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CoSTAR

A National R&D Infrastructure for the Screen and Performance Sectors

COMPETITION BRIEFING EVENT
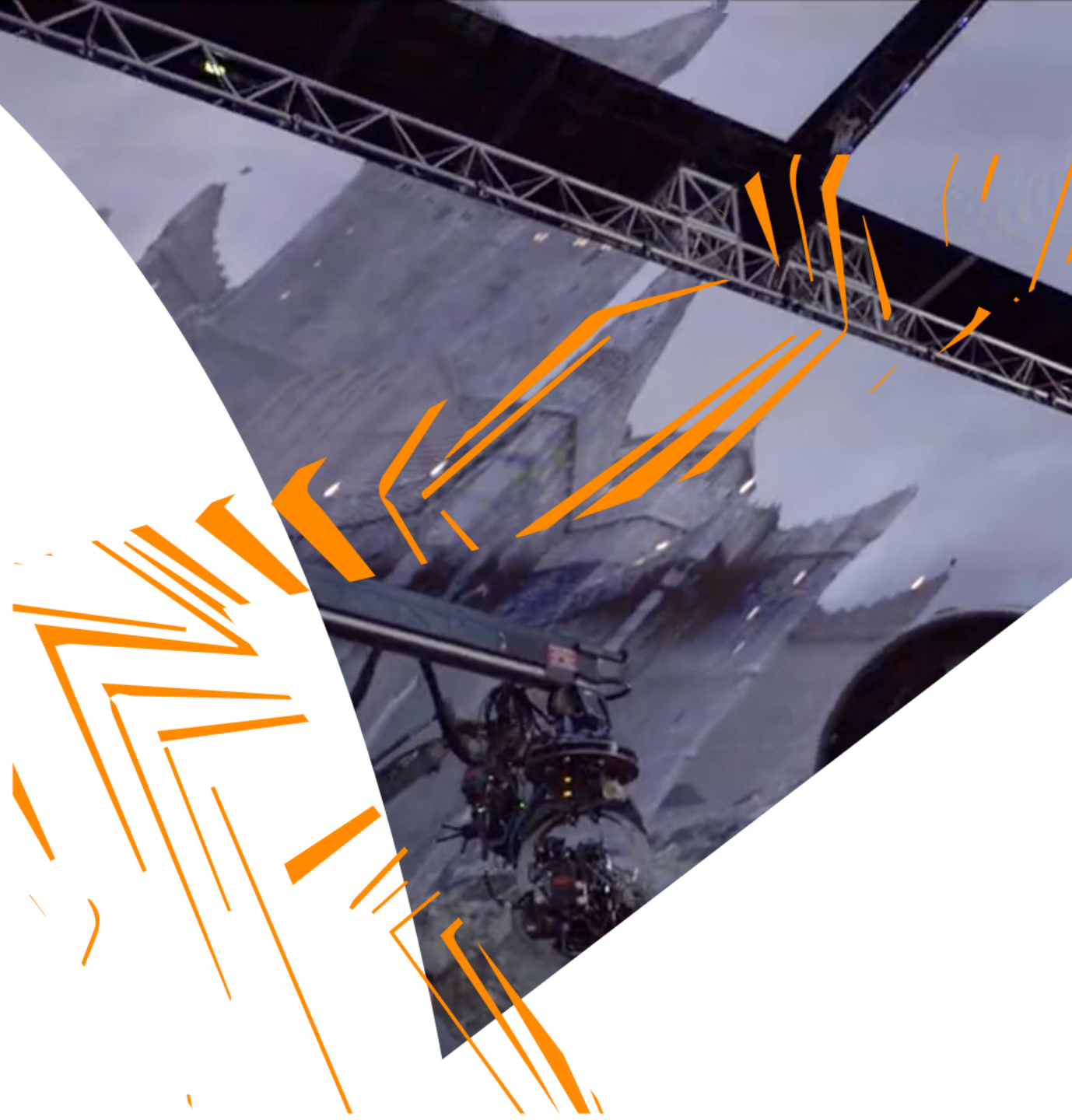
costar@ahrc.ukri.org

Agenda

1 The rationale for CoSTAR

- What is CoSTAR? Why do this now?
- What is the opportunity and why do we think this is an innovation Infrastructure?
- CoSTAR now and in the future.

2. Competition Briefing. Lots 1&2

- The rules, the regulations, the timelines
- What we're asking for - and what we're not
- The partnership and capabilities you'll have to evidence

3. Q & A

The CoSTAR team

Andrew Chitty **Project Director**
AHRC Creative Economy Champion

Laura Partridge **Strategic Lead**

Hana Farrag **Head of Impact and Delivery**

costar@ahrc.ukri.org

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UK Research and Innovation

We work with the government to invest over £7 billion a year in research and innovation by partnering with academia and industry to make the impossible, possible. Through the UK's nine leading academic and industrial funding councils, we create **knowledge with impact**.

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1. The Rationale for CoSTAR

What? Who? Why? Why now? Where?

What

Advanced Media Production

- Technology is transforming the way we make things
- Todays 'Virtual Production' is just the start
- UK is globally competitive now
- How to underpin the future?

Creative R&D

- Applied Research **for** the Creative Industries
- Audience of the Future and Creative Clusters Programme have proved industry/HEI partnerships deliver impact at scale

Infrastructure

- Long term persistent facilities and network
- A first for the creative Industries
- Developing next generation technologies as well as solutions

Why?

Convergence

- Not theory but practice
- XR, Realtime, visualisation, performance tech
- Increasingly skills and roles
- AI and ML impacts to come

Screen and Performance

- Happening now; coherent 'stack'
- UK strengths in core CIs
- Engages others e.g. fashion, advertising

Potential for future UK CI growth

- Democratisation – from hi-end to mass market
- Niches for new Createch firms
- Private sector investment
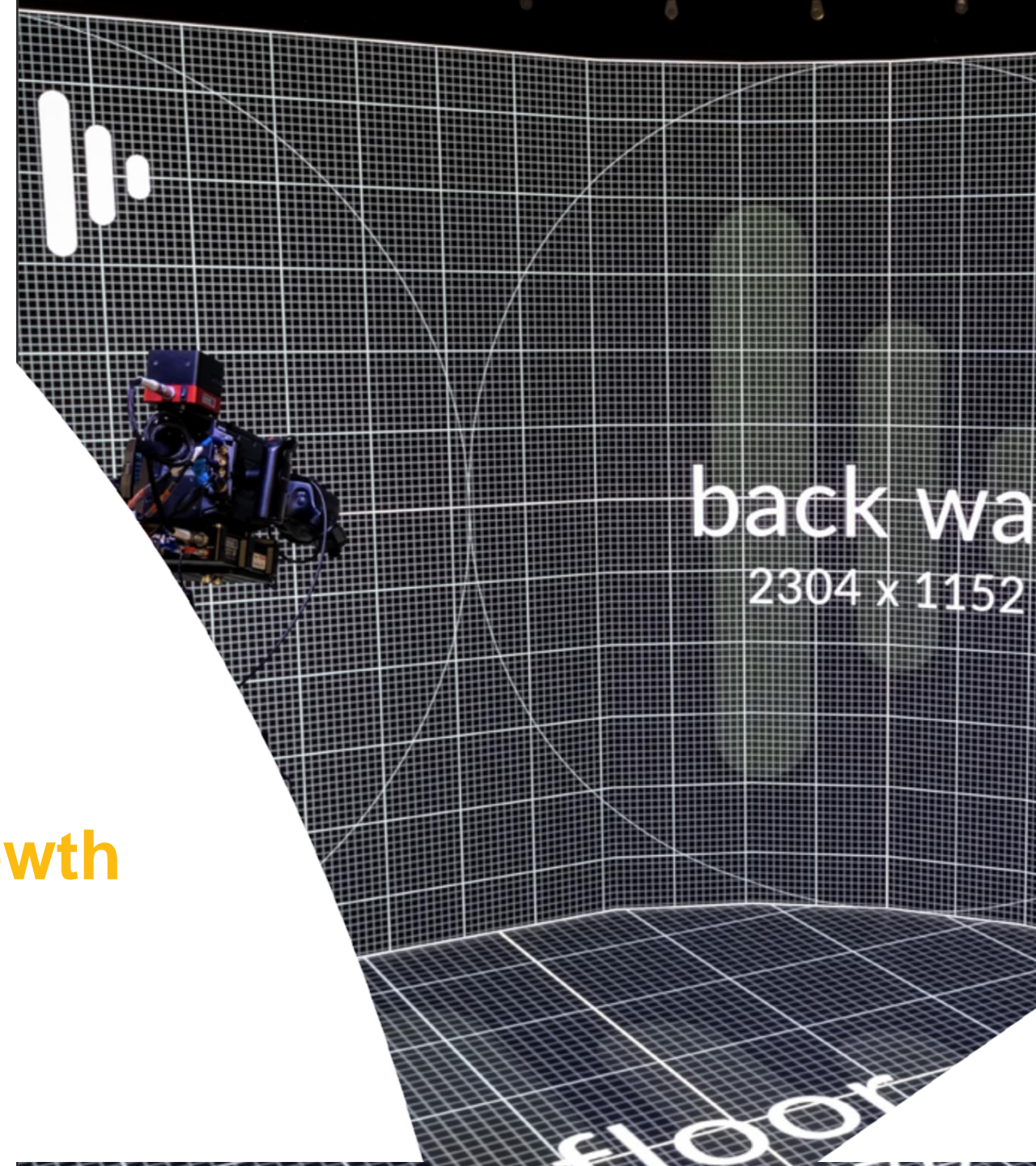
Why UK?

9 Tier One VP Stages in US, 4 of which in LA

12 Tier One Virtual Productions Stages in UK 10 in London +SE

3 in Canada
2 in Germany
1 in Australia
1 in Japan

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DIT **Virtual Production**
How the UK is setting the global standard 2022

Why Now?

Post Covid Acceleration

- Pandemic accelerated adoption
- Tipped scales on business cases
- Elements of hype curve but will continue

Wave of investment

- Wave of production and facilities investment
- R&D infrastructure invests in next wave
- Underpins case for UK as location for innovation

From VP to Metaverse

- Not all about linear screen outputs
- Future **capabilities** for metaverse not current technologies
- Infrastructure facilities for R&D working on +3-5 yr horizon
- As well as 1-3yr solutions.

An innovation infrastructure

- To enable R&D activities that will:
  - Grow companies and create new ones
  - Commercialise new processes
  - Exploit IP
- Innovation-lead business growth as part of the infrastructure

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Delivery objectives

- To underpin the long-term competitiveness of the UK screen and performance sector

- by **providing a highly capable R&D infrastructure** that enables **researchers, companies and institutions** across the UK to access to the **facilities, capabilities and insight** necessary

- to ensure that they can conduct **world class R&D** in the application of **current and future waves of advanced computing technologies**

- to transform the means of production across the screen, performance and allied sectors of the Creative Industries

Delivery Partnerships

Research Organisations

- ROs, RTOs and IROs

Industry

- Co-siting with industry to ensure ongoing exchange
- Critical to Business Case

Local/Regional Economy

- LAs/CAs/LEPs, Development Agencies, City Deals
- Tie into local economy; amplify CRD impacts

Users

- Industry, production SMEs, CreaTech & technology companies, Research Groups, Studios

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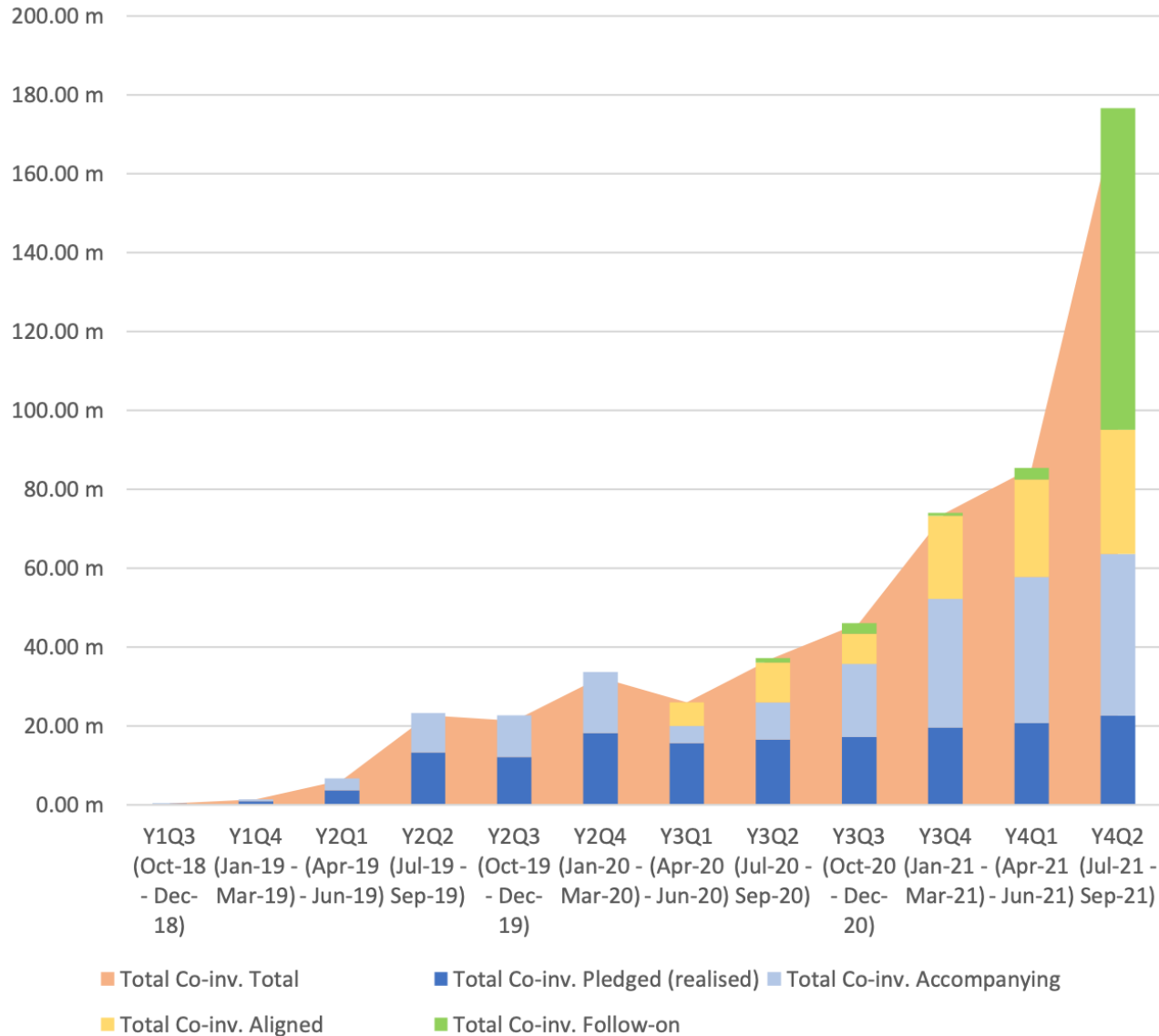
Co-Investment

CoSTAR Business Case

- Sets a <u>minimum</u> co-investment for each call
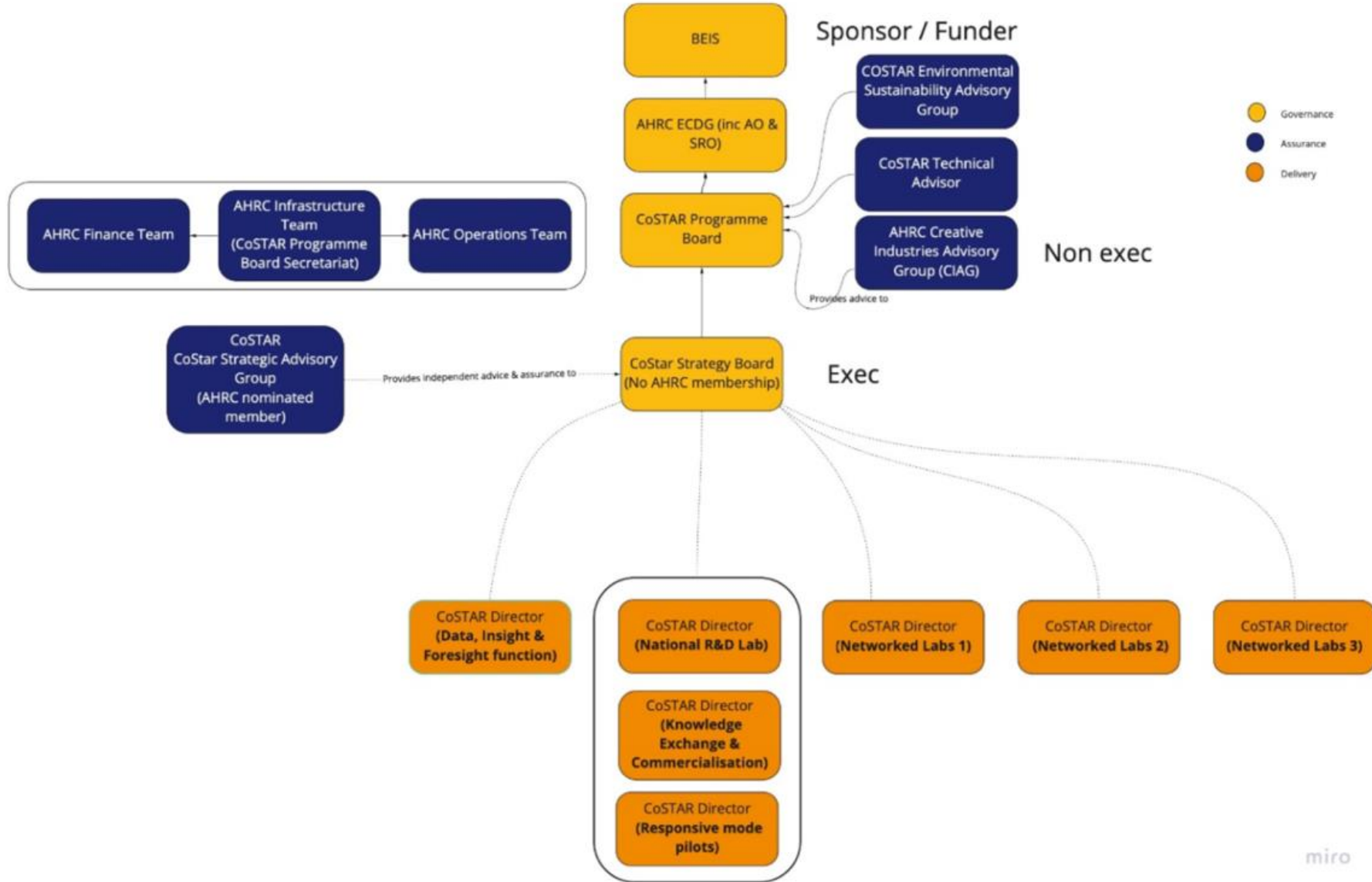- £15.7m Lot 1; £4.5m Lot 2

ISCF programmes

- Identified 4 types of co-investment
  - Initial
  - Additional
  - Aligned
  - Follow on

- Raised £215m : 420% leverage

- **Minimum = initial CoSTAR co-investment. Tell us how far you can go.**

Co-investment - Total realised

Legend:
- Total Co-inv. Total
- Total Co-inv. Pledged (realised)
- Total Co-inv. Accompanying
- Total Co-inv. Aligned
- Total Co-inv. Follow-on

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Creative Industries X Clusters Programme

Governance, Management, Sustainability

Where?

- We have **no** settled view on the where the elements of the CoSTAR Infrastructure should be placed. However...

  - we are mindful of the uneven economic geography of the UK Creative Industries
  - we are commissioning a national infrastructure that must provide for **access** for all

- So we want to know:

  - How can you contribute to a network ?

  - What long term impacts you can deliver locally and nationally?

  - How this might support, build or accelerate new or existing screen business clusters?

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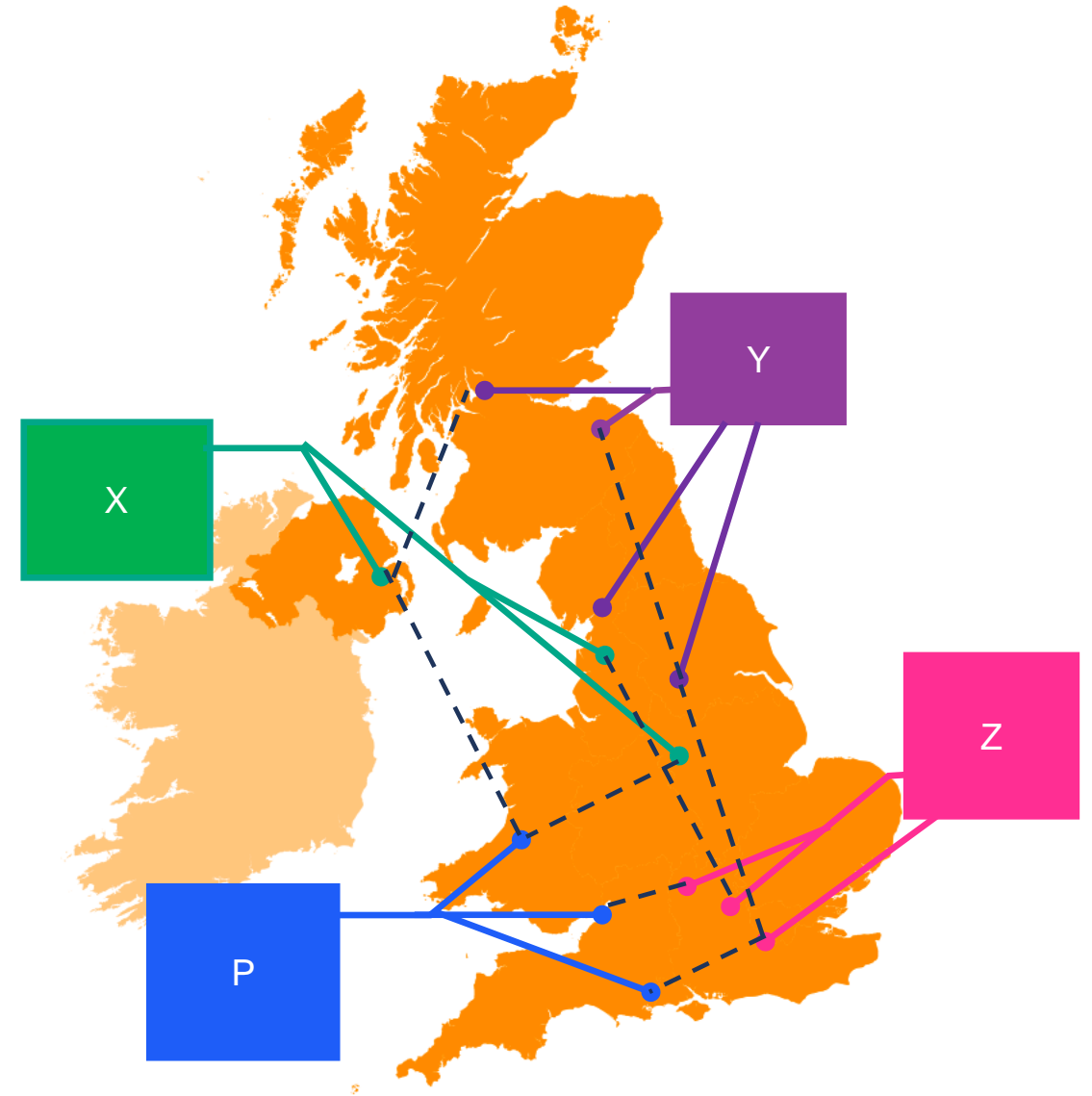
Landscape Survey

- BOP and CRAIC at Loughborough University

- To create a baseline of VP/ Advanced Media Production late 2022

- No part of the CoSTAR assessment

- We hope to make results available to applicants before submission

- Please contribute – whether you apply or not

bit.ly/3h1GWCQ

2. Competition Briefing

CoSTAR Competition

Current funding call - £63.6m

- **Lot 1:** National Lab

- **Lot 2:** Up to 3 Network Labs

Later funding call – tbc c£9m

- **Lot 3:** Data insight and foresight unit

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Lot 1: CoSTAR National Lab

£51.1m grant; min £15.7m co-investment

- Lab capabilities, TRLs 3-6, applied research
- Co-sited with industry, not with HEI
- Delivered **on behalf of the network:**
  - Pilots / Demonstrator Programme
  - KE, Enterprise and Commercialisation Programme

Expectations:
- Probably a new build
- Must have a local economic development partner
- Will become focus/heart of a business cluster, seeding long term development

Lot 2: CoSTAR Network Labs

£12.5m grant; min £4.5m co-investment

- Up to 3 Labs
- Lab capabilities, TRLs 6-9, near-market research and innovation
- Could serve a specific geographic or sectoral group
- Co-sited with industry, not with HEI

Expectations:
- Upgrade or extension of an existing facility
- Must have a local economic development partner
- Will become focus/heart of a business cluster
- Propose and contribute to programmes with the National Lab

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Competition Rules

1. Eligibility

- Lead organisation in any bid must be an RO, RTO or IRO

- Partnership must include at least one industry hosting partner <u>and</u> one local economic development partner or similar

- These are Core Partners, other core partners can be industry or RO/RTO/IRO

- Max 5 Core Partners in total

- Lead bidder must have backing of the head of their organisation

Competition Rules

2. Bidding

- An organisation can **lead** on:

  - 1 bid for The National Lab

  - Bids for 1, 2 or 3 Network Labs

  - But won't be allowed to operate both National and Network Labs

- An organisation can **partner** on:

  - 2 bids for the National Lab

  - 3 bids for Network Labs

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Timeline

- **Call period:** opened 11 October 2022, closes 4pm 2 February 2023

- **Assessment Period:** February / March 2023

- **Preferred Bidders Announced:** 31 March 2023

- **Final Business Case, pre-award preparation:** April - July 2023

- **Grant Award:** August 2023 for 6 years

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Assessment: criteria and weighting

Strategic fit, suitability to host and vision: 30%
Can you do it? Have you got the skills, partners and vision to meet the spec?

Deliverability and value for money: 25%
Can you actually do it? Is your plan feasible, robust and credible?

Contribution to UK Creative Innovation: 25%
What impact will you have, locally, regionally or nationally? Where is the additionality, including co-investment?

Contribution to environmental sustainability: 10%

Contribution to equality, diversity and inclusion in the sector: 10%

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Your submission

Apply via Je-S

- Costs are at 100% FEC

Attachments

- To help you structure your proposal and focus on the assessment criteria
  - Case for Support - why?
  - Delivery Plan - how?
  - Management Plan - how organised and run?
  - Core Partner Statements - more than standard Letters of Support
  - Risk Register - **real** risks and how you'll fix them
  - EDI and Sustainability targets

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Three last things…

1. **Timeline**

   - 4pm, 2 February 2023. No exceptions!

2. **Co-investment**

   - Call invitation sets out minimum co-investment figures

   - Evidence from clusters is that we can / should expect more

   - This is part of the assessment criteria

3. **Communications**

   - Briefing Events, rolling FAQ, additional online events tbc

   - costar@ahrc.ukri.org

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