



Project Trident Preferred Hypothesis

30 July 2025

Making **energy** data **work**.

X Purpose & Agenda

Objectives:

- To share **the preferred hypothesis** for Project Trident
 - The preferred hypothesis is the option that is currently favoured over others based on research and evidence indicating that this best meets the needs of Project Trident.
- To launch **customer consultation** for the preferred hypothesis

Agenda:

1. A reminder of the HMT Green Book Business Case approach
2. Three shortlist options and our preferred hypothesis
3. Our research & case studies that has led to the preferred hypothesis
4. Next steps and requests for customer input

HMT Green Book Approach

In July 2024, we kicked off Project Trident, a multi-year project which **will modernise the UK Link platform**, in response to SAP's planned discontinuation of standard support for IS-U ECC6 in 2027.

To develop the proposal for the future of UK Link, Project Trident is using the **HM Treasury Green Book approach** for business case development. Our business case will be developed in **three iterations**:

- 1. Strategic Outline Case (SOC):** Published in September 2024, this presents our case for starting Project Trident and the longlist of options.
- 2. Outline Business Case (OBC):** Targeted for end of 2025, this will present our research against the longlist and a preferred option.
- 3. Full Business Case (FBC):** This will confirm the preferred solution, outcomes of procurement and the proposed delivery approach and costs.

X Outline Business Case research

Due diligence has taken place to understand and evaluate the options for the future UK Link. No decision has yet been made on the preferred option for Project Trident. This will be confirmed on the approval of the OBC. To select a preferred option for the OBC, the following data and insight will be used:

- Insight from industry experts:
 - 3rd party research from **specialists**
 - Gartner and Forrester reports
- **Market engagement** exercise (in November 2024) and input from experienced IT service providers
- **Industry case studies** from comparable transformation projects
- **Customer case studies** and lessons learned based on April 2025 survey responses
- Existing Xoserve resources, including as-Is requirements for UK Link
- Ongoing engagement with customers including **UK Link Pain Point Workshop findings**

Our research has pointed to an early **preferred hypothesis** which we want to test with customers. This is still subject to change based on our research.



X Shortlist options and preferred hypothesis

Our shortlist is a set of the viable and credible options for UK Link that pass initial feasibility and affordability tests:

Shortlisted Option		UK Link Core	UK Link Non-Core
SAP Renewal	An SAP product-based UK Link	SAP	SAP
Self-Build	A bespoke UK Link	Custom new build	Best of Breed SAP and/or alternatives
Hybrid	A best fit & multi product-based UK Link	SAP	Best of Breed SAP and/or alternatives

✕ Preferred hypothesis

From our three options, our preferred hypothesis is that Project Trident should adopt
a hybrid approach, using a two-step process.



✕ Preferred hypothesis – indicative analysis

Hybrid approach

- Using an SAP core will increase compatibility with the existing UK Link and reduce reengineering. This option has the lowest levels of anticipated delivery risk.
- Case studies point to this being the preferred option for similar organisations.
- An SAP renewal will not be sufficient to realise the future flexibility and adaptability required by customers, the regulator and future industry change.

Two-step approach

- **Step one** is a foundation step, to a complete solution. It is required for the UK Link to be supported and secure and will include minimal change to the customer interface.
- **Step two** is required to improve upon the limitations of the existing UK Link and to provide a solution that is viable until 2040. Research shows that we need a more flexible and adaptable solution than the existing UK Link to support ongoing industry change.

X Industry case studies

Northern
Gas Networks

GRDF

gn
gasnet

uni
per

e.on

national
gas

ENGIE

NorthWestern
Energy

N

edf

X Request for customer feedback

Your feedback is crucial to the decision-making process in moving from a preferred hypothesis to a preferred option within our OBC.

We'd be grateful for our stakeholders contributing via the following channels before **12 September**:

1. Online surveys:

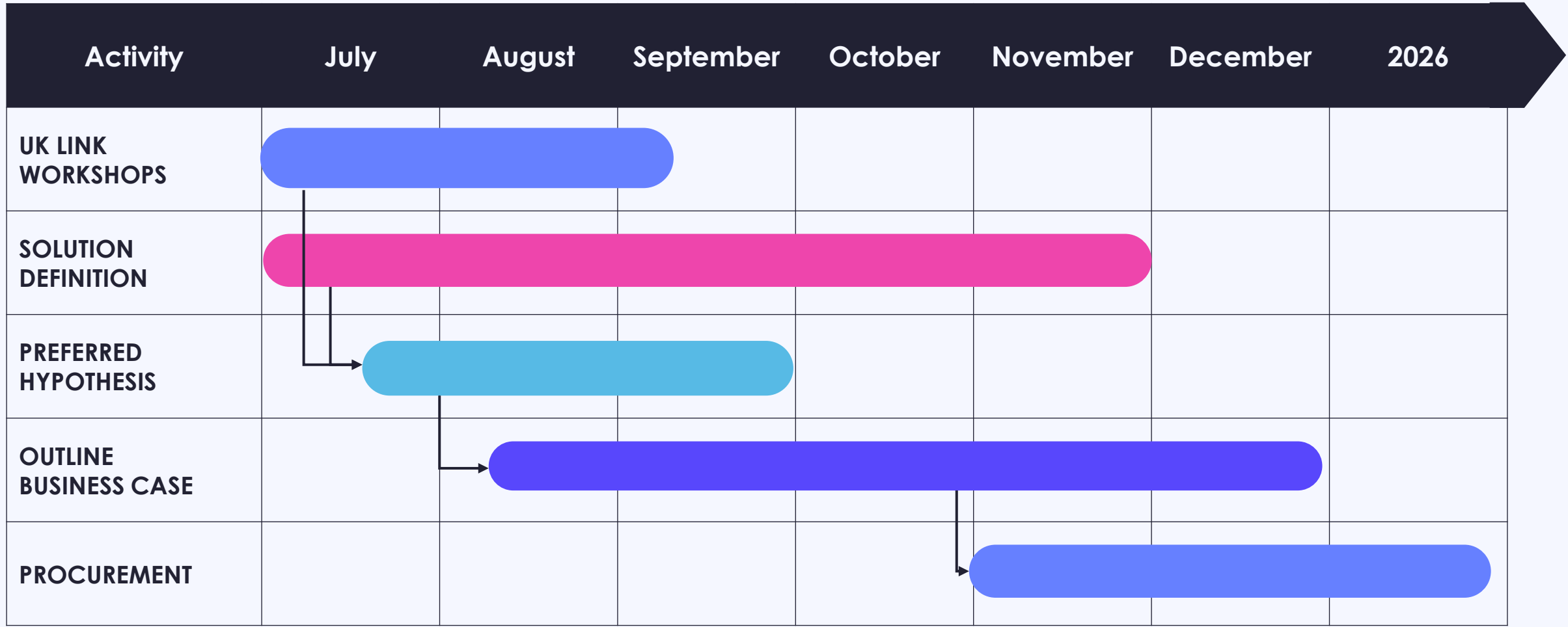
- **Lessons learned & insights survey:** If you have upgraded or changed your core and haven't yet shared your experience with us, please share your insights via this survey.
- **General survey:** For all DSC contract organisations, please complete this short survey on what would help give you confidence in a preferred option for Project Trident.

2. Preferred hypothesis customer workshop: We'll be holding a short customer workshop to gather customer feedback on the preferred hypothesis. Further details will be shared shortly.

3. Written feedback & questions* to Stakeholder Engagement Team & Customer Advisors: Please share feedback and questions with the Project Trident Stakeholder Engagement team via communications@xoserve.com and your relevant Customer Advisor.

*Please note that we will have information on the costs and timing of future solutions at the Full Business Case stage, following the OBC, and procurement exercise.

X What's next?





**Any
questions?**