# Proposal for hosting a Register of Qualified Coatings for UK Gas Networks

# Proposal

Proposal for a UKOPA to host a jointly owned Register for Qualified Coatings, with content approved and managed by the UKOPA members. Coatings would initially be qualified to GIS (GIS/CW5 and GIS/CW6), with consideration to additionally listing qualified coatings to alternative/equivalent standards as qualified by other Operators. The register does not necessarily prevent any member operator from using an ‘unregistered’ coating, but is intended to provide an easy access route to seeing what’s currently available and tested by UK pipeline operators.

# Background

The UK onshore gas industry has an historic set of coating specifications, developed before the divestment of British Gas. These comprise the CW suite for below ground application and PA suite for above ground.

At the time of network sale (2004) the coating specifications were common across all the networks. Alongside the specifications, coatings were tested and qualified, then recorded in a Register for Qualified Coatings. Since network sale, coating formulations have been modified, regulations have banned or controlled substances, manufacturers changed ownership and individual networks have either qualified or removed systems from their registers; all leading to significantly out of date and diverse registers across each of the networks.

With smaller distribution companies now operating across the UK, there was no longer the resources or buying leverage to warrant a bespoke UK gas specification. International standards had matured, and so the 2020 rewrite of the below ground specifications (GIS/CW\*) were aligned to ISO 21809, considered to be the most appropriate relevant standard.

To compliment the updated coating specifications, the Networks would like to reinstate a common Register for Qualified Coatings as a single point of reference, hosted on a third party site providing open access to for designers, operators and contractors.

# Hosting the Register

To enable the Register to be jointly owned and centrally held it is proposed that

* a list (the Register) of qualified/approved products will be held centrally on an open platform (such as a third party organisations website), such that gas networks, designers, contractors, and other pipeline operators can freely refer to it.

# Managing the Register

* **Responsibility** **for content**, product qualifications, updates and disqualifications would remain with the Operators. This would be managed through a formalised Coatings Working Group (CWG) open to all UKOPA members. ToR would be drawn up for the CWG.
* **Access -** Restricted (password) access to members, or otherwise, would be determined by the CWG.
* **Updates** to the Register would be timely (to be agreed as part of the ToR of the CWG) and provided to the host by the CWG.
* **Enquiries** regarding the Register received by the host would be directed to the CWG to resolve.