ABB Ability™ Ellipse® AIP
Asset investment planning, from field data to financial and risk optimisation.
Determining how to spend a limited budget is a fact of life.

It’s something we all do every day, in small and large ways.

Many of these decisions are made on the fly, through simple brain power, whilst others might require a little more time and a good spreadsheet, but the essential priorities are often fairly easy to determine.

Utilities make these budget decisions every day as well, but on a much larger and more complicated scale. Maintaining current assets, building new infrastructure to satisfy growing demand, incorporating new technologies into the grid, keeping up with basic internal back office needs, managing regulatory requirements...with so many variables to consider, regulatory scrutiny, and millions of dollars (and customers) at stake, a spreadsheet simply isn’t going to cut it.

Utilities need tools that are designed to specifically answer key questions related to risk, budget and projects:

- **For a given level of (acceptable) risk**, what is the minimum budget required? What is the impact of budget reduction on risk exposure?
- **For a given budget**, what is the optimal set of projects to execute? What is the optimal sequence of project execution within a given portfolio? How does the level of risk exposure evolve over time, by risk category, for a given portfolio of projects?
- **For a given project**, what is the best alternative?

These questions aren’t new, and utilities have done their best to address them, but their efforts have been limited to ‘sub-optimal’ optimisation.
What if you could optimise all of your projects, quickly, easily and automatically, based on facts instead of guesswork?

The solution is closer than you think.

ABB Ability™ Ellipse® AIP
Asset Investment Planning
The next step in risk-based optimisation.

As a concept, asset investment planning is a fact-based, methodical approach to deploying limited resources in order to achieve outcomes that are aligned with an organisation’s objectives. Just a few of these objectives might be:

- Public safety
- Customer satisfaction
- Profits
- Reliability
- Good public image
- Satisfying the regulator

For years, the ABB Ability Ellipse Asset Performance Management (APM) solution, formerly known as Asset Health Center, has provided a framework for gathering data, and also supplied expert and machine learning models to recommend both short- and long-term work, prioritised based on risk of failure. These capabilities are essential to effective decision-making at the asset level.

ABB Ability Ellipse AIP is the next step in risk-based optimisation: a complete solution that can be applied at both the asset level and the portfolio management level. It’s a critical component of asset management in achieving the ‘from field data to fleet optimisation’ objective. The application is unique in several aspects:

- First, it allows the user (administrator) to define and configure the risk framework.
- Second, the optimisation accounts for labor resources.
- Third, the optimisation accounts for temporal variations in project execution and provides an optimised schedule that meets multiple objectives.

In addition, Ellipse AIP allows the definition of multiple project types, such as mandatory, elective, discrete, continuous, dependent and mutually-exclusive. ‘What-if’ functionality allows comparison of various scenarios as part of a study to enable the selection of the best portfolio.

Why Ellipse AIP?

Ellipse APM helps you move from reactive or time-based maintenance to predictive and prescriptive maintenance. Ellipse AIP builds on this foundation, providing the functionality to drive long-term financial optimisation.
How questions get answered.

In order to answer the critical risk, budget and project questions identified above, Ellipse AIP comprises the following essential components:

- **A unified risk framework**: Where KPIs, corporate objectives and risks are defined so that projects across different parts of the organisation can be compared on a uniform basis.

- **Project definition**: High-level projects are defined either manually in AIP or by using information from other Ellipse modules and/or third-party systems.

- **Project alternatives selection**: Users may evaluate the relative merits of each alternative/option associated with a given project and let the optimiser select the best alternative/option based on costs, risks, return, benefits and value, to name a few.

- **Projects optimisation**: The optimisation engine identifies the best projects contained in the optimal portfolio.

- **Project library**: An archive of past projects and approved capital plans enables users to learn from past projects/plans and even allows comparison of present plans with past plans.

With Ellipse AIP, users can conduct ‘what-if’ analyses to evaluate how changes to projects affect the overall portfolio and the overall risk. Dashboards make comparisons simple and easy to understand. The output from the system is an optimised list of projects, fully documented and justified, that can be given to regulators as part of the capital budget process.
Easy to incorporate into your business.

Ellipse AIP can be delivered in the cloud or on premises, and companies can leverage the out-of-the-box integration to other Ellipse modules and third party EAM and APM systems for an efficient and expedient implementation.
An industry first.

A tool to optimise all projects, for all lines of business, including asset management, is an industry first. The need is huge – and ABB is ready to fill the gap.

Through ABB’s 125+ years of industry experience, we understand how to build a solution that will actually make a real difference in your day-to-day operations.

ABB Ability Ellipse AIP provides decision support with auditable justification for optimising spending for capital and other assets, helping organisations to:

- Optimise CAPEX and OPEX effectiveness based on a sound asset strategy (ISO 55000)
- Improve visibility of long-term capital requirements to maintain performance and meet service levels
- Defer capital expenditures with clear understanding of associated risks
- Implement strategies to mitigate risks and improve safety
- Score project performance through metrics within a common risk/performance framework
- Forecast infrastructure capital needs based on optimal allocation of funds

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Every line of business can benefit from ABB Ability Ellipse AIP; every project can be evaluated.

Whether it’s a transmission business considering building new lines or an IT department seeking a new server farm, Ellipse AIP helps organise projects, optimise approvals, meet corporate objectives, and ensure stakeholders are satisfied.