



UK Heat Networks Pre-standardization Research Project: Phase 1

The UK heat networks market challenge

UK Government and the Scottish Government have prioritized the development of a long-term market framework that will drive investment in heat networks, ensure consumers are adequately protected, and support decarbonization. The safe and interoperable growth of the heat networks market is supported by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Scottish Government who are working with a wide range of stakeholders to develop policy, regulation and other tools that would enable the further development of the market.

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As part of this effort, BEIS and the Scottish Government have acknowledged the important role that standardization can play, and BSI's unique position and experience as the UK's National Standards Body (NSB), in supporting the growth of the market, encouraging continued and wide stakeholder collaboration, building upon previous initiatives and good practice, and filling in key knowledge/standards gaps. BEIS and the Scottish Government have therefore asked BSI to carry out a pre-standardization research project that could support the heat networks market framework and help put in place the foundations for future low-carbon heat networks.

Pre-standardization research project

Overarching aim and objectives

Through research activities and stakeholder engagement, the project aims to provide an overview of existing standards (national, European, international and key industry standards) applicable to heat networks, their use and effectiveness; draw out the key opportunities and challenges the heat networks market currently faces; capture what good practice looks like and the standards that would need to be developed to embed and disseminate best practice.

The key project objectives include:

- **Identify, scope out and outline** the standards infrastructure that can support the development of an effective long-term policy and regulatory framework for the heat networks market; consider and prioritize standards development that in the short-term can accelerate and ensure the safe, transparent and consumer-focused growth of the market.
- **Ensure collaboration** between key stakeholders engaged in the investment, design, manufacture and operation of heat networks in the UK.
- **Build upon existing standardization** effort, while addressing standards gaps and needs acknowledged by industry, Government, and other stakeholder groups.

Project methodology, deliverables and timeframe

The pre-standardization project, which started in June 2020, encompasses:

1. A standards mapping exercise of existing NSB-led standards and industry guidance, both in the UK and internationally to identify initial standards gaps (planned for June-July 2020).
2. Stakeholder interviews to gather evidence of the challenges, opportunities and enablers (including standards) of the heat networks market in the UK (planned for June-July 2020).
3. Two webinar sessions to discuss research findings, enhance and validate initial standardization recommendations, and establish further standardization priorities (planned for August/September 2020)
4. A roadmap of key standardization needs, recommendations for potential future standards and standards uptake routes.

Phase 2

The outcome of Phase 1 will determine the deliverables of a potential Phase 2 standardization project. Phase 2 may include key standardization activities (e.g. specific standard(s) development) recommended and prioritized in Phase 1.



Get involved

To find out more about this project, get involved in discussions, or to register interest in future activities, please contact:

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