



**firmus energy**

**Seventh Annual  
Development Plan  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

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## **1. Introduction:**

This Annual Development Plan (ADP) has been developed in accordance with Condition 3.2 of firmus energy's licence for the conveyance of gas in Northern Ireland.

The ADP sets out progress up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and complies with the conditions set out in the General Development Plan – Annex 3, Part 3.

This ADP also sets out firmus energy's network development plans for the next three years, until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

## **2. Development of the Network:**

This plan outlines the development of the gas network in accordance with the General Development Plan annex 3, Part 3.

All towns along the North West transmission pipeline including Ballymoney, Ballymena, Coleraine, Limavady, Londonderry and Portstewart have live gas.

In the South-North towns, including Antrim, Armagh, Banbridge, Ballyclare, Craigavon, Newry, and Warrenpoint live gas is also available. The focus of the engineering activities continues to be gas mains laying that will support industrial and residential conversions to natural gas.

The gas network is being developed based on identified gas loads for Industrial & Commercial customers, Councils, new build housing developments and to facilitate the NIHE's Heating Replacement Programme.

Where owner-occupier properties are readily connectable to the network, a gas supply may also be offered. firmus energy continues to work with a number of key stakeholders to target fuel poor households via our Toasty Homes and Toasty Homes Plus schemes.

These stakeholders include:

- Bryson Energy;
- Department for Social Development;
- Energy Saving Trust;
- H+A Mechanical;
- Housing Associations;
- National Energy Action;
- Northern Ireland Energy Agency; and
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

## 2a. Development Target:

firmus energy has exceeded its development targets. These targets are set out in Annex 2 to Part 3 in the Licence for the Conveyance of Gas in Northern Ireland.

The number of premises that are readily connectable to firmus energy's gas network is 56,765.

## 2b. Connections to firmus energy's network: (as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012)

Connection type:	Network Connections
Non-domestic	1,545
Domestic	12,988
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,553<sup>1</sup></b>

## 2c. Network Construction (Cumulative):

To date 740 km of distribution gas mains have been constructed.

- **Derry**

The gas network extends from Coolkerragh AGI throughout the city as far as the Newbuildings area south of the city and Drumahoe to the east. There have been infill mains laid in some of the streets within the NIHE areas of Creggan, Glenvale and Spencer Road.

Mains have been laid in the new development at the former Ebrington Barracks site which will be the focal point of the UK City of Culture Events throughout 2013.

**Mains laid – 155.4 km**

- **Coleraine**

The gas network extends from Macfin AGI via Loughan village, throughout the town and as far as Portstewart where several new build housing sites have availed of gas supplies.

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<sup>1</sup> A further 2,000 are in progress.

Gas mains have been installed in the Heights NIHE housing area adding to the previous developments at Harpur's Hill and the Millburn estate.

**Mains laid – 70.1km**

- **Limavady**

The gas network extends from Ballymully AGI throughout the town and to the Industrial and Commercial sites at Windyhill and Aghanloo located north of the town.

Gas mains have been laid in the Hospital Lane NIHE area including Rathbrady and Kennaught flats.

**Mains laid – 24.7 km**

- **Ballymoney**

The gas network extends from Macfinn AGI through the town centre and into the Belford Park, Carnany Park and Stuart Park NIHE areas.

**Mains laid – 18km**

- **Ballymena**

The gas network serves an area stretching from the village of Broughshane to the east of the town to Ahoghill to the west, where a number of NIHE properties have been connected.

Further mains have been laid in the Doury Road, Ballee and Harryville areas of the town, again to service NIHE and housing association properties.

**Mains laid – 93km**

- **Craigavon**

The distribution network in Craigavon is providing natural gas from Ballymagaraghan pressure reduction station near Magheralin to Maghaberry, Moira, Lurgan, Central Craigavon and Portadown.

Further mains have been laid to facilitate NIHE Heating replacement schemes in the Ennis Tarry, Taghnevan, Sloan Street and Union Street areas of Lurgan as well as the Redmanville, Fitzroy and Redmanville areas in Portadown.

**Mains laid –142.7km**

- **Armagh:**

This network is supplied from Derryhale AGI, situated west of Portadown, this station supplies Armagh City and Tandragee as well as acting as a backfeed for Craigavon.

In Armagh City gas mains have been laid in the Drumarg, Callan Street, Alexander and Orangefield NIHE areas.

In Tandragee the Feeder main has been extended through the town centre to facilitate future housing and Industrial and Commercial loads.

**Mains laid – 33 km**

- **Banbridge:**

The gas network extends from Kernan AGI through the town centre to the NIHE areas of Primrose Gardens, Edenderry, Hillhead estate, Forthill and Cline Road NIHE.

The network has been extended along the Ballygowan Road to supply gas to a new build housing site.

**Mains laid – 31 km**

- **Newry:**

The gas network extends from Tullyhappy AGI through the city centre. Low pressure mains have been laid in the Sandy's Street and Trevor Hill areas to supply housing association and commercial premises.

The network has been extended to Warrenpoint where low pressure mains have been laid to supply the commercial area in the town centre. Further mains have been laid in Warrenpoint to supply the Clermont, Rathcuain and Carnmeen NIHE areas.

**Mains laid – 66.3km**

- **Antrim**

The gas network extends from Moyadam AGI throughout Antrim town and south to the Aldergrove area. Further mains have been laid in the Greenview NIHE area.

The network has been extended from Doagh and into Ballyclare where mains have been laid in the Grange Drive NIHE area.

**Mains laid – 105.8km**

## **2d. Capital Programme:**

firmus energy's capital build programme has delivered natural gas to Antrim, Armagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Coleraine, Craigavon, Londonderry, Limavady, Newry, Portstewart and Warrenpoint.

The build programme has been targeted so that the "spine" main network is able to service Industrial & Commercial customers, Northern Ireland Housing Executive estates and New Build developments and existing residential properties readily connectable to the network.

The capital expenditure programme for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 is outlined below:

<b>Development Area</b>	<b>Capex - £ millions</b>
Antrim	1.6
Armagh	0.8
Ballymena	1.5
Ballymoney	0.3
Banbridge	0.2
Coleraine	0.7
Craigavon	1.6
Derry	2.0
Limavady	0.5
Newry	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.8</b>

## **3. Network Development to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015:**

firmus energy will continue to extend the gas network in line with its Development Plan. firmus energy will continue to engage with stakeholders including Gas Safe, the Energy Saving Trust, Carbon Trust, Bryson Energy, H&A Mechanical, the Northern Ireland Energy Agency and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to promote the installation of high efficiency natural gas systems to homes and businesses where it is economically viable to do so.

## **4. Conclusion:**

firmus energy aims to become the first choice energy provider in Northern Ireland for industrial, commercial and residential customers by delivering a first class customer service offer.

We have recently received Utility Regulator approval to further extend our network to Bushmills, Bessbrook, Craigadoo, and two quarries in Coleraine.

Our service excellence continues to be underpinned by low levels of customer complaints.

We have also signed up to the Consumer Council's Financial Remedy Framework and Marketing Codes of Conduct – a testament to the focus our business places on delivering against its promises to customers.

This customer service focus, together with the environmental benefits of natural gas as a clean, efficient and affordable fuel source, will help ensure that gas volumes in our Development Areas are optimised.