

Chris Thompson, Project Delivery Manager, Customer-Led Network Revolution , **Northern Powergrid**

As Low Carbon Network Program Manager, Chris Thompson is responsible for delivery of the UK's largest smart grid research project, The Customer-Led Network Revolution (CLNR), at an overall cost of *ca.* £31m delivered over four years, from 2011 to 2014. The Low Carbon Network Fund was created by Ofgem, the UK's electricity regulator to encourage electricity distribution companies to explore innovative ways of operating their networks, and to facilitate the transition of both networks and customers to a low carbon energy future. The project is monitoring *ca.* 12,000 residential and business customers to analyse their electricity usage. *Ca.* 1000 customers are actively participating in trials to test customers' levels of flexibility in relation to their demand and generation profiles. The flexibility of the network will also be trialled through innovative new equipment including voltage control and the UK's largest electricity bulk storage batteries, capable of storing 2.5 megawatts of power. Whilst led by Northern Powergrid, the project is being delivered in collaborative partnership with; British Gas, Durham University and EA Technology. Chris joined Northern Powergrid in 2006 and in the five years leading up to his current role his accelerated development has encompassed managerial posts in; Asset Management, Customer Connections, Field Standards and Contract Management. Prior to joining Northern Powergrid, Chris had a successful 20 year career in two companies. Firstly as European Sales Manager for an innovative aviation and defence industry parts and equipment database provider, with the parent company based in Memphis, Tennessee. Secondly as Finance and Commercial Director at a medium sized construction company in Co. Durham that undertook industrial and petro-chemical construction projects in the UK, Ireland and Germany. Chris holds an accounting qualification, an executive diploma in operations management and in 2005 Chris took a year out to undertake a full-time MBA (with Finance) at Durham University Business School in which he achieved a distinction grade. Personal interests include; swimming, ancient history, global travel and an active family life with his wife Deborah and three teenage children Benjamin, Matthew and Olivia, aged 18, 17 and 14.