

NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

Date of Submission

Sep 2026

Project Reference Number

NIA_UKPN0124

Project Registration

Project Title

Apollo AI

Project Reference Number

NIA_UKPN0124

Project Licensee(s)

UK Power Networks

Project Start

September 2026

Project Duration

1 year and 7 months

Nominated Project Contact(s)

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Project Budget

£1,969,419.00

Summary

Apollo AI is developing and demonstrating an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Asset Portfolio Planning (APP) capability that enables data-driven investment planning, scenario analysis, reporting, optimisation and improved decision-making across planning, operations and electricity distribution assets. This is built upon a unified, agentic representation of the electricity distribution network.

Third Party Collaborators

EY

SISCO

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Problem Being Solved

Distribution network operators (DNOs) manage a complex set of asset investment portfolios spanning health-driven interventions, load-related reinforcement, fault response and maintenance. At present, these portfolios are largely planned and prioritised separately, with top-down financial planning and bottom-up delivery planning aligned through manual reconciliation.

Current planning processes are labour-intensive, slow to refresh and not easily adaptable when assumptions, constraints or system conditions change. There is also increasing regulatory expectation to evidence a robust, data-driven link between investment decisions, deliverability, risk reduction and performance outcomes. This project provides a real opportunity to learn how DNOs can optimise investments in the network to support fast and reliable LCT penetration. This is a critical aim against the backdrop of the increasing volumes of LCTs expected to emerge in the future. The solution is also expected to increase transparency and make it easier to optimise investment decisions holistically across the network.

The combination of multiple asset investment portfolios, asset classes and business functions makes it difficult to identify the optimal

combination or bundles of work that can minimise the impact on our customers from outages and deliver the greatest customer and network benefit, while remaining deliverable within workforce and supply chain constraints at the lowest cost. This can lead to duplicated site visits, missed opportunities to bundle work, competing investment priorities and increased customer disruption. DNOs need an improved capability to connect strategic investment intent with asset-level delivery options, using integrated data, network intelligence and clearer optimisation across cost, risk, resilience and customer outcomes.

Method(s)

The project explores the use of innovative approaches to enhance business planning and operational decision-making. This aim will be supported by the development of a novel Network Intelligence Fabric (NIF) agentic network model, that integrates network topology, asset attributes and operational data into a unified platform. An AI-enabled APP capability will be built on top of NIF to test and demonstrate the benefits of agentic APP.

The Method will consist of the phases below:

NIF Development and Demonstration – the agentic asset data model

Configure and demonstrate a NIF, an agentic asset data capability that provides a unified network data and modelling foundation. This will be delivered as a technical and data-focused innovation project, enabling integration across key systems and supporting future analytical and AI-driven use cases.

The approach will include:

- Definition of the target agentic NIF architecture, aligned to existing data and platform landscape;
- Development of a unified network representation integrating topology, asset data and key system sources (e.g. Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and asset systems);
- Linkage of network model components with relevant historical and near real-time datasets (e.g. operational, environmental and demand-related data);
- Design of data governance, access controls and processing logic to support scalable reuse across multiple use cases;
- Definition of the target operating model, architecture standards and roadmap for scaling the capability into Business As Usual (BAU).

AI-enabled APP

This phase will focus on the demonstration of a minimum viable AI-enabled APP capability on the NIF.

The approach for this phase will include:

- Definition of business requirements across relevant asset portfolios;
- Integration of key asset, cost, risk, constraint and planning data needed to support cross-portfolio decision-making;
- Development and testing of AI-supported capabilities for optimisation, scenario analysis and planning;
- Design of a target operating model, governance approach and human-in-the-loop controls;
- Production of a benefits case and roadmap for potential scaling into BAU.

To enable the network modelling foundation, NIF, the existing SISCO Common Information Model (CIM) Adapter will be utilised to provide a combined CIM representation of the network, integrating data from ADMS, GIS and core asset systems. This model will be extended to support linkage of network components to near real-time and historical data, including Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) states, analogue measurements, smart and non-smart meter data, and weather data.

If the development of the NIF and AI-enabled APP capability is successful, the project will focus on understanding what is required to prepare business units within the organisation for the introduction of this kind of innovative approach, and learning how to effectively move this type of solution to BAU.

This phase will also seek to measure impact by quantifying uptake, and providing initial measurements of benefit realisation in order to provide a foundation for future tracking of value.

Scope

The project will be the development, delivery, and demonstration of a NIF demonstrator, and AI-enabled APP capability across all asset classes and voltage levels, with the following elements being undertaken:

Technical configuration

The project will configure and demonstrate a NIF and AI-enabled APP Minimum Viable Product (MVP) capability. This will include: Configuration of the NIF architecture, creating a unified network representation by integrating selected data from ADMS, GIS, asset management systems and operational data platforms.

Configuration of the APP MVP, including optimisation, portfolio planning, scenario analysis and dynamic re-planning capabilities.

Integration of selected asset, risk, cost, financial, delivery and operational datasets required to support investment planning activities. Establishment of a technical architecture, operating model and deployment approach capable of supporting future scaling to additional business use cases following completion of the project.

Business process design

The project will define and demonstrate future-state business processes required to support AI-enabled APP. This will include: Identification and documentation of current-state APP activities, interfaces and decision points.

Design of future-state planning processes that incorporate APP capabilities into existing governance and investment planning arrangements.

Definition of roles, responsibilities and decision-making accountabilities, ensuring all AI-enabled recommendations remain subject to appropriate human review and approval.

Design of planning workflows supporting portfolio optimisation, scenario modelling, reprioritisation and investment decision support. Development of governance, assurance and change control processes required to support adoption of the capability within business-as-usual operations.

Structured user validation

The project will undertake structured validation activities with UK Power Networks' stakeholders to determine whether the proposed capabilities deliver measurable improvements to investment planning outcomes. Validation activities will include:

Demonstration of NIF capabilities against agreed planning and analytical use cases.

Comparison of APP-supported planning activities against existing planning approaches to assess improvements in efficiency, transparency and decision support.

Validation of optimisation recommendations, portfolio prioritisation outputs, scenario modelling and dynamic re-planning functionality. Assessment of usability, explainability, governance compliance and confidence in outputs through workshops and structured feedback sessions.

Documentation of findings, lessons learned, limitations and recommendations for future development and BAU adoption.

Objective(s)

The objectives of this project are:

Design, build and demonstrate a NIF demonstrator and AI-enabled APP capability MVP

Determine whether these tools can provide improved planning capability through scenario modelling and dynamic reprioritisation

Develop a roadmap for developing the capability for scaling the platform across the wider business post-BAU deployment

Consumer Vulnerability Impact Assessment

This project is not directly customer-facing and does not require any action or participation from customers.

This project is focused on providing investment efficiencies across the electricity distribution network, and will therefore help ensure the network continues to support the adoption of low carbon technologies (LCTs) in the move to net zero. For vulnerable customers, this means that network reliability or capacity are not a blocker to installation of such technologies and, therefore, access to programmes such as local authority social housing rollouts or government grants and incentives.

Additionally, if the approach proves to be viable, the solution is expected to reduce the number of customer interruptions (CIs), and those dependent on electrical medical equipment will benefit from fewer interruptions.

Success Criteria

The project will be deemed successful if:

We are able to determine whether NIF provides a unified agentic network data model, successfully combining data from key systems

We are able to demonstrate an AI-enabled APP capability delivers value for network and customers

A BAU roadmap, including future enhancements, is created

Project Partners and External Funding

This project is being delivered in collaboration with EY. They will provide expertise in solution design, configuration, AI-enabled planning capability development and supporting business/process design.

We will also engage SISCO to enhance the CIM Adapter capability, enabling the provision of a unified network model (combining ADMS, GIS and asset data) and facilitating integration with the enterprise data platforms to link network components with near real-time operational and external data (including SCADA, smart meter, analogue, and weather datasets).

The partners are acting as suppliers of consultancy and technical services and will therefore form part of the external costs of the projects. On this basis, they will not be providing funding.

Potential for New Learning

This project will generate learning in relation to how electricity network operators can improve asset investment planning through the application of innovative approaches to AI-enabled decision support, optimisation and integrated network intelligence. This can be broken down into a number of key learning areas:

The Capabilities of AI-Enabled APP

Apollo AI aims to learn whether AI-enabled APP can materially improve investment planning outcomes when compared with our existing planning approaches. The project will assess whether AI-assisted optimisation, scenario modelling and dynamic re-planning can support better investment decisions, improve transparency, increase planning agility, and identify efficiencies across asset portfolios whilst maintaining appropriate governance and human oversight.

The Potential of Cross-Portfolio Optimisation

The project will explore how bringing together investment, risk, asset condition, operational and delivery information within a single planning environment can enable more effective cross-portfolio decision-making. This includes learning whether portfolios that are traditionally planned separately can be coordinated more effectively to improve risk outcomes, reduce inefficiencies and optimise investment across competing priorities.

The Role of Network Intelligence in Planning

There is potential to learn whether the NIF provides a suitable foundation for AI-enabled planning across an organisation. The project will seek to learn lessons around consolidating disparate data domains at the corporate scale. Specifically, the project will investigate whether a unified representation of network topology, asset and operational information can improve the quality, explainability and effectiveness of planning recommendations compared with the types of fragmented approaches typically seen within the industry.

The Adoption of AI Within a Regulated Utility

We will learn how AI-enabled planning capabilities might be governed, validated and integrated into existing planning processes. This includes understanding the operating models, assurance requirements, controls (such as cyber security), and organisational changes needed to support adoption whilst ensuring recommendations remain transparent, auditable and accountable. This type of oversight is critical within the industry and is likely to be of interest to utilities more broadly

For the industry, the project will provide crucial insight into how AI-enabled APP represents a viable future approach for network investment planning across the electricity sector. It will also develop learnings regarding the conditions required to successfully deploy these capabilities, including data requirements, governance arrangements, operating models and organisational readiness.

As an NIA project, our findings will be made available through the ENA portal, as well as through our regulatory reporting.

Scale of Project

The project will cover all three licence areas. This is necessary as the platform needs to be able to account for all assets within its prioritisation and efficiency capabilities in order to demonstrate it can effectively operate on enterprise levels of data, and work across geographic and organisational boundaries.

Technology Readiness at Start

TRL4 Bench Scale Research

Technology Readiness at End

TRL8 Active Commissioning

Geographical Area

The project will cover all three of UK Power Networks’ licence areas Easter Power Networks, South Eastern Power Networks and London Power Networks.

Revenue Allowed for the RIIO Settlement

No funding was provided within the current RIIO settlement that will become surplus to requirements as a result of this project.

Indicative Total NIA Project Expenditure

We estimate the project expenditure to be £1,919,419 of which £1,727,477 (90%) will be recovered from NIA as Total NIA Expenditure.

Project Eligibility Assessment Part 1

Requirement 1

Facilitate the energy system transition and/or benefit consumers in vulnerable situations

Please answer **at least one** of the following:

How the Project has the potential to facilitate the energy system transition:

The energy system transition is driving unprecedented growth in LCTs, distributed generation, EV charging, heat pumps, battery storage and industrial electrification, creating a more complex, dynamic and interconnected network. To support this transition, DNOs must make faster, more informed investment decisions, optimise constrained resources, and coordinate reinforcement, flexibility and connections activities across the whole system.

NIF provides a unified, network-aware intelligence layer that brings together asset, network, operational and planning data. As network complexity increases (due to electrification, LCT uptake and increasing system dynamics) there is a growing need for a robust data and modelling foundation that can provide a consistent, extensible and interoperable representation of the network.

APP uses this foundation to optimise investment portfolios, evaluate future scenarios, identify the most effective interventions and ensure plans remain deliverable.

In doing this, we can ensure that the network remains resilient as this complexity increases, and make faster, more transparent investment decisions to ensure that we are able to target areas that need it. By doing this, we will, therefore, connect more low-carbon technologies, maximise network capacity, reduce customer wait times, and deliver the lowest-cost pathway to a decarbonised energy system.

How the Project has potential to benefit consumer in vulnerable situations:

This project is not directly customer-facing and does not require any action or participation from consumers.

However, it has the potential to benefit customers in vulnerable situations as it is focused on providing investment efficiencies across the network, and will therefore help ensure a stable and robust network as LCT uptake increases. For vulnerable customers, this means lower interruptions to supply (especially critical to those relying on medical equipment) as well as reduced blockers to installation new LCTs or connections, therefore, access to programmes such as local authority social housing rollouts or government grants and incentives.

Any benefits delivered by the project would be available to all customers connected to the network and would not require customers to change their behaviour, adopt new technology or incur additional costs.

Requirement 2 / 2b

Has the potential to deliver net benefits to consumers

Project must have the potential to deliver a Solution that delivers a net benefit to consumers of the Gas Transporter and/or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution licensee, as the context requires. This could include delivering a Solution at a lower cost than the most efficient Method currently in use on the GB Gas Transportation System, the Gas Transporter's and/or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution licensee's network, or wider benefits, such as social or environmental.

Please provide an estimate of the saving if the Problem is solved

n/a

Please provide a calculation and/or description of the expected benefits of the solution

Top outcomes / benefits expected:

Improvement in planning capability: The project will utilise AI to ensure that planning decisions are data-driven, and will intelligently automate the identification of insights and efficiencies

Futureproofing network investment: This project will set the foundations to ensure deliverability of our future asset plan that includes a significant step up in investment.

Net financial benefits: If the solution is considered successful and rolled out to BAU, it is expected to lead to financial benefits through optimisation and efficiencies

Expected financial benefits:

Cross-portfolio asset intervention optimisation:

AI-driven optimisation across asset portfolios enables more efficient allocation of investment, reducing unnecessary interventions and improving cost/risk trade-off. However, the magnitude of benefit depends on data integration and process redesign, which are nontrivial in regulated utilities.

Faster budget re-planning and scenario analysis:

AI can accelerate planning cycles by automating scenario analysis and mid-period budget re-optimisation. The NIF continuously tracks approved jobs, budgets, schedules and priorities in the Investment Plan and keeps them synced with changes in the scope, milestones and outturn costs in the Delivery Plan. This will drive gains by utilising opportunity windows to expedite delivery, minimise deferred work, or refocus on changing priorities.

Improved asset risk and resilience management

AI-Driven risk and resilience management can reduce customer interruptions and asset failures especially by bundling work and also modelling on the NIF, the collective impact of various interventions on local system performance/resilience.

Optimised workforce, supply chain and materials

As a logical extension integrated with delivery schedules, the APP optimiser will be able to automate complex workforce and delivery planning, potentially reducing labour costs and improving resource allocation.

Key assumptions:

Savings levels will remain consistent across each year of ED3

Non-Mandatory capex spend will remain at the same level across each year of ED3

Please provide an estimate of how replicable the Method is across GB

The Method is considered highly replicable across Great Britain (GB) because it has been designed as a reusable approach rather than a network-specific solution. The project is developing a NIF and APP capability that sit above existing systems and operate using common industry data sources, asset information and network models. The underlying principles, architecture, governance approach and optimisation techniques are not unique to any one DNO and are applicable to electricity distribution networks across GB.

A key objective of the project is to establish a repeatable framework that can be adopted by other network operators without requiring a complete redesign. Whilst each network has its own system landscape, processes and data maturity, all GB DNOs face similar challenges around asset risk management, investment prioritisation, scenario planning, data quality and portfolio optimisation. The Method has therefore been designed to accommodate differing local environments through configurable data integration and business rules rather than bespoke redevelopment.

The project will generate transferable learning relating to data integration, network modelling, asset intervention prioritisation, optimisation approaches, governance, assurance and operational adoption. These outputs will be shared on the ENA portal, enabling other network operators to apply the method within their own environments.

The approach has also been deliberately designed as technology agnostic to be adaptable to varying technologies deployed at utilities across Great Britain. It is extensible and capable of supporting additional use cases and business processes over time.

Please provide an outline of the costs of rolling out the Method across GB.

The Method has been intentionally designed to minimise the cost of wider adoption by providing a reusable framework and common technology foundation that can be deployed across multiple network operators. The majority of development and methodological costs are expected to be incurred during this initial project, with future adopters benefitting from the established architecture, delivery approach, data models and operating practices.

While costs depend on data maturity and change readiness, the principal costs associated with wider adoption would be expected to comprise:

- Data integration and onboarding activities to connect local asset, network and operational data sources.
- Configuration of network-specific business rules, asset hierarchies and optimisation parameters.
- User training, knowledge transfer and operational readiness activities.
- Ongoing software hosting, support, maintenance and enhancement costs.
- Recurring licence fees associated with the APP capability and supporting platform components.

The overall costs are expected to be significantly lower than current methods prevalent across the sector. Adoption would primarily involve implementation and configuration activity, significantly reducing the cost and duration of deployment compared with developing equivalent capabilities independently.

Whilst detailed GB-wide rollout costs would ultimately depend on the scope adopted by individual networks, the expectation is that deployment could be achieved through a combination of relatively modest onboarding costs and a recurring annual licensing model. This approach provides a practical and cost-effective pathway to broader GB adoption while avoiding duplication of development effort across multiple network operators.

Cost of GB-wide rollout would be in the £2 million to £5 million range, depending on the data landscape between the different network operators.

Involve Research, Development or Demonstration

Projects must have the potential to have a Direct Impact on a Network Licensee's network or the operations of the System Operator and involve the Research, Development, or Demonstration of at least one of the following (please tick which applies):

- ☐ A specific piece of new (i.e. unproven in GB, or where a method has been trialled outside GB the Network Licensee must justify repeating it as part of a project) equipment (including control and communications system software).
- ☐ A specific novel arrangement or application of existing licensee equipment (including control and/or communications systems and/or software)
- ☐ A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the Network Licensees system
- ☐ A specific novel commercial arrangement

Involve Research, Development or Demonstration - Please select all that apply

- ☐ A specific piece of new equipment (including monitoring, control and communications systems and software)
- ☒ A specific piece of new technology (including analysis and modelling systems or software), in relation to which the Method is unproven
- ☐ A new methodology (including the identification of specific new procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyse information)
- ☐ A specific novel arrangement or application of existing gas transportation, electricity transmission or electricity distribution equipment, technology or methodology
- ☐ A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the GB Gas Transportation System, electricity transmission or electricity distribution
- ☐ A specific novel commercial arrangement

Specific Requirements 4 / 2a

Please explain how the learning that will be generated could be used by the relevant Network Licensees

We expect that other DNOs and, indeed, many other utilities more broadly will currently take a similar approach to UK Power Networks in how they plan and prioritise their investments. This work will shine a light on the potential of AI platforms in this domain, and provide key learnings on which elements of these existing processes can be most improved through their use. Network licensees can use the outcomes of the project to inform their decisions on where they can most effectively deploy AI within their organisations for greater efficiency. Conversely, they can use it to avoid issues that the project surfaces, and to be more efficient by not focusing on areas if the project finds the impact there to be minimal. Ultimately, we expect that network licensees will be able to use the lessons to reduce both cost and network interruptions for their customers.

These are also new types of systems, so it is important to understand how people within an organisation might be impacted by their introduction. Network Licensees will be able to use the learnings from this project to plan for the changes required to support the introduction of these kinds of innovative approaches. Also, there may be regulatory considerations and complexities. Network Licensees will be able to use the learnings from this project to support their planning for similar deployments in this regard.

n/a

Is the default IPR position being applied?

- ☒ Yes

Project Eligibility Assessment Part 2

Not lead to unnecessary duplication

A Project must not lead to unnecessary duplication of any other Project, including but not limited to IFI, LCNF, NIA, NIC or SIF projects already registered, being carried out or completed. Networks must explicitly mention similar projects that they have considered and how these differ.

Please demonstrate below that no unnecessary duplication will occur as a result of the Project.

In order to verify that no unnecessary duplication would occur, we have looked for other similar innovation projects. Projects found that had some material similarities to Apollo AI were:

NIA_SPEN0009 - Data Intelligence for Network Operations (DINO) Phase 1 (2015 – 2017).

Whilst Apollo AI shares some common themes with the DINO project, particularly around deriving value from large and complex datasets, Apollo AI represents a significant advancement in capability and scope. DINO focused primarily on operational event management, data integration and visualisation within a specific network operations context. Apollo AI extends beyond data correlation and management by applying modern AI and advanced analytics techniques to support knowledge discovery, insight generation and decision support across multiple business and operational domains. As such, Apollo AI is not simply a continuation of DINO but a distinct and innovative capability addressing the emerging challenges of AI-enabled utility operations.

NIA_SPEN_0120 - AI Compass (2025 – 2026)

A review of this project found that Apollo AI does not duplicate AI Compass, rather, it builds upon the important organisational readiness, governance and AI adoption learning generated by that project. Whereas AI Compass sought to understand how a network organisation can prepare for AI-enabled transformation, Apollo AI seeks to generate learning on how AI-enabled knowledge and insight capabilities are received, governed, measured and ultimately transitioned towards business-as-usual use. The project will therefore provide valuable evidence on the practical adoption and organisational impact of AI within a regulated utility environment.

NIA3_NGET0006 - POISE (Project Outreach, Insight & Synthesis Engine) (2026 – 2027)

We found that, although Apollo AI has some comparable characteristics with the POISE project: both utilising AI to improve the way organisations discover and synthesise information, the two projects address fundamentally different challenges. POISE is focused on agentic workflow orchestration for early-stage project discovery, stakeholder engagement and requirements gathering within project delivery activities. In contrast, Apollo AI is focused on creating a broader organisational intelligence capability that enables users to discover, interrogate and derive insight from enterprise knowledge, operational data and organisational learning across multiple business domains. Apollo AI therefore extends beyond project initiation workflows and seeks to establish a reusable intelligence layer capable of supporting decision-making, knowledge discovery and insight generation throughout the organisation. This represents a distinct innovation challenge and provides learning that is complementary to, rather than duplicative of, the POISE approach.

Whilst Apollo AI will seek to build on the learnings from these projects, where possible, we have found no evidence that any unnecessary duplication will occur as a result of its delivery.

If applicable, justify why you are undertaking a Project similar to those being carried out by any other Network Licensees.

N/A

Additional Governance And Document Upload

Please identify why the project is innovative and has not been tried before

Investment planning within the industry has, until now, been a complex, manual, and siloed process. This project is innovative because it seeks to fundamentally change this approach. It moves us from a focus on singular portfolio plans, towards a combined view across portfolios, allowing us to make decisions based on an organisational level of data and to consider and achieve network-wide levels of impact. This has not previously been attempted because it is only due to the recent emergence, evolution and maturity of innovative new technology areas, such as agentic AI, that it has become possible. These new platforms provide a capability to undertake advanced analytics across complex and disparate data sets in ways that were just not feasible previously.

Relevant Foreground IPR

We expect foreground IPR to include:

The architecture and data model requirements be

Learnings from the development of AI-enabled APP methods, algorithms and software components

Cross-portfolio optimisation and scenario analysis approaches

Portfolio planning workflows

Governance and operating models

Certain elements may depend upon existing supplier Background IPR, Any Relevant Foreground IPR generated through the project will be identified and reported in accordance with NIA requirements.

Data Access Details

UK Power Networks recognises that Innovation projects may produce network and consumption data, and that this data may be useful to others.

This data may be shared with interested parties, whenever it is practicable and legal to do so, and it is in the interest of GB electricity customers.

In accordance with the Innovation Data Sharing Policy, UK Power Networks aim to make available all nonpersonal, non-confidential/non-sensitive data on request, so that interested parties can benefit from this data.

To view the full Innovation Data Sharing Policy, please visit UK Power Networks' website here:

<https://d1oyzg0jo3ox9g.cloudfront.net/app/uploads/2025/10/UKPN-InnovationDataSharingPolicy-Nov25-v1.pdf>

Please identify why the Network Licensees will not fund the project as a part of it's business and usual activities

Both from a business process and new technology perspective, this project is exploring ground-breaking opportunities not previously seen within the industry. This involves the development of something new, rather than purchasing a commercially available, production-ready solution suitable for BAU funding mechanisms. Whilst the potential benefits and lessons to be learnt from the project are significant, the innovative nature of both elements means that there is a significant element of risk associated with the project. For example, we are building a complex platform which uses many different sources of data across many different systems, so we could find that system is not capable of functioning effectively at this scale. We are also using AI technology in a way that has not previously been tried in the industry. This could mean that it is unable to carry out the tasks we need it to, or it may behave in unexpected or insufficiently useful ways. This makes funding the project as part of BAU activities inappropriate. NIA funding is specifically targeted to support projects which increase technology readiness levels, deliver significant benefits to society and the industry, and which de-risk new solutions in readiness for deployment to BAU. As such, NIA funding is perfectly aligned to overcome the risks and uncertainty faced by this innovative project.

Please identify why the project can only be undertaken with the support of the NIA, including reference to the specific risks (e.g. commercial, technical, operational or regulatory) associated with the project

The approach, and the use of technology for this specific use case remain unproven, and therefore do not represent an appropriate area for BAU funding. The project is looking at changing the way that investments are prioritised and planned, so therefore carries significant commercial risk.

From a technical risk perspective, the project is exploring the use of agentic AI capabilities in ways that have not previously been seen within the industry and, therefore, naturally carries technical risk as the development and deployment of unproven technology will be crucial to the success of the project.

The cross-portfolio approach the project will introduce is a completely new way of looking at investment planning and will, therefore, require fundamental changes to business processes to accommodate it. Until the project explores what is required from the people within the business to support these advanced analytics approaches, we will not know the potential impacts. This means that the project carries operational risk in its delivery.

Regulatory risk is also a consideration within this project. The project is explicitly addressing unresolved regulatory risk associated with the transition to AI-enabled planning and operational decision-making in a regulated network environment. Auditability, explainability, governance and validation are all potential risk areas in this respect.

This project has been approved by a senior member of staff

☒ Yes