

# Press release: Government's ground-breaking Heat Networks Investment Project to launch in the Autumn

- heat networks – dubbed ‘central heating for cities’ – scheme to be launched in Autumn
- heat networks can lower bills for both consumers and non-domestic customers
- heat networks have key role in lowering carbon emissions

Delivering on its commitment to tackle energy bills using innovative, low carbon solutions, the government today (Wednesday 11 April 2018) announced a new scheme for consumers and non-domestic users such as hospitals, schools and council buildings to participate in a trailblazing heat networks scheme.

Marking another step forward in the government's [Clean Growth Strategy](#), a key pillar of the UK's Industrial Strategy, the government's £320 million Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) will offer grants and loans to both the public and private sectors in England and Wales, for networks serving 2 or more buildings. The scheme is due to open for applications this Autumn.

Heat networks distribute heat efficiently through insulated pipes from a central source to a variety of different customers. For residents in flats, heating costs could be as much as 30% lower on a heat network than alternatives such as individual gas boilers. As well as lowering bills for domestic and non-domestic consumers, they can reduce the UK's carbon emissions.

Heat networks could play a vital role in the long term decarbonisation of heating, as they provide a unique opportunity to exploit larger scale renewable and recoverable heat sources. Heat networks could meet up to 17% of heat demand in homes and up to 24% of heat demand in industrial and public sector buildings by 2050.

There are already a number of successful heat network projects already operating in the UK such as one in Sheffield which burns 12,000 tonnes of municipal waste each year as the main fuel source for its network. Or Southampton's main energy centre which has over 45 energy users ranging from over 1,000 residential properties, a hospital, university, shopping centre, police headquarters and BBC studios.

Today's announcement and government support of heat networks paves the way for the sector to grow and become a significant clean growth contributor.

Energy Minister Claire Perry said:

The UK has led in the decarbonisation of electricity, and today's

announcement shows we are just as committed to tackling heat. Today's announcement creates a route to market for innovative energy projects across the country and demonstrates a key objective of the Clean Growth Strategy; to help deliver technologies that can lower bills, cut carbon and improve the quality of life for communities across the country.

Today's announcement coincides with the publication of [high level guidelines](#) for the main scheme, as well as starting the process to find a delivery partner. Applications are expected to open in the Autumn with first funding decisions being made in 2019.

The government investment for the £320 million Heat Networks Investment Project was first announced in the Spring Budget 2015. More details on the HNIP can be found here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-investment-project-hnip](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-investment-project-hnip).

Further details on heat networks projects in the UK and other countries including Norway and Denmark across various applications, technologies and scales can be found here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-network-case-studies](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-network-case-studies).

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## **[Policy paper: Flood Risk Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee \(England\) Regulations 2011: post implementation review](#)**

This report sets out the findings of a review into the effectiveness of the Flood Risk Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee (England) Regulations 2011.

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## **[News story: Identity security: ObjectTech CEO named as top tech](#)**

# influencer

ObjectTech chief executive, Paul Ferris (right), signs an agreement with Ali Ibrahim, Deputy Director General of Dubai Economy.

## **The 2018 top 100 influencers in identity**

The founder and chief executive of [ObjectTech](#), Paul Ferris, appears in this year's list alongside global names such as Allen Zhang, the creator of WeChat. Only 12 of the people included in the list are from the UK.

The list is compiled by [One World Identity](#), an independent identity research company focused on cyber security, digital commerce and risk management. The list includes identity pioneers and innovators, ranging from individual entrepreneurs to members of large organisations.

## **A secure solution for the 21st century**

People are currently facing an unprecedented number of requests from organisations asking to use their identity data – from banking, to travel, to ordering a coffee. The challenge posed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel at Davos in January 2018 was: “Data is the raw material of the 21st century, the question is who owns it?”.

However, ObjectTech is taking a different approach by helping people to control their own identity in a process known as [Self-Sovereign Identity](#) (SSID).

SSID is a process that enables people and businesses to store their identity data on their own remote platform – known as a ‘locker’, rather than in a centralised database. ObjectTech has designed and developed an application programme interface (API) which allows existing systems to integrate with SSID technology through a simple interface. This allows people to provide proof of their identity without the need to share actual data.

## **Benefits for ID-dependent businesses**

Paul Ferris said:

Imagine getting on a plane – anywhere in the world – and getting off again, anywhere in the world, and each time you disembark, there is no passport control – no queues, no hassle, no delays. The border authorities will already know who boarded the aircraft. And not just you – anyone who is using our new self-sovereign identity technology could do the same.

This technology could help you open and operate a bank account more easily, with faster and more accurate identity checks. As well as

saving you time, this would also help banks and other businesses reduce costs – just imagine the benefits this could bring to any industry or public service.

Like a catalyst, we are converting the operation of identity into a global system, fit for the 21st century. We've solved the problem of identity management, not by changing existing data infrastructures, but rather through fundamentally changing the way they work.

## **New export markets opening up**

ObjectTech's SSID technology is attracting interest from several major global organisations. The company is working on the Dubai government's new contactless payments system and is exploring opportunities with other airport hubs around the world.

Ali Ibrahim, Deputy Director General of Dubai Economy, said:

A digital currency has advantages in faster processing, improved delivery time, and less complexity and cost. It will change the way people live and do business in Dubai and mark a giant leap for the city in harnessing game-changing innovations to improve the ease of business and quality of life. We are delighted to have ObjectTech as our partner in this initiative.

## **Leading the world in identity security**

Ferris is advising the [World Economic Forum](#) on their Trusted Traveller Program, part of the system initiative on [shaping the future of mobility](#). He is also a global convener for the [International Organization for Standardization](#) (ISO) standard on identity in blockchain.

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## **[Guidance: Water pollution natural capital calculator](#)**

Use this calculator if you plan to make a voluntary enforcement undertaking offer to the Environment Agency for a pollution incident that affected water.

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# Policy paper: Environment Agency enforcement and sanctions policy

*Updated:* We updated Enforcement and Sanctions: Offence Response Options (ORO)

How the Environment Agency conducts enforcement activity for environmental offences and breaches.

Includes how we:

- make enforcement and sanctioning decisions including the decision to prosecute
- apply Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 civil sanctions and when we may accept enforcement undertakings
- apply climate change civil penalties
- enforce the Control of Mercury (Enforcement) Regulations 2017

The Offence Response Options (ORO) document sets out the options available to every offence we regulate. An updated version of this document will be published shortly.