

Status of UK Funding

ePIC General Meeting
14 August 2026

Paul Newman (Birmingham) on behalf
of UK ePIC / EIC community

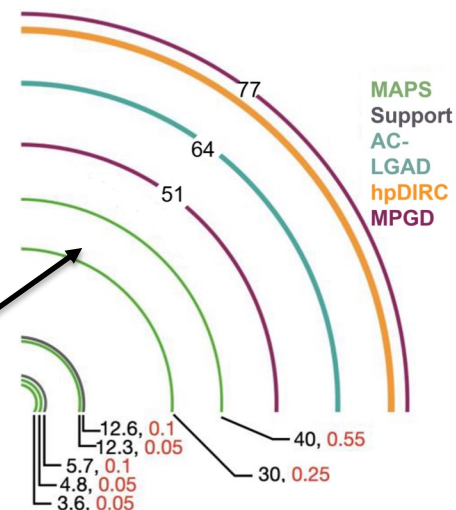
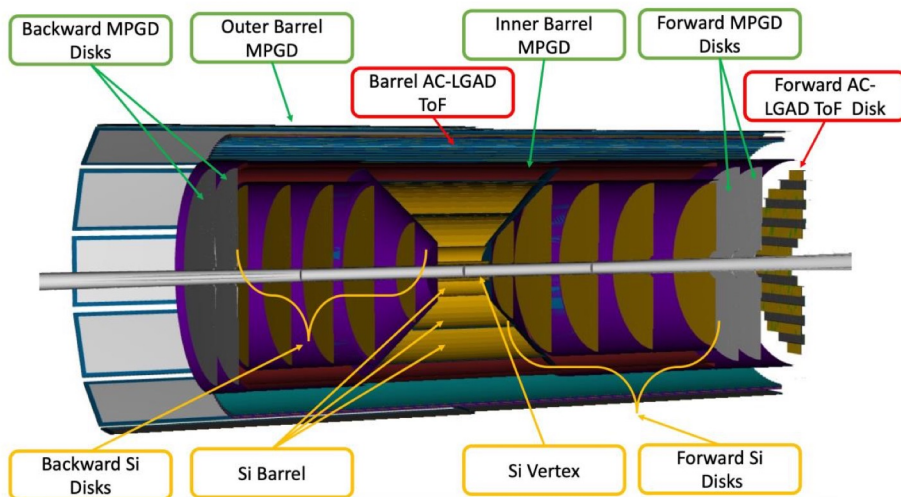


Situation until December 2025

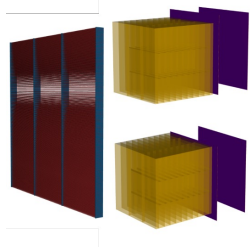
- UK involvement in various EIC R&D projects since the mid 2010s
- UKRI 'Infrastructure Preliminary Activity' (Oct 2021 - March 2024) £3.0m
- Extensions / Bridging funds ...
- UKRI 'Full Infrastructure Project' £58.8m approved
- 8.75 years (April 2026 - Dec 2034)
 - WP1 - Silicon Tracker
 - WP2 - Electron Tagger
 - WP3 - Luminosity Monitor
 - WP4 - Accelerator
 - WP5 - Project Management



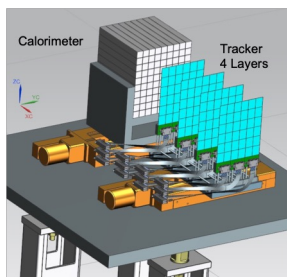
UKRI IF Commitments to ePIC



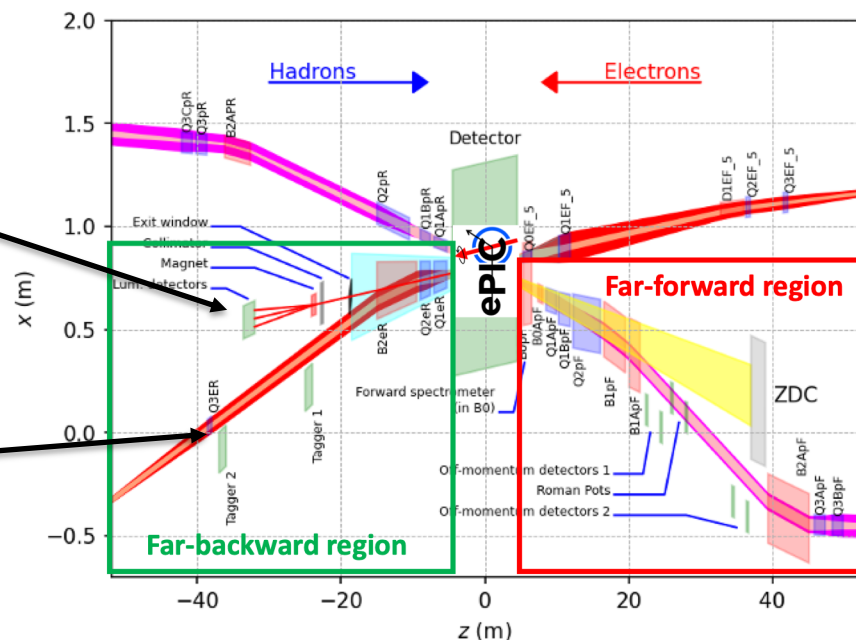
SVT Barrel layers 3, 4



Pair-production
lumi
spectrometer

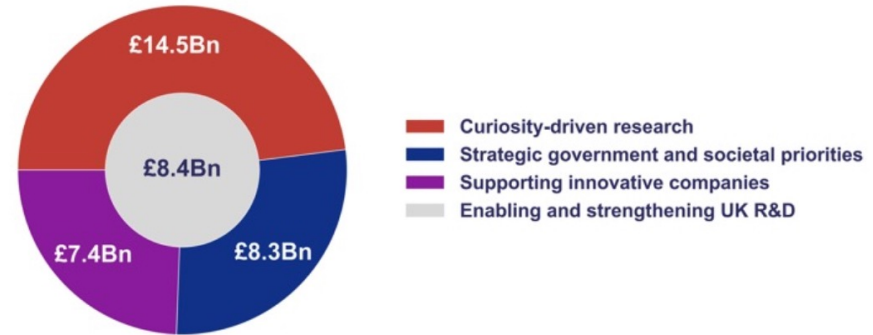


Low Q^2
electron
taggers



Troubled Times

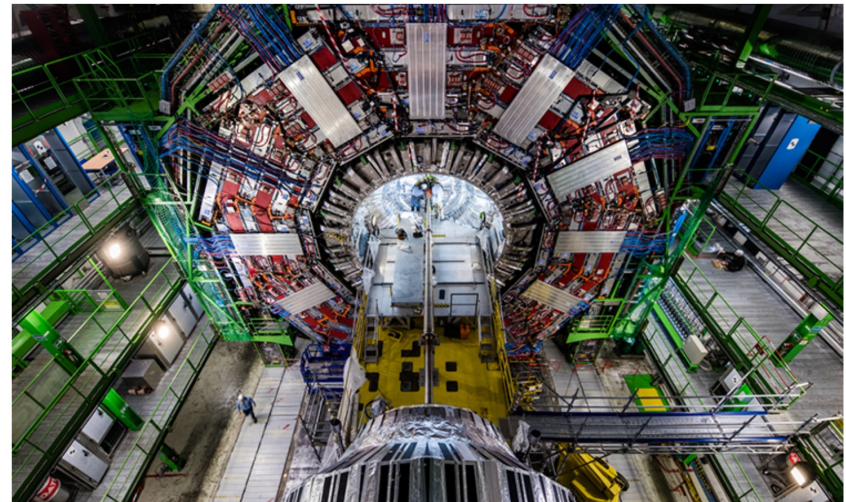
- Change in UKRI leadership and priorities in late 2025, driven by government emphasis on immediate economic growth
 - Focus shifts away from curiosity-driven research and towards industrial strategy priority areas (AI, Quantum ...)
 - Almost all infrastructure fund projects that had not already begun were ‘defunded’
- letter informing UK PIs received on 18 December 2025
- ... followed by extensive discussion in ePIC on mitigation plans, eg at January Collaboration Meeting



UKRI shelves physics infrastructure projects worth £280m

By Frances Jones

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Our Response included interactions with press, government review committees ... but no change

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RESEARCH FORTNIGHT

10 FEB 2026

Physics cuts put livelihoods, investment and reputation at risk

By Daria Sokhan

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Cutting the UK out of the Electron-Ion Collider project will damage science, says Daria Sokhan

2026 Developments

- STFC - itself facing the need to make drastic savings - held a peer-review based reprioritisation exercise to decide which nuclear, particle physics and astronomy projects it was able to take forward.
- Envelope implied significantly reduced funding.
- Despite being a UKRI project, ePIC was invited to bid into this exercise to continue with SVT (and lumi monitor) at a reduced (£5-10M) level
 - design and characterisation of the MAPS sensors for the outer layers (L3, L4) and possible production and delivery of L3
- Success in this was assumed in the baselining of the ePIC detector

- The UK In-Kind scope change has been accounted for as follows:
 - **Lumi detector \$1.5M: Is required for any EIC science → Absorbed as DOE Cost**
 - **Low-Q2 Detector \$3.5M: This detector was assumed as fully UK in-kind → Defer construction**
 - **Silicon Vertex Tracker \$15.6M: Critical towards ITS3/LAS design and L3/L4 of SVT barrel → Keep moving while the situation evolves (this requires UK critical specialized labor to be allowed to continue to work on EIC)**
 - Move all non-labor UK In-Kind of SVT to DOE → \$5.3 M
 - UK SVT Labor is assumed to remain In-Kind as currently a proposal is in to STFC to support this

[Elke - July collaboration meeting]

Outcomes (July 2026)

- During the week of the Glasgow collaboration meeting, we learned that we would not receive funding from the STFC reprioritisation
 - Many other projects were Unsuccessful, including the other infrastructure funded project (LHCb-UG) and many others
 - Significant public outcry
 - Ongoing discussions with STFC
- ... but no reversal of decision

POLICY AND FUNDING | NEWS

Future of UK physics threatened by 'ruinous' funding cuts, says Institute of Physics

30 Jul 2026 [Michael Banks](#)

🕒 Reading Time: 6 minutes

Balancing the budget of the Science and Technology Facilities Council has resulted in the cancellation of several significant international projects, as **Michael Banks** reports



Under threat If the cuts go ahead, funding for the e-MERLIN project at Jodrell Bank will now run out in 2028, putting the future of the facility at risk. (Courtesy: Mike Peel, CC BY-SA 4.0)

Where does this leave ePIC-UK?

- The UK ePIC community remains excited by EIC science and strongly committed to our experiment - we will continue to engage in every way we can.
- We lost the large-scale 'in kind' funding for UK-based detector construction or characterization. Currently no obvious way back from this.
- We still have smaller-scale funding that allows key postdoc / technician / engineering staff to continue for 6-12 months (sometimes longer) alongside University academics. We will also apply for future small-to-medium scale funding streams.
- We understand (and despair at) the impact our loss of funding has on the experiment and colleagues throughout the wider EIC community.
- Thanks to everybody for the support and kindness!