



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# ***STFC DRI Overview***

*Katherine Rooke*

Head of Programmes, DRI

[Katherine.rooke@stfc.ukri.org](mailto:Katherine.rooke@stfc.ukri.org)

17<sup>th</sup> September 2025

# AI Research Resource (AIRR)

- **Isambard AI Phase 1:** 7.4 petaflops Linpack and 647 petaflops of AI Compute;
- **Isambard AI Phase 2:** In testing, 21 exaflops of AI compute, 5,448 Nvidia GH200 superchips in total
- **DAWN:** 256 Dell PowerEdge XE9640 server nodes:
  - 2x Intel Xeon Platinum CPUs and 3x Intel Data Centre GPU Max 1550
- **Expression of Interest to use systems open:**  
<https://engagementhub.ukri.org/ukri-infrastructure/airr-eoi>

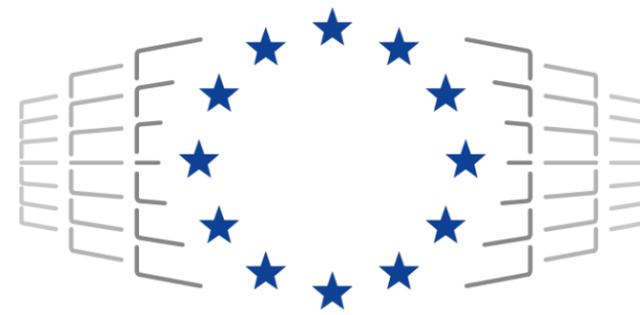


## Isambard-AI



# DAWN





- **May 2024:** UK a full member of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking
- UK access, through Horizon Europe contributions, is limited to Horizon Europe funded calls and EuroHPC Access Calls
- Through EuroHPC Access Calls, UK-based applicants can access all existing and planned EuroHPC systems, including the upcoming JUPITER exascale system
- **We encourage the community to apply**
  - [https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/access-our-supercomputers/eurohpc-access-calls\\_en](https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/access-our-supercomputers/eurohpc-access-calls_en)



# Updates – Spending review

The spending review is split into 2 phases.

- Phase 1: The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has a £13.9 billion R&D budget for the financial year 2025/26. In April 2025, DSIT confirmed an £8.811 billion allocation for UKRI in 2025/26.
- Phase 2: The R&D budget for DSIT has been confirmed for financial years 2026/27 to 2029/30. It will grow from £14.0 billion in 2026/27 to £15.2 billion in 2029/30. We are working closely with DSIT on the discussion of UKRI's allocation and the subsequent budgets for research councils.

# Updates – Compute

- The Chancellor confirms up to £750m for the next UK national supercomputer.
- The Prime Minister is committing an extra £1 billion of funding to ramp up the UK's AI compute power by twenty-fold (announced as he opened London Tech Week).
- The AI Research Resource is in operation.
- Government's Compute Roadmap was published in July

Press release

## Scotland to host UK's national supercomputer as Chancellor confirms £750 million investment

Scotland will become home to the UK's most powerful supercomputer, with up to £750 million for the project confirmed in the Spending Review.

---

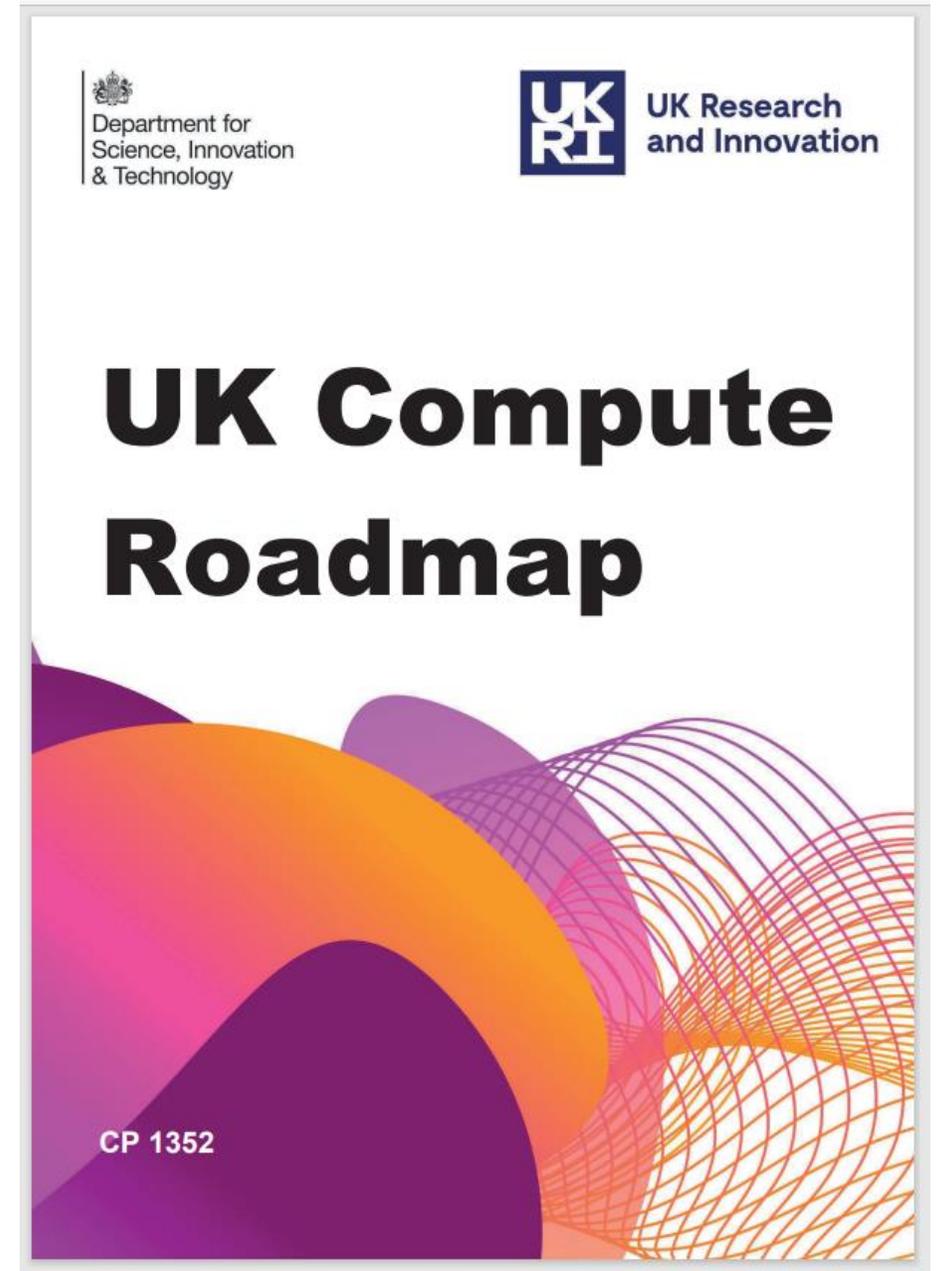
From: [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology](#), [HM Treasury](#), [Scotland Office](#), [The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP](#), [The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP](#) and [The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP](#)

Published 11 June 2025

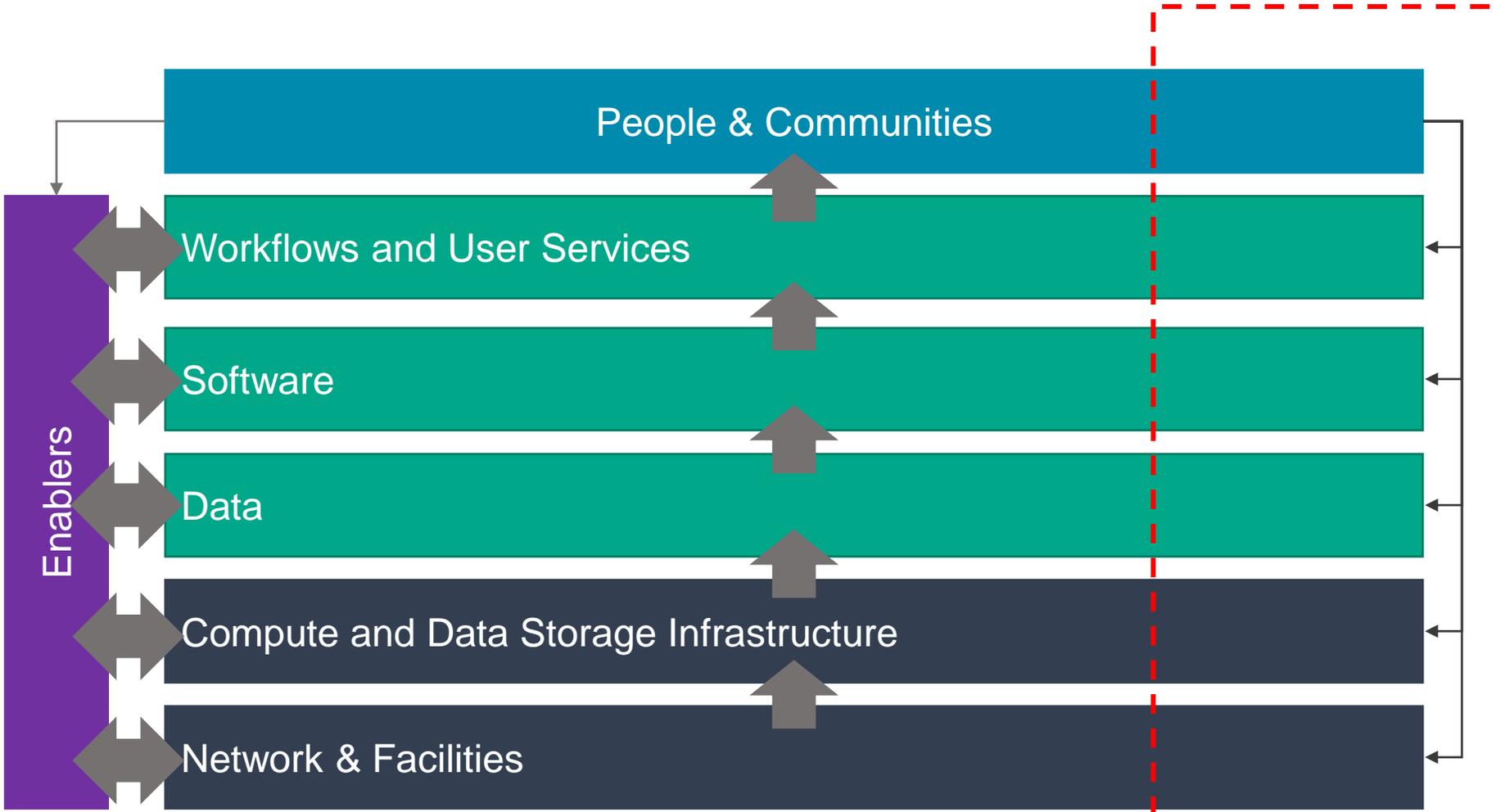
# Compute Roadmap

Government's Compute Roadmap was published in July [UK Compute Roadmap - GOV.UK](#)

- Establish a single national compute ecosystem defined by a broad, powerful mix of compute services that are fully integrated. It will be built around 5 core principles:
  - Stable, long-term funding
  - A diverse and joined-up ecosystem
  - User centred support and expertise
  - Data driven
  - Dynamic and agile
- **Alongside the new national supercomputer, DSIT and UKRI will continue to support a diverse portfolio of public sector research establishment (PSRE) and smaller-scale systems.** This will ensure that the UK's public research compute ecosystem retains the range of shared national capabilities needed to service the diverse user needs of different scientific disciplines and that flagship PSRE systems are joined-up with the wider ecosystem.



# Towards a sustainable DRI ecosystem



Many current DRI projects  
vertically-integrated

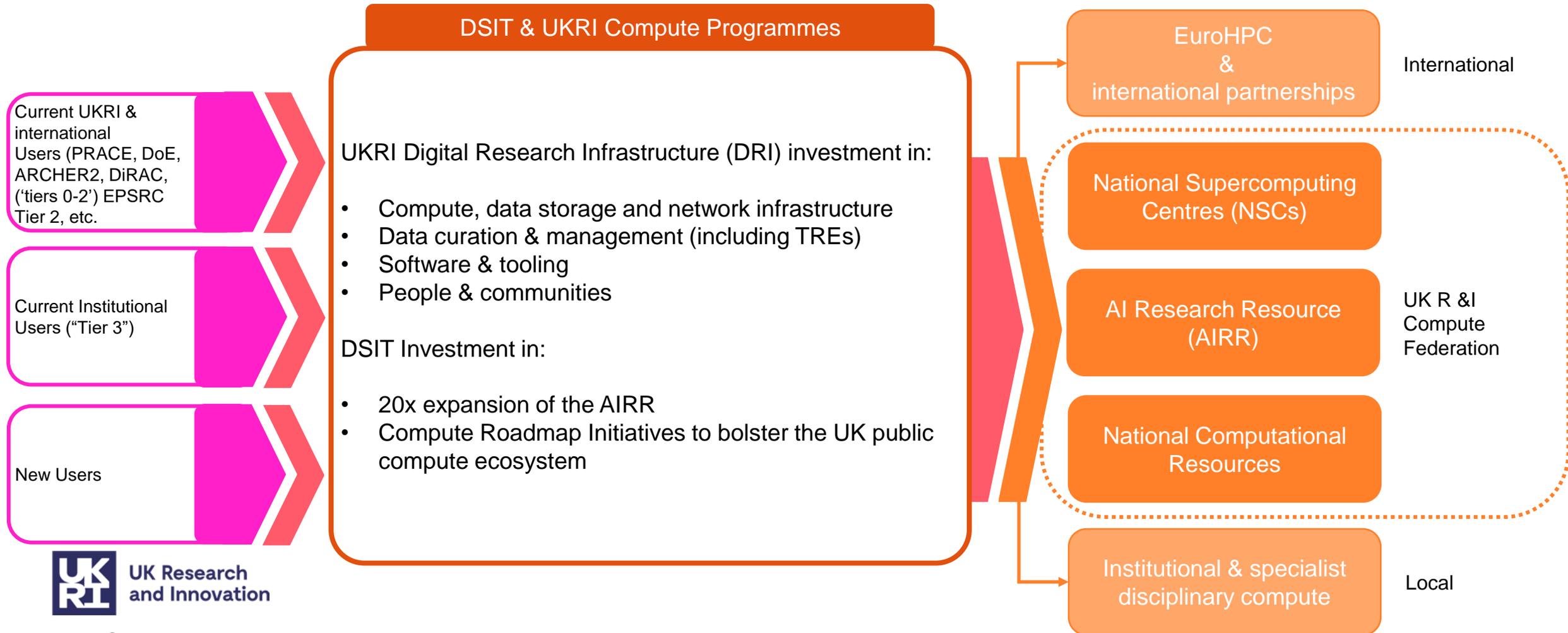
# FUTURE UK R&I COMPUTE LANDSCAPE



UK Research and Innovation



Department for Science, Innovation & Technology





Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

***Thank You***

