

Risks analysis and communications plan

The following table summarises risks associated with each of the uninitiated Wave 2/3 projects

Project	Main Risks	Other Comms announcements
LHCb: Large Hadron Collider beauty 2030+	High impact potential - Project announced by former SoS (UKRI Comms on this) - Project is international, with the UK currently the main contributor (see 'Other Comms announcements'). - It is Phase II of an ongoing infrastructure (UK is the largest contributor to the Phase I LHCb project*) Therefore there is a strong UK community with large research groups at Oxford and Liverpool. - The announcement to pause or stop involvement may coincide with CERN naming its new Director General on 1 January 2026. The incoming DG is Mark Thomson, formerly Chair of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee (IAC) and former Executive Chair of STFC. The current STFC Executive Chair, Michele Docherty, now serves as the incumbent IAC Chair.	*Website: Eleven UK institutes contribute and the UK constitutes 24% of the full collaboration. In total we are 32 academics, 13 Fellows, 54 Post Doctoral Research Assistants (including applied physicists, engineers, and programmers), 17 technical staff and 62 PhD students. STFC's Strategic Delivery Plan Presentation on UK's Contribution to LHCb (Phase II) upgrade on CERN site
C-MASS: Critical Mass UK	Moderately high impact potential - Project announced by former SoS (UKRI Comms on this) - Will have some communities who are expecting the investment e.g. Durham University made a press release for this. Most recent widespread engagement appears to be Sept 2025 (Annual British Mass Spec Society Meeting).	Durham University Press Release British Mass Spectrometry Society has a presentation on UK involvement and most recently had an update presented at their Annual Meeting on the C-MASS project in Sept 2025.
EIC: Electron Ion Collider	High impact potential - Project announced by former SoS (UKRI Comms on this) - Project is international, with the UK currently the main contributor (see 'Other Comms announcements'). - The initial press release did not make clear to the external community that it this was subject to funding availability although the official communication, the pre-award letter, did. - The community are active having received small amounts of funding to progress different aspects of the EIC through preliminary activity funds: £1M to University of Birmingham for EIC Detector R&D £0.48m to University of Liverpool for EIC Detector R&D - The internal and external communities for this project are extremely passionate and have sent emails via STFC to pressure UKRI into funding this when decisions could not be made ahead of the IAC meeting.	The EIC Wikipedia page does not make reference to UK investment but flagging as a web source that could be edited. There have been a vast number of press releases for UK investment: Brookhaven National Labs Site US Dept of Energy Lancaster University The Cockcroft Institute University of Birmingham Physics World There are permanent webpages on this too: Brookhaven National Labs STFC Webpages here & here
RUEDI: Relativistic Ultrafast Electron Diffraction & Imaging	Moderately high impact potential - Project announced by former SoS (UKRI Comms on this) - Active community with quite a lot of press releases. Similar to C-MASS in terms of impact/risk. - Delivered in partnership with University of Liverpool, ASTeC at Daresbury Lab and RFI (will therefore involve a MCA). Investment was given by EPSRC to Liverpool Uni for £3m to develop the concept. Therefore, active community. There is an upcoming event for this to be held in Manchester (Townhall, 20 March 2026).	Press Releases: AsTeC Liverpool RFI – EPSRC are listed as funder (not UKRI Infra Fund) Permanent Webpages: Liverpool Uni There has been a publication which uses RUEDI as a case study.

	Low/moderate impact potential 1. Nothing publicly announced in communications that is findable by Google. 2. However, feedback from previous IAC meeting was: <i>Recommended for funding subject to minor revision.</i>	
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