



WHEN TRUST MATTERS

# An Integrated and Resilient North Sea

Gwen Jackson-Johns

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

# A global assurance and risk management company

16,000+

employees

162

years

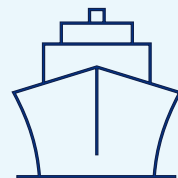
100+

countries

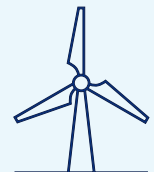
6%+

of revenue to R&D

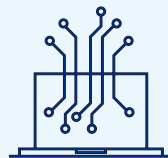
Ship and offshore  
classification and advisory



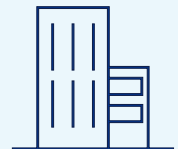
Energy advisory, certification,  
verification, inspection and  
monitoring



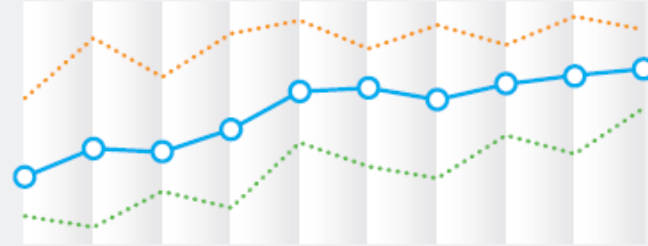
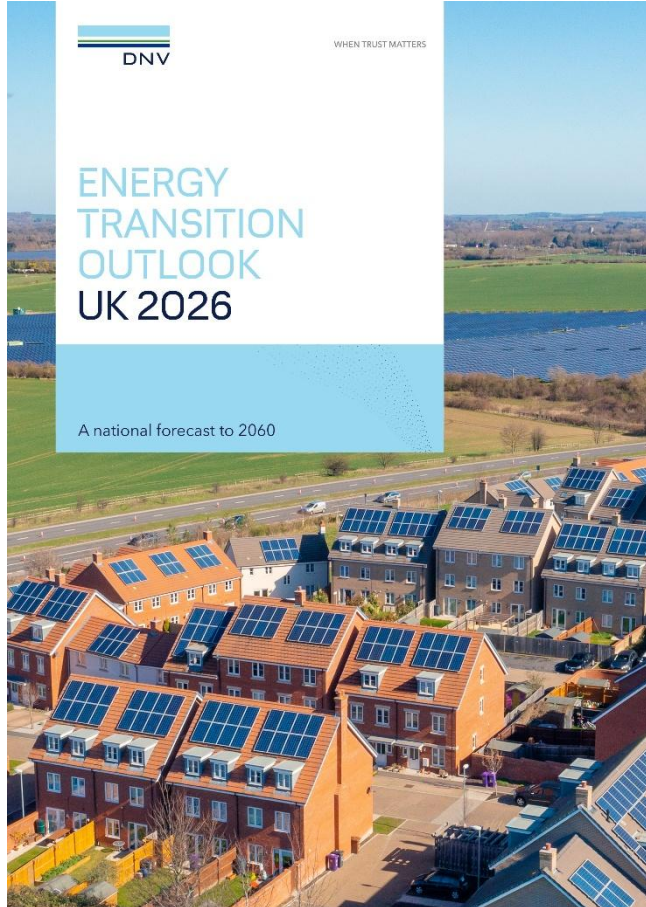
Software, cyber security, data  
platforms and  
digital assurance



Certification and assurance across  
industry sectors, including  
healthcare and ocean health



# DNV ETO forecast



Our **best estimate**, not the future we want a **single forecast**, not scenarios



UK as part of the **global energy system** – through technology, economy, energy resources



**Technology uptake** is mainly cost driven – reflecting global trends and learning curves

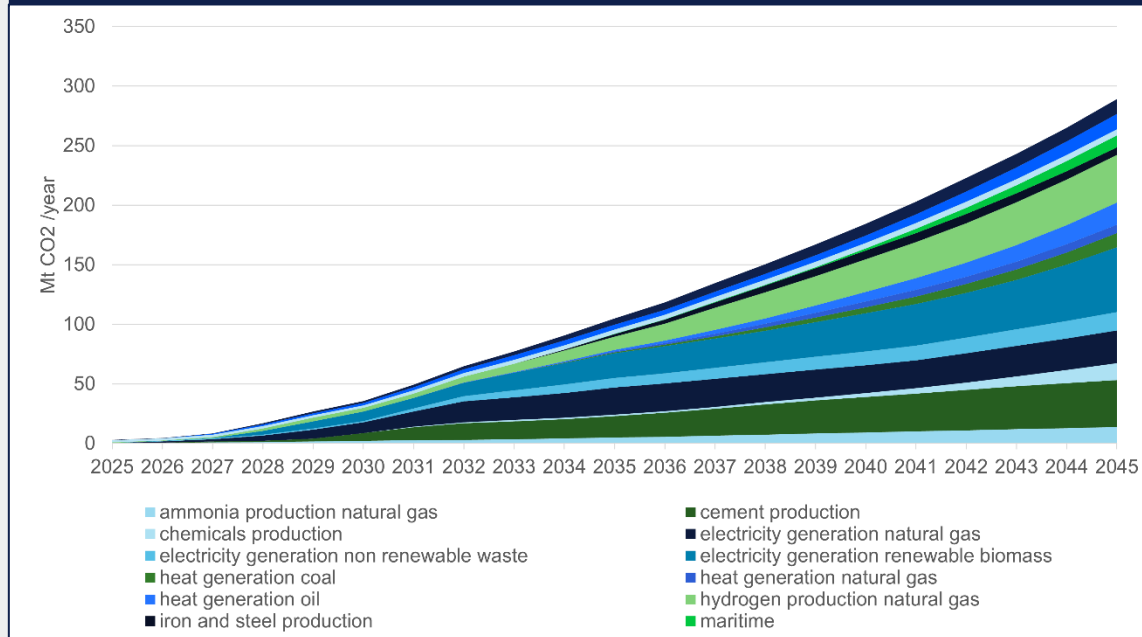


Key confirmed **policy** trends included: e.g. phase out of ICE, commitment to industrial clusters

# The North Sea is central to Europe's low-carbon energy system

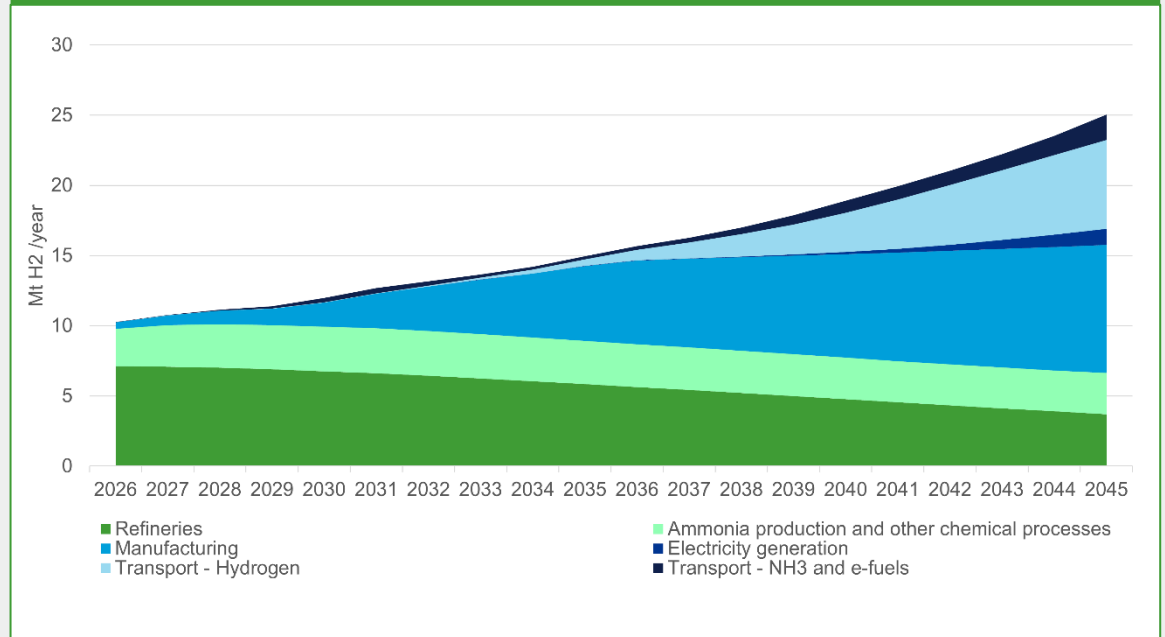
## EU Capture Capacity by Sector, DNV ETO 2025

- EU CO<sub>2</sub> capture demand is scaling rapidly across sectors
- Industrial sectors drive long-term demand
- Requires large-scale transport and storage
- Creates dependence on North Sea CO<sub>2</sub> stores



## EU Hydrogen Demand, by Sector, DNV ETO 2025

- Hydrogen demand is growing across multiple end-uses
- Strong growth in industry and transport
- Supply and demand are geographically misaligned
- Requires large-scale cross-border connectivity



# How we approach resilience in this study



## Approach

- System-level focus – not individual projects
- Overlapping CCS and hydrogen themes
- Designed for uncertainty – not fixed scenarios

## What we mean by “resilience”

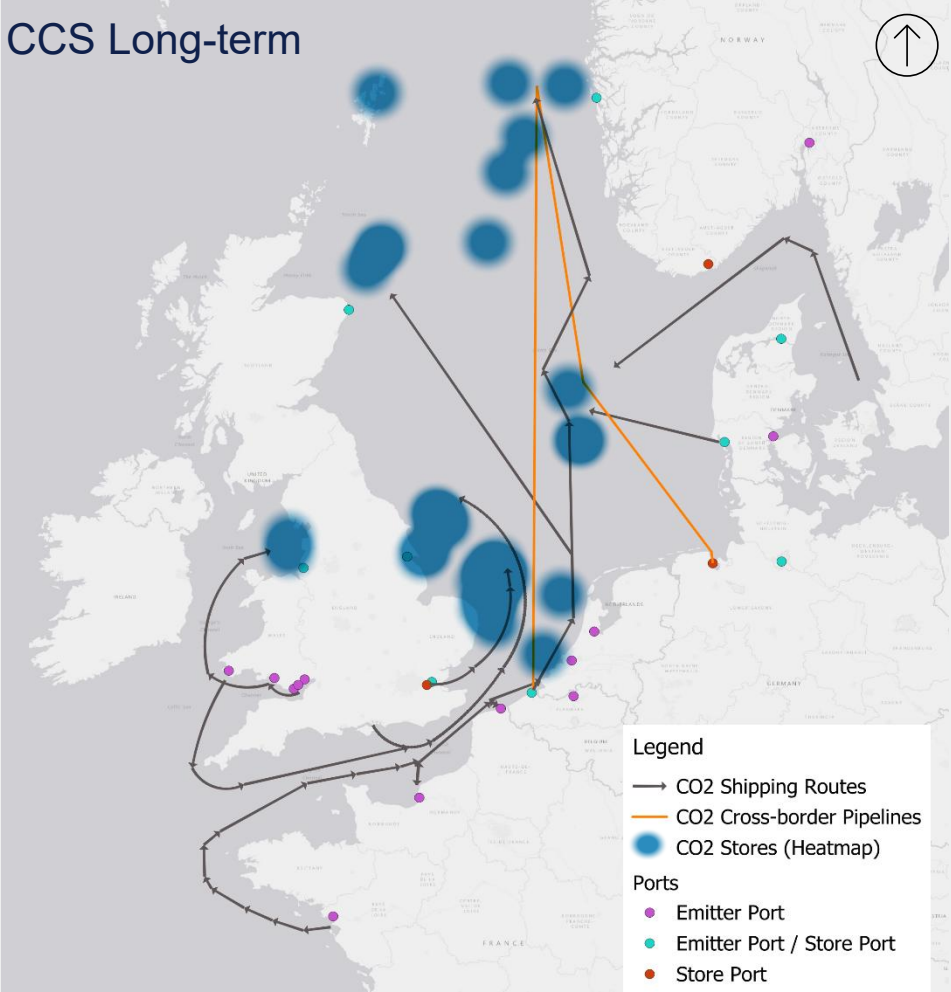
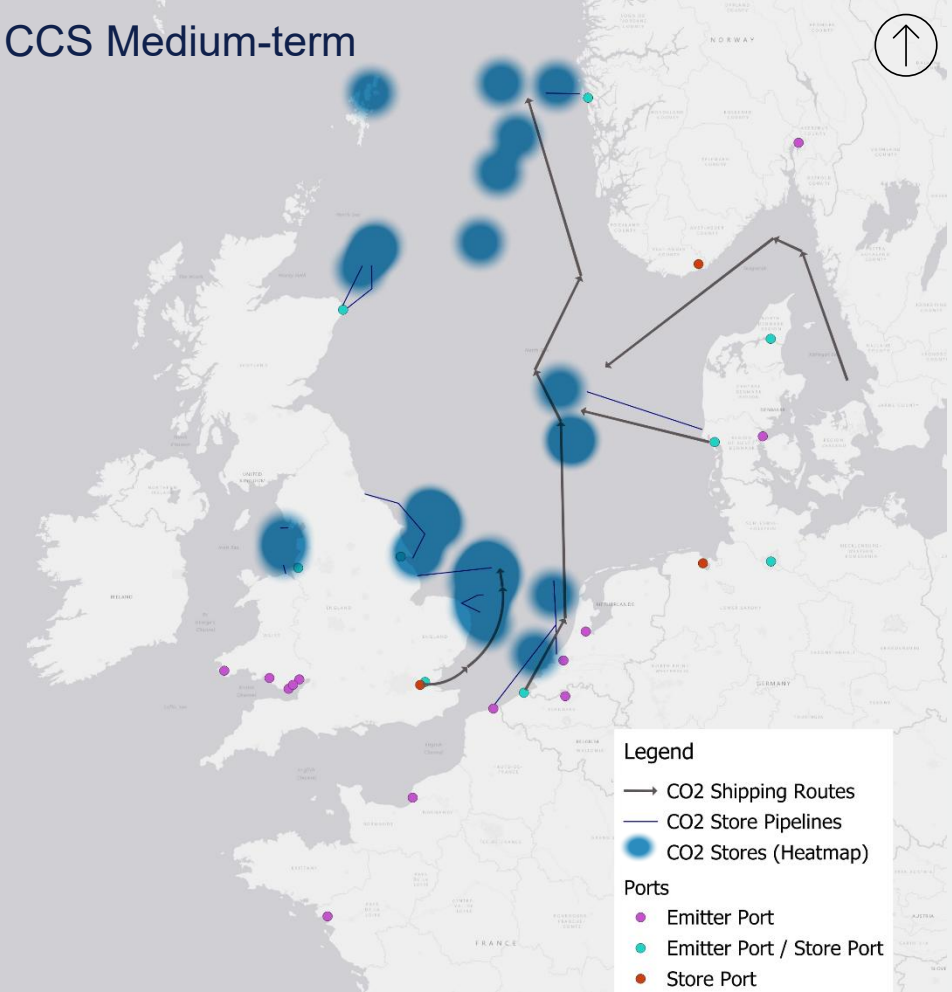
**Technical resilience** = how the system is built

**Operational resilience** = how the system is operated

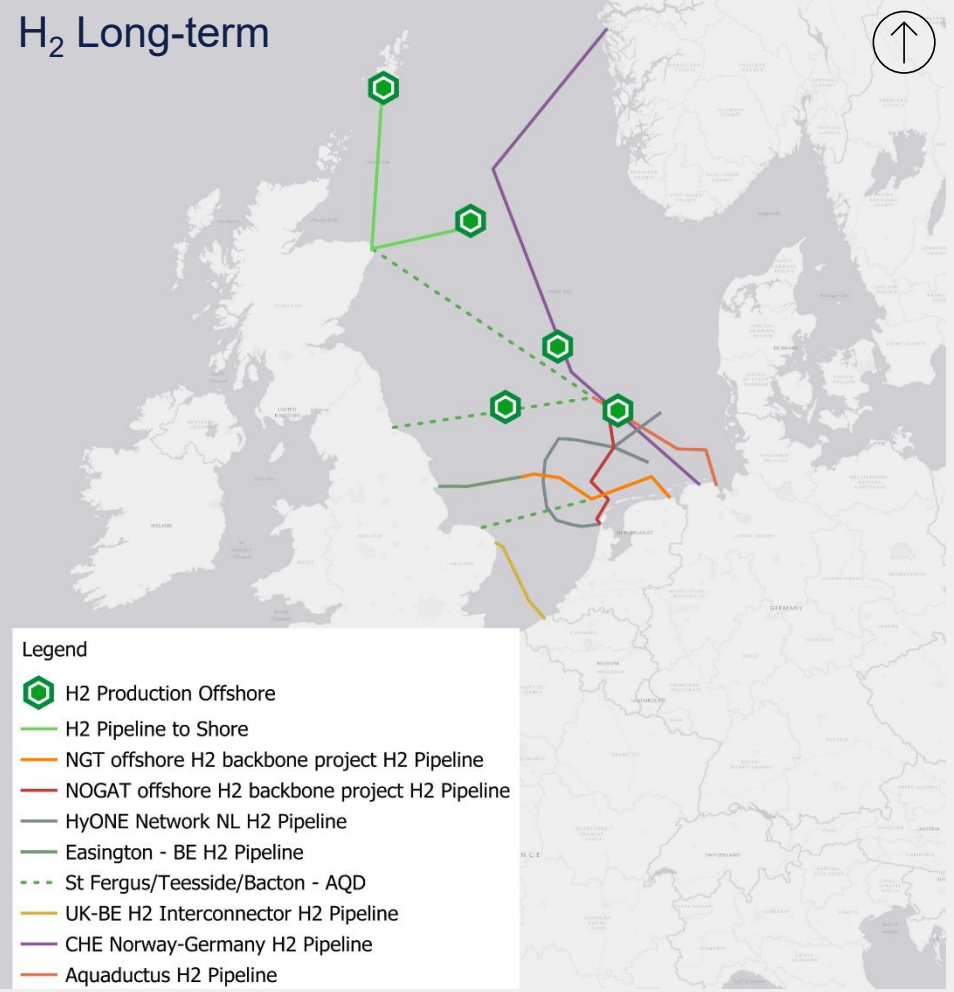
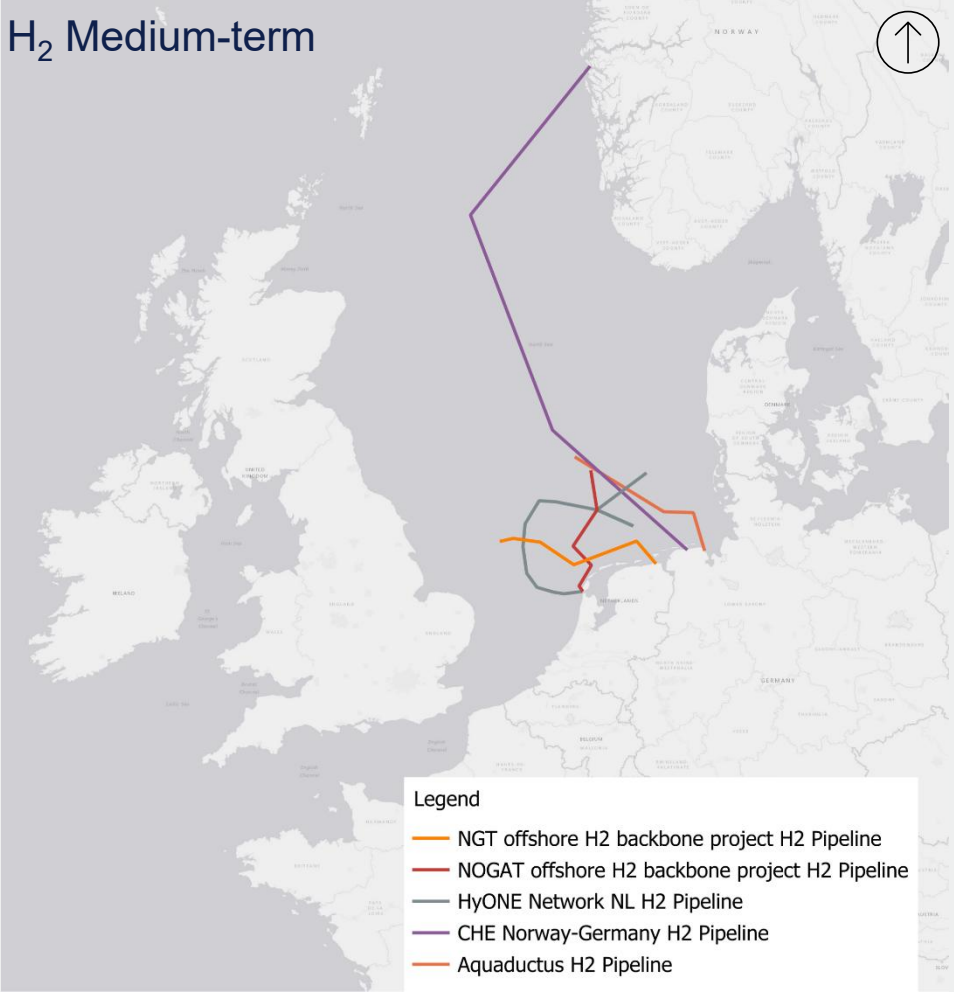
**Regulatory resilience** = how the system is governed

**Economic resilience** = how the system sustains itself economically

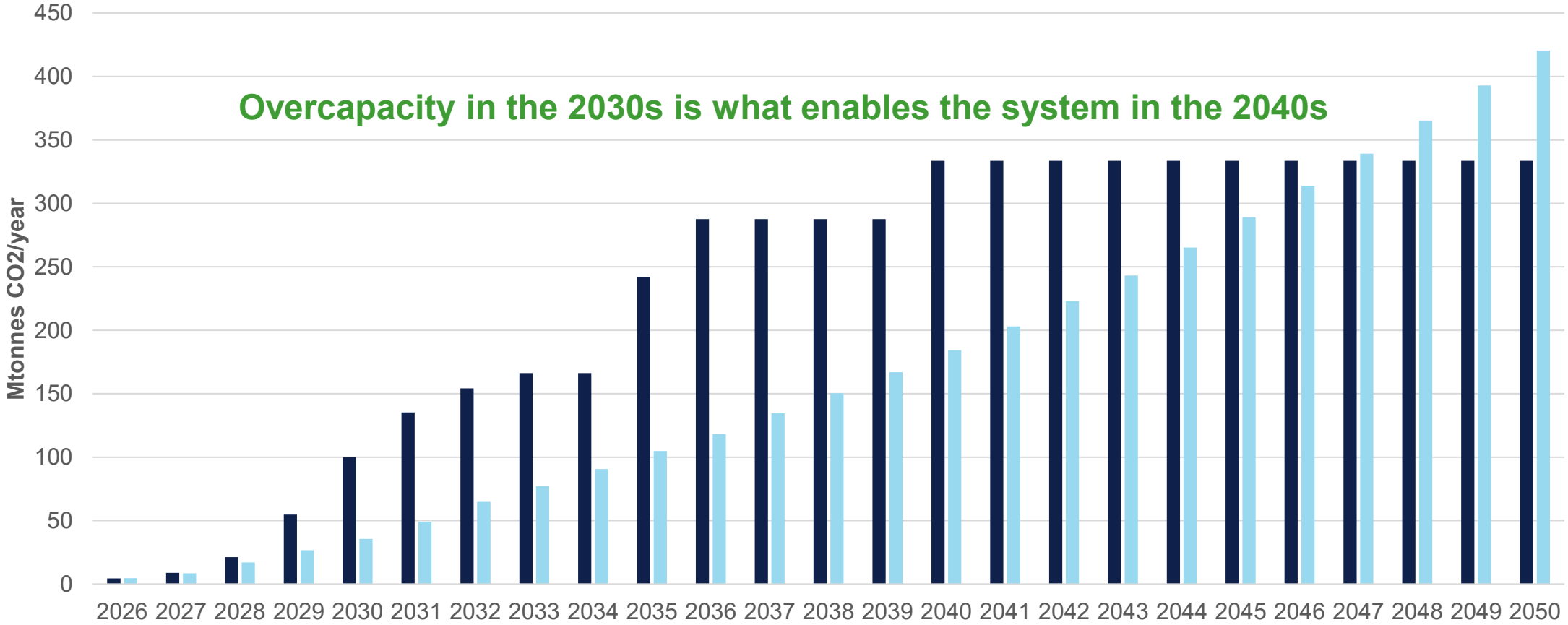
# CCS infrastructure evolves from individual projects to integrated networks



# Hydrogen infrastructure evolves from backbone corridors to integrated networks



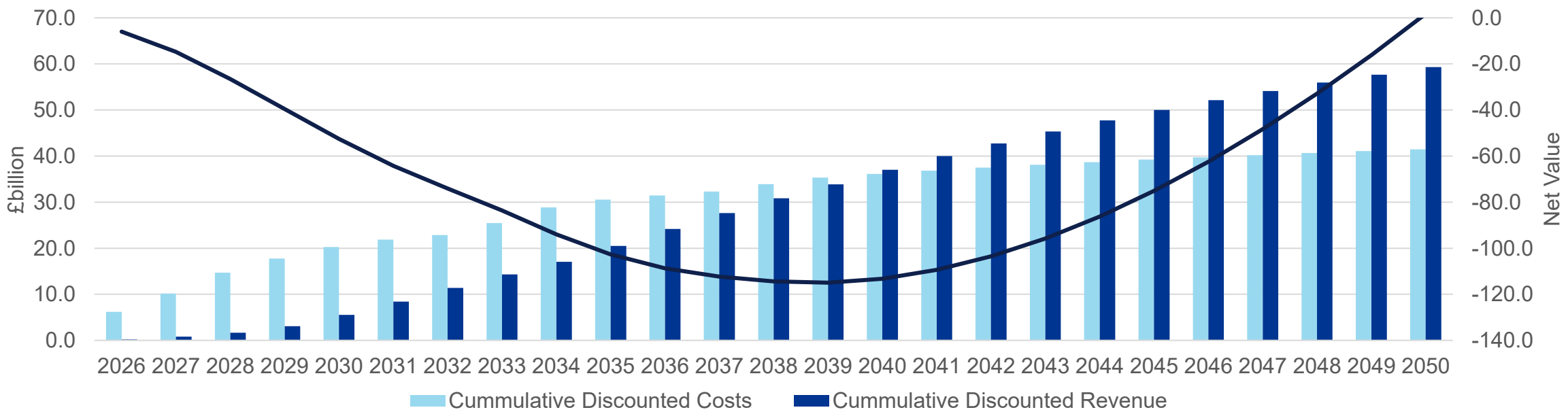
# Early capacity is required for CCS system development



■ Total Store injection Capacity (modelled availability)    ■ EU Capture Capacity (ETO)

Injection Capacity vs ETO Capture Capacity

# CCS infrastructure economics require early capacity ahead of demand



**1. Capacity strategy**  
*Early overcapacity*  
 Capacity built ahead of demand

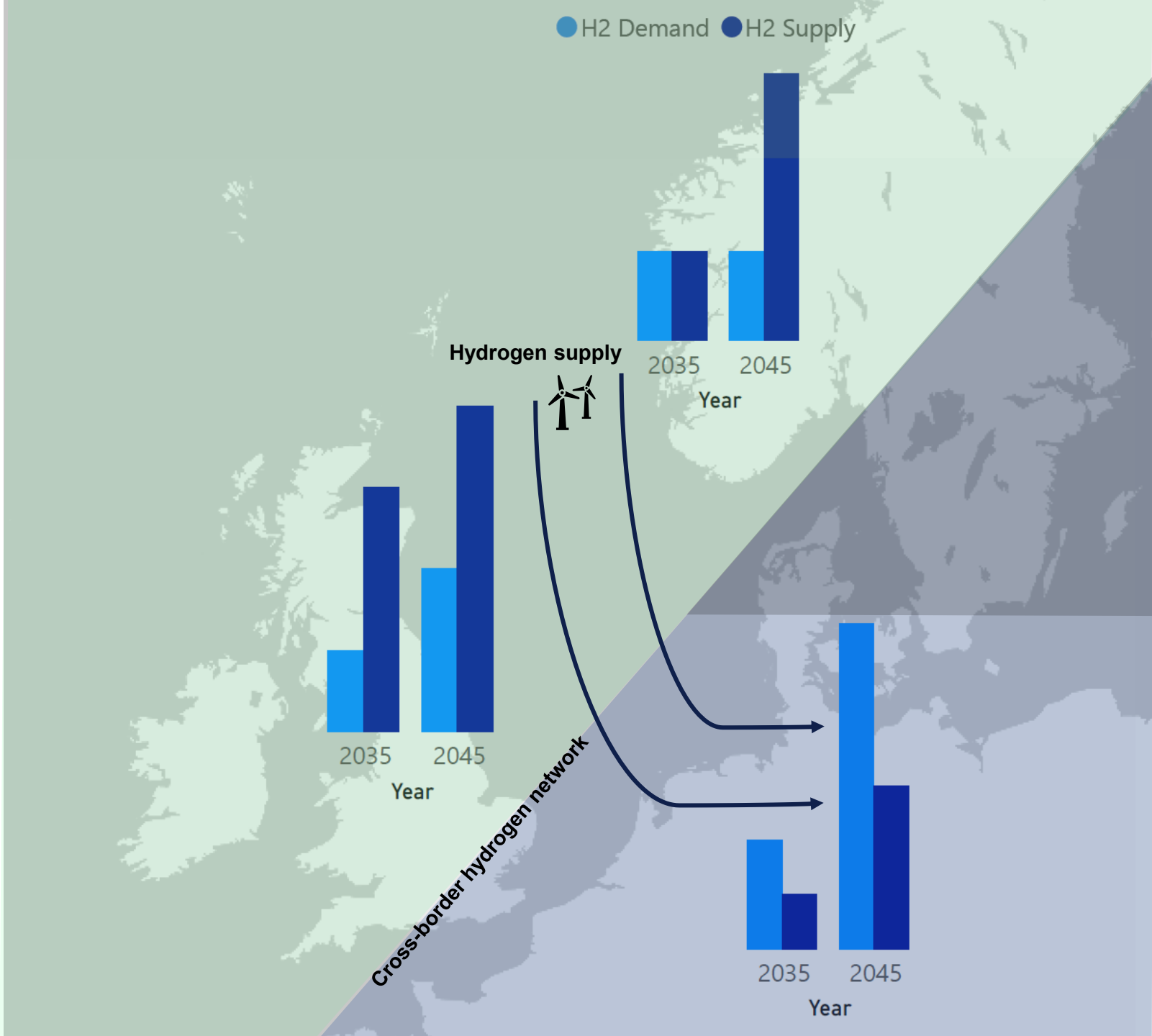
**2. Investment profile**  
*~ 25-year payback*  
 Returns depend on utilisation over time

**3. System dependency**  
*Multi-operator value chain*  
 Requires coordinated capture, transport, and storage

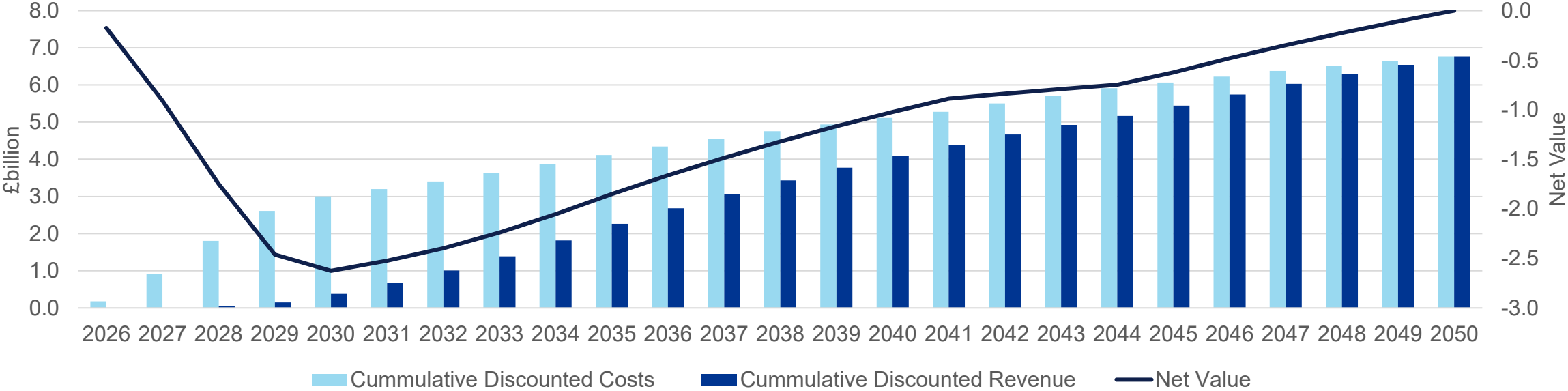
**Early capacity enables long-term system growth**

# Hydrogen supply and demand are geographically misaligned

- **Potential surplus supply** from the North Sea region
- **Demand exceeds supply** in countries in central Europe (e.g. Germany)
- **Connectivity** enables system integration



# Economic viability of hydrogen infrastructure depends on scale, utilisation, and system confidence



**1. Cost competitiveness**  
 ~ £0.15/ tonne-km  
 Depends on utilisation and scale

**2. Investment profile**  
 ~ 25-year payback  
 Inherent to large infrastructure systems

**3. System scale**  
 ~34 Mt/year throughput  
 Requires coordinated system development

**Early investment is required to enable long-term system value**

# Resilience dimensions are interdependent, but realised at different stages over time

## **Regulatory:**

Defines rules, access,  
and investor  
confidence

## **Technical:**

Builds capacity,  
flexibility, and  
optionality

## **Operational:**

Delivers system  
performance in  
practice

## **Economic:**

Creates value over  
time as the system  
scales

# Resilience is built into the system, not added later



## Structural Elements

**Backbone:** cross-border pipelines, shared trunklines, interconnected hubs

**Redundancy:** diversified routing and 'oversized' design

**Flexibility:** bidirectional flows



## Enabling Actions

**Strategy:** Long-term, system-level approach and cross-border alignment

**Coordination:** harmonised regulation and coordinated investment

**Integration:** interoperability between systems

**Together, these enable a resilient, flexible, and scalable system**

# Key Takeaways

## Unlock North Sea Potential

The North Sea has significant capacity to support the growth of both CCS and hydrogen at scale.

## Shift to system-level coordination

Move from project-by-project optimisation to integrated, system-level infrastructure to unlock full North Sea potential.

## Accept early inefficiencies

Building ahead of demand means temporary underutilisation and overcapacity - a necessary part of scaling.

## Build investor confidence

CCS and hydrogen require long-term confidence in demand, policy stability, and system coordination.

# 4 priorities to unlock an Integrated and Resilient North Sea system

## Align standards and enable interoperability

- Maintain early flexibility, move toward harmonisation
- Use joint industry projects (JIPs) and standard-setting forums
- Align cross-border specifications, access, and rules

## Plan infrastructure for the long-term

- Base decisions on system-level demand scenarios
- Improve coordination and visibility across project pipelines
- Use phased, modular development

## Build for scale, flexibility, and resilience

- Design for expandability, redundancy, and multiple routes
- Enable inter-modality and buffering capacity
- Address delivery, cost, and coordination challenges

## Strengthen coordination and investment

- Improve cross-border planning and system coordination
- Provide stable policy frameworks, demand visibility, and clear risk allocation

# Thank you

Report available via QR code

