# EIP 156: Building Rapid Access modes for Energy Infrastructure

## ENA Basecamp 2026

4th February 2026

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# Outline

- The Challenge
- The impact of the problem
- What solution are we looking for
- What are the benefits of the project

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# The Challenge

Access to towers and poles requires traversing over difficult terrain, in all weathers, at short notice, with heavy equipment

Operators need access to very remote towers and poles for faults and maintenance activities, sometimes at very short notice, in all weather conditions.

Without tracks for access, we uses low ground pressure machine along with bog mats and/or trackway to gain access.

Traversing on foot can be impossible at times, due to deep peat, deforest stumps and/or mountain terrain, crossing rivers and open to all elements.



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# Current Solutions (and their Problems)

**Helicopters:**

Expensive, require safe landing, still need the last 100+m on foot

**Argo Cart:**

Not always all terrain (e.g. streams)

Gross weight empty 0.45T

**Hagglund** (ex military):

Very few in circulation. Very old vehicles that are nearing their end of life. Gross weight empty 6.5T

**Stringing:**

Araucaria conductor for 3.5km weights 7T x 9 drums

Puller is 4T

Tensioner is 3T

# The Impacts

**High Embedded Cost:** Few suitable vehicles, some ex-military from the 1980s

**Limited Sustainability:** Largely unchanged practices not aligned with industry aims

**Delays to Operations:** Access is becoming a key cost and programme constraint

**Environmental Impact:** Damage to peatlands and other fragile environments

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# The Solution

The solution would aim to achieve TRL in the range 5 to 7 (demonstrated in relevant environment) although earlier-stage ideas with strong potential are welcome.

The solution should:

- Be scalable for large capital projects including for new builds OHLs 10km and more
- Be able to carry people and equipment over all terrain (water, snow, Peat bog, rocky terrain)
- Be compatible with current operational approaches (deployable without major system downtime)
- Should comply with ENATS 43-8 for OHL clearance
- Be able to be dispatched at short notice, or rented during the winter months
- Carry loads of up to 7-9T

# The Benefits

Improved rapid access will:

- Improve connection rates and down time
- Improve worker conditions
- Reduce outage costs
- Reduce impact on the environment
- Improve health and safety (slips, trips, falls)