

Common Platforms – investment summary

The **Business Fundamentals Common Platforms** initiative is a critical investment aimed at modernizing the shared systems used at National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). These systems support network investments across our organisation and the modernisation of these tools is essential for NGET to work seamlessly with an increasing number of external construction and design organizations. It also ensures the effective capture and exposure of geographic and unstructured data to customers and stakeholders while maintaining security.

Drivers for digital investment

The investment in digitization for NGET's Common Platforms is driven by several key factors:

- 1. **Increased project volumes and complexities**: The need to manage a higher volume of projects with greater complexity.
- 2. **Long-term Value for Customers**: Ensuring that customers receive long-term value through improved operational efficiency.
- 3. **UK Network Reliability**: Maintaining the reliability and resilience of the UK network.
- 4. **Strategic Visions of Ofgem and NGET**: Aligning with the strategic visions of regulatory bodies and NGET.
- 5. **Enhanced ECM, GIS, and SI Digital Platforms**: Improving these platforms to support asset management, construction work, and accelerated strategic transmission infrastructure (ASTI) investments.

Options considered

A comprehensive optioneering and cost-benefit analysis was conducted to evaluate various options for delivering the required capabilities. The preferred option, which involves an incremental capability build, was selected based on its cost-effectiveness and alignment with NGET's strategic needs.

Preferred Solution

The preferred solution is an enhanced, integrated data and digital solution. This solution is the most cost-effective way to meet NGET's strategic needs and is consistent with the Digital Strategy Action Plan (DSAP). It involves modernizing and integrating three core business platforms:

- 1. **Geo-spatial Information System (GIS) Platform**: Migrating to a cloud-native GIS, adopting a utilities data model, and implementing workflows for efficient geospatial data capture.
- 2. **SI Enterprise Platform**: Providing technology to support various organizational systems, including collaboration with cross-project supply chain partners and secure engagement with external stakeholders.
- 3. **Enterprise Content Management (ECM)**: Implementing air-gapped content management to enhance risk management and support digitized workflows.

Timeline

The investment spans most of the RIIO-T3 period, with most of the re-platforming work and upgrades expected to be delivered by FY28. The investment outcomes will be consistently monitored and measured, with continuous enhancements through iterative development.

Conclusion

The development and modernization of the Common Platforms tools are crucial for managing the increasing project volumes and complexities. These enhancements are designed to deliver long-term value to customers, maintain UK network reliability, and support the strategic visions of both Ofgem and NGET. The proposed solution, developed following a thorough optioneering process and cost-

benefit analysis, is the most cost-effective way to meet NGET's strategic needs and is consistent with the Digital Strategy Action Plan (DSAP)