

Sharing IX Equipment

Does the UNCC have any objections to a Shipper's IX kit being used by a new iGT?

In March 2018, CNG Services (CSL) submitted an iGT Licence application to Ofgem. This was consulted on by Ofgem in November 2018¹ although the licence has not yet been issued.

In preparation for being set up as an iGT under the iGT UNC and UNC, CSL has commenced Xoserve's accession process. As part of the standard requirements for any UNC party, this includes having access to the IX network. CSL indicated their intention for their account be hosted by Barrow Shipping on their existing IX equipment, mirroring the approach whereby several Shipper accounts can be hosted on a single IX installation.

The CSL iGT Licence application is restricted to the ownership and operation of a single pipeline in a specific area, connecting an anaerobic digestion plant to the NTS. Biomethane will be injected to the iGT pipeline before entering the NTS. In due course, biomethane from additional AD plants is possible but there are no plans for any supply points at the present time, and the Licence application only permits transportation to another GT network.

Given the limited scope of the iGT, the need for any file flows via the IX network is debatable and the scale does not justify the cost of installing an IX installation and ensuring staff are available to deal with any file flows. This led to the proposal to share an existing installation.

The UNC specifically provides for Shippers to share IX equipment but is silent on GTs and Shippers sharing. Xoserve have indicated there are no technical barriers. Given that the UNC is silent, Xoserve have suggested that the views of the UNCC be sought. If the UNCC has no objections, Xoserve would be minded to accept the request for the CSL iGT IX account to be hosted by Barrow Shipping.

UNCC Members are therefore being asked whether they have any objections to the proposed sharing arrangement.

¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/cng-services-ltd-notice-application-gas-transporter-licence>