



firmus energy

Tenth Annual Development Plan

1st October 2014 – 30th September 2015

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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 2015 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 2018.

2. Development of the Network

This plan outlines the development of the natural 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 South North towns, including Antrim, Armagh, Banbridge, Ballyclare, Lurgan, Portadown, Craigavon, Newry, Warrenpoint, Bessbrook and Richhill live gas is also available. The focus of our engineering activities continues to be gas mains laying that will support industrial and residential conversions to natural gas.

The natural 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. 2015 has also focussed heavily on residential infill sites. This new strategic direction should result in a significant increase in owner occupied connections over the next number of years. Where owner-occupier properties are readily connectable to the network, a natural gas supply will be offered.

Firmus energy continues to work with a number of key stakeholders to target fuel poor households via our Home Comfort scheme funded via the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP).

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 83,690 against an original licence target of 55,707

Property Type	Number of readily connectable premises
Non-domestic	7,912
Domestic	75,778
Total	83,690

2b. Connections to firmus energy's network

Connection Type	Network Connections
Non-domestic	2,255
Domestic	24,699
Total	26,954

2c. Network Construction (Cumulative)

To date c. 1,007 km of distribution gas mains have been constructed in the Ten Towns.

Town	Mains km
Antrim	129
Ballymena	112
Ballymoney	20
Coleraine	107
Derry	210
Limavady	30
Armagh	69
Banbridge	35
Craigavon	196
Newry	99
Total	1,007

- **Derry**

The natural 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 new infill schemes both in the owner occupier and NIHE areas.

This year seen the completion of a large residential infill scheme in the Culmore Road area with approximately 12km of new pipe installed in the surrounding streets.

An additional 6 Infill Schemes were also completed in the areas of Harvey Street, Moat Street, York Street, Lower Nassau Street, Glenview, Governor Road and Bond Street.

APEX Housing has seen an increase in new gas infrastructure being installed across their sites. The APEX sites now benefitting from natural gas are Glendale, Ferndale, Swilly Gardens and St Peters.

NIHE have benefitted from new gas infrastructure in Derry. The NIHE areas now benefitting from natural gas are, Waterside, Waterloo and Collon Terrace.

Mains laid – 210km

- **Coleraine**

The natural gas network now 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 north east to Bushmills and south west to Macosquin.

Banah UK is the latest firmus energy industrial customer to be connected to natural gas in the Coleraine area.

Both the Northstone and Whitemountain Quarries are now connected to natural gas along with the North Coast Integrated College.

This year has seen Infill Schemes completed in Gordanville and Drumtarsey Road.

Alpha Housing has connected their Agherton Grange site to natural gas, making gas available to 42 Alpha housing tenants.

Mains laid – 107 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 new developments throughout Limavady.

Mains laid – 30 km

- **Ballymoney**

The natural gas network extends from Macfin AGI through the town centre with gas connections to Industrial and commercial customers and schools. This year has seen firmus energy connect St Patrick's School, lay mains for the NIHE in a new Ballymena heating scheme and also lay approximately 250m of new gas network mains in an infill Scheme for Henry Street and Edward Street.

Mains laid – 20 km

- **Ballymena**

The natural gas network serves an area stretching from the village of Broughshane, east of the town to Ahoghill in the west. The network this year has been extended to make gas available to Slemish College, Ballymena NIHE Heating in Royal Court, Edwards Street and Balmoral Avenue.

This year firmus energy completed 4 new infill schemes incorporating approximately 900m of new mains in Kinhilt Street, Clarence Street, Summerfield Street and prospect place.

Mains laid – 112 km

- **Craigavon**

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

Mains this year has been laid to facilitate NIHE heating replacement schemes in Westacres, Enniskeen, Churchill Park and Colban.

Trinity Housing (Lake Street) was also connected to gas this year, connecting 26 Trinity Housing tenants. Also during the year, Lurgan Free Presbyterian Church and Craigavon Senior High School connected to natural gas.

Firmus energy completed a busy infill programme in the Craigavon area including Moira, laying approximately 9km of mains pipe. This programme made gas available to the areas of Ashgrove, Allenhill, Gortnamoney, Orchard Drive & Park, Thomas Street, Church Street, Jervis Street, Obin Street, Woodland End, Oakleigh Heights, Victoria Gardens Garland Avenue and Castle Lane Mews.

Mains laid – 196 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.

Armagh Town Centre has seen one of its most popular supermarkets “Emerson” connected to natural gas.

This year has seen a substantial build programme take place throughout County Armagh. Firmus energy has been busy laying new gas infrastructure to new towns such as Richhill, Moy and Charlemont and along the way connecting the large industrial customer “Mackles Foods”. This has been a very successful project and work is still ongoing to complete the new gas infrastructure in Richhill, Moy, Charlemont, Blackwatertown and Benburb. To date this year, firmus energy has installed approximately 20km of new gas infrastructure throughout County Armagh.

Mains laid – 69 km

- **Banbridge**

The natural 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 Main Street, making gas available to a number of commercial customers.

Further mains have been laid to facilitate NIHE heating replacement schemes in Ballygowan Park, Cline Walk and Hillhead Park.

This year firmus energy has completed 2 new infill schemes at Reilly Park and Moorefield laying approximately 350m of new gas mains infrastructure.

Mains laid – 35 km

- **Newry**

The natural gas network extends from Tullyhappy AGI through the city centre. 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.

This year new mains have been extended to serve a new NIHE scheme. The scheme required approximately 725m of mains and connected 66 NIHE tenants. St Joseph’s Primary School were also connected in 2015.

Mains laid – 99 km

- **Antrim**

The natural 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.

This year has seen 7 new infill areas completed in Doagh and Ballyclare. These projects required approximately 3.5km of new gas mains and brought gas to Grange Valley, Victoria Close and Ravensburn.

Approximately 500m of new mains was laid for an NIHE Scheme in Antrim resulting in 47 new connections.

Mains laid – 129 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, Bessbrook and Richhill

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 2015 is outlined below:

Town	Capex- £million
Antrim	1.1
Armagh	1.8
Ballymena	1.0
Ballymoney	0.1
Banbridge	0.2
Coleraine	1.4
Craigavon	2.4
Derry	2.6
Limavady	0.2
Newry	0.9
Total	11.8

3. Arrangements

Currently 4 gas suppliers have acceded to the firmus energy Network Code enabling them to supply via firmus energy’s distribution network.

4. Volumes

In the gas year 2014/2015 the following volumes were transported through the distribution system. These volumes are gross of shrinkage.

Supplier	Therms (millions)
fe Supply Ltd	55.57
Airtricity Gas Supply (NI) Ltd.	5.16
Flogas	0.48
Go energy	0.01
Total	61.22

5. Network Development to 30th September 2018

Firmus energy will continue to extend the natural 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 continuing its strategy of extending mains to areas of existing housing of various sizes and densities, as detailed in our GD17 business plan submission to the Utility Regulator.

6. Conclusion

The 2015 gas year has proven to be a successful start to firmus energy's new focus on infill mains laying for residential areas and owner occupied properties.

Our service excellence continues to be underpinned by low levels of customer complaints, with only one stage 2 CCNI complaint received in 2015.

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 its capital build programme, coupled with its 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 the Ten Towns Development Areas are optimised.