

Contract Title: Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

Consultancy input into the Gas Distribution Networks Annual Cost Reporting Project

Contract Reference: CON/29/09

Questions and Answers - 17th August 2009

NIAUR Cost Reporting Project

Q1. A tenderer asked for clarification regarding the requirement for proper allocation of costs between distribution and supply for Phoenix and firmus. That is, are we asking for consideration to be given to supply activities directly?

The tenderer also sought clarity as to whether or not we require cost reporting for Northern Ireland's other gas supply companies.

A1. Annual costs relating to the Phoenix and firmus distribution companies are the primary focus of this project. Therefore in the original drafting of the ToRs we didn't include supply in the brief. However, on reflection we reasoned that once all costs associated with distribution are allocated, what you are left with is supply. So we figured we might as well include supply costs in the brief too. So in summary, we do require cost information to be collected for Phoenix and firmus supply.

With regards to whether we require cost reporting for licensed supply companies other than Phoenix and firmus, the answer is no. The other licensed supply companies are either inactive or have an insignificant number of customers. They are therefore excluded from this project.

Q2. A tenderer asked for clarification regarding the signing of the Certificates and Forms at the back of the tender pack. The query was in respect of who needs to sign the forms where a tenderer is part of a consortium of firms.

A2. Only the lead firm in any consortium needs to sign the forms. In the event of appointing a consortium, we will consider ourselves as contracting with only the lead firm in the consortium.