



firmus energy

Ninth Annual Development Plan

1st October 2013 – 30th September 2014

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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 30th September 2014 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 30th September 2017.

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 Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady, Londonderry, Portstewart and Bushmills have live gas.

In the SouthNorth towns, including Antrim, Armagh, Banbridge, Ballyclare, Lurgan, Portadown, Craigavon, Newry, Warrenpoint and Bessbrook 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 Home Comfort scheme.

These stakeholders include:

- Bryson Energy;
- Department for Social Development;
- Energy Saving Trust;
- H+A Mechanical;
- 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 74,505.

2b. Connections to firmus energy's network

Connection Type	Network Connections
Non-domestic	2,319
Domestic	22,255
Total	24,574

2c. Network Construction (Cumulative)

To date 902 km of distribution gas mains have been constructed.

- **Derry**

The gas network extends from Coolkerragh AGI (Above Ground Installation) 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 streets within the NIHE and existing housing areas of Carnhill, Bloomfield Park, Bligh's Lane, Ederowen Park, Lisnagelvin and Creggan. Infill mains have also been laid in Knightsbridge and Seven Oakes (Waterside).

Mains laid – 185 km

- **Coleraine**

The gas network extends from Macfin AGI via Loughan village, throughout the town as far as Portstewart to the north where several new build housing sites have availed of gas connections. The gas network also extends to the north east to Bushmills connecting the distillery and making gas available in the town centre and south west to Macosquin to serve quarries in the area and Shinny Road and Cam Road. Additional mains have been constructed to allow NIHE conversions in the Bellasses and Harpur's Hill areas.

Mains laid – 99 km

- **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 Drumachose Park and Anderson Crescent areas. A new build development at Petrie Place and the Roe Park Resort have been connected.

Mains laid – 29 km

- **Ballymoney**

The gas network extends from Macfin AGI through the town centre with gas connections to Industrial and commercial customers and schools.

Mains laid – 19 km

- **Ballymena**

The gas network serves an area stretching from the village of Broughshane, east of the town to Ahoghill in the west. The network has been extended to make gas available to Northstone Quarries, various schools in the area and residential properties. Additional mains have been constructed to allow NIHE conversions in the Ahoghill, Brooke Park, Larne Road and The Commons (Broughshane) areas.

Mains laid – 106 km

- **Craigavon**

The distribution network in Craigavon is providing natural gas from Ballymagaraghan AGI, near Magheralin to Maghaberry, Moira, Lurgan, central Craigavon and Portadown.

Further mains have been laid to facilitate NIHE heating replacement schemes in Lurgan Tarry, Mourneview, Drumbeg and Brownlow and new build developments in Moyraverty Green and Drumnagoon Road. A new connection has been laid to Ulster Carpets Castle Island Factory and premises have been connected in Highfield Park and Allenhill Park / Drive, Ashgrove Park / Avenue / Crescent, Allen Grove, Deeny Drive and Donard Gardens, Lurgan.

Mains laid – 169 km

- **Armagh**

The network extends from Derryhale AGI, situated west of Portadown. This station supplies Armagh City and Tandragee in addition to providing a secondary supply for Craigavon.

In Armagh City gas mains have been laid in the Ballinahone, Ardmore, Banbrook, Dukes Grove and Longstone areas. In Tandragee the feeder main has been extended through the town centre to facilitate future housing and Industrial and Commercial connections.

Additional mains have been laid to reach and serve a new build development at Rock Road and existing properties in Scotch Street, Barrack Street, Irish Street, Rock Road, St. Catherine's College, Navan Street, and the Ballinhone Estate.

Mains laid – 48 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 Main Street, making gas available to a number of commercial customers.

Further mains have been laid to facilitate NIHE heating replacement schemes the Maryville area and around Victoria Gardens.

Mains laid – 34 km

- **Newry**

The gas network extends from Tullyhappy AGI through the city centre. Gas mains have been laid in the North Street, Shandon Park and Rooney Meadows areas to supply residential and commercial premises. The network extends to Warrenpoint where low pressure mains have been laid to supply the commercial area in the town centre and medium pressure mains installed to connect residential areas and industrial customers. Further mains have been laid in Ganna Way and Ardallen Park.

Mains have been extended to serve NIHE and existing domestic properties in Bessbrook (Clogharevan Park, The Gardens, Fountain Street, O'Donoghue Park and Green Road) and O'Neill Avenue, Nursey Drive, Killeavey Road, Ardcarne Park, Watsons Road, Dorans Hill, Chancellors Road, Commons Way, Hendersons Park, Toragh Park, Carnagh Park, Greenfield Park, High Street, Windmill Avenue and Chapel Street.

Mains laid – 95 km

- **Antrim**

The gas network extends from Moyadam AGI throughout Antrim Town and south to the Aldergrove area. The network has been extended from Doagh and into Ballyclare to supply residential properties in Anderson Park, Erskine Park and Ollardale Park.

Further mains have been laid to facilitate NIHE heating replacement schemes in the Park Hall and Towns Parks areas.

Mains laid – 118 km

2d. Capital Programme

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

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 30th September 2014 is outlined below:

	Capex - £ million
Antrim	0.7
Armagh	0.5
Ballymena	0.7
Ballymoney	0.1
Banbridge	0.3
Coleraine	1.9
Craigavon	2.1
Derry	1.9
Limavady	0.2
Newry	1.9
Total	10.3

3. Arrangements

Currently 3 gas suppliers have acceded to the firmus energy Network Code allowing them to operate on the firmus energy distribution network and switch large I&C customers (Greater than 25,000 therms per annum).

4. Volumes

In gas year 2013-14, 1,497 GWh were transported for firmus energy (Supply) Ltd and 127 GWh for SSE Airtricity Gas Supply (NI) Ltd. These volumes are gross of shrinkage.

5. Network Development to 30th September 2017

firmus energy will continue to extend the gas network in line with its Development Plan. firmus energy will 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. In addition, firmus energy is examining the economic viability of extending mains to areas of existing housing of various sizes and densities.

6. Conclusion

firmus energy has sought and NIAUR has provided approval to extend our network to the Crumlin and Glenavy areas but construction start is dependant on confirmation of the anticipated anchor load.

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

We have Distribution Codes of Practice in place, covering Marketing, Complaints Handling and Consumer Information. In addition, we have also signed up to the Consumer Council's Financial Remedy Framework – a testament to the focus our business places on delivering against its promises to customers.

firmus energy's plans to accelerate our capital build programme,, coupled with our exemplary customer service record, together with the environmental benefits of natural gas as a clean and efficient and affordable fuel source, will help ensure that gas volumes in our Development Areas are optimised.