

# Enabling Data – investment summary

The proposed investment in the Enabling Data capability is a response to the increasing complexity of the energy sector's operations, planning, and dispatch.

This initiative builds on the RIIO-T2 Data Portal investment and aims to address the inefficiencies of the traditional data warehouse model, which is slow to integrate new data sources and creates bottlenecks in data delivery.

The investment aligns with Ofgem's acknowledgment of the need for improved data flow across the whole system and aims to enhance data management, integration, and utilization across NGET.

## **Drivers for the Digital Strategy**

The primary drivers for the digital strategy include the need for continued compliance with Data Best Practice (DBP), the introduction of the Data Sharing Infrastructure (DSI), and the strategic objectives such as the Great Grid Upgrade and the UK's net zero targets.

The legacy data practices are no longer sufficient to support the increasing data demands, necessitating a shift to a more agile Data Fabric capability approach. This investment aims to improve data quality, enhance governance, and foster innovation through advanced analytics, AI, and digital twins.

## **Options Considered:**

A comprehensive optioneering and cost-benefit analysis was conducted, reviewing various options to deliver the requirements.

The preferred solution involves buying tools that integrate with the Data Fabric architecture to provide enhanced data quality, advanced analytics, AI, improved storage technology, and flexibility in application development.

### **Preferred Solution:**

The preferred solution is an enhanced, integrated data and digital solution that aligns with the Digitalisation Strategy and Action Plan (DSAP). This solution is the most cost-effective way of meeting strategic needs and involves buying tools that integrate with the Data Fabric architecture. The investment will enable seamless data integration, enhanced data quality tooling, improved storage technology, and the use of advanced analytical tools and AI for efficient, data-driven decision-making.

#### Timeline

The work will begin early in the RIIO-T3 period, with significant milestones achieved by 2028, including the decommissioning of old data platforms, implementation of a state-of-the-art data science workbench, and enhancement of data governance. By 2031, further advancements will include enhanced CI/CD integration for data pipelines, a cutting-edge HTAP database, a robust Graph/Knowledge database, and sophisticated observability and data quality tooling.

#### Conclusion

The Enabling Data investment is essential for transforming NGET's digital infrastructure to meet future challenges effectively. It ensures compliance with data best practices, enhances data quality and governance, and fosters innovation through advanced analytics and AI. This investment positions NGET to lead in digital twins, power system modelling and analysis innovation, and deliver new data capabilities to meet business needs. The preferred solution is the most cost-effective way to achieve these strategic objectives and aligns with the DSAP.