles, solar panels, smart meters and much more whilst also keeping costs low for our customers.

"We have now won over £42 million of competitive research and development funding and this latest win is further testimony to our leadership of innovation in the industry and the opportunity of sharing valuable learning to all network operators across the country."

Darryl Field from Ricardo Energy and Environment, one of Electricity North West's partners on the Celsius project said, "This is an exciting and innovative project with real potential to impact the operation of network assets in the Electricity North West network, and in other networks across Great Britain, bringing benefit to network customers."

Watch this short video to discover more about [Celsius](#) and you can find out more about our low carbon projects at www.enwl.co.uk/innovation.