

Dear Polkadot and Kusama Community,

As we conclude 2025, we are pleased to present the annual report of the **Infrastructure Builders Program (IBP)**. Over the past year, IBP has continued to mature as a core piece of decentralized infrastructure funding across Polkadot and Kusama, supporting a globally distributed, independent operator set while adapting to evolving governance, treasury constraints, and ecosystem needs.

The IBP remains focused on its original mission: **funding professional, non-custodial infrastructure providers that deliver reliable RPC, WSS, and bootnode services**, strengthening decentralization, resilience, and performance across the ecosystem.

For detailed monthly contributions and ongoing activities, please visit our repository at [GitHub - ChildBounties](#).

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## Bounty status

### Polkadot Bounty 50

The Infrastructure Builders Program on Polkadot was approved by [Referendum 649](#) in May 2024. It was initially funded with **461,054 DOT** at an exchange rate of **\$8.95/DOT** (equivalent to **\$4.1M** at the time).

The Infrastructure Builders Program on Polkadot was topped up by [Referendum 1516](#) in May 2025. It was initially funded with **1.027M DOT** at an exchange rate of **\$4.3/DOT** (equivalent to **\$4.27M** at the time).

As of January 2026, the bounty retains approximately **253,773.16 DOT**. The most significant factor affecting the bounty has been the continued decline in DOT price, which now averages around  $\sim\$2.10/\text{DOT}$ . This has further reduced the overall value of the funds available for distribution.

#### Current status (January 2026):

- Remaining funds: **253,773.16 DOT**, valued at  $\sim\$533,000.00$  (based on an average DOT price of  $\sim\$2.10$ ).
- The average monthly operational cost for 2025 has been approximately \$262,691.00, resulting in an annualized cost of approximately \$3,152,290.00.

The increased costs associated with service expansion to additional chains and higher resource demands have led to a rise in monthly operational expenses, accelerating the use of available

funds. Additionally, the negative market situation and the decline in DOT price have had the biggest impact, reducing the overall value of the bounty. Based on the current expenditure rate, the bounty has approximately one month of funding left. This makes it an appropriate time to begin working on a top-up proposal to ensure the continuity of services.

The current status of both Kusama and Polkadot bounties can be checked in the [IBP Bounty status sheet](#).

Kusama Bounty 19

The Infrastructure Builders Program (IBP) originated as Bounty 19 on Kusama, approved by Referendum 35 in December 2022. It was initially funded with 52,000 KSM (equivalent to \$1.3M at the time), intended to cover operations for one year. Due to good administrative practices, favorable market conditions, and a staggered onboarding of members, as of March 2025, the bounty still retains approximately 10,338 KSM, extending beyond the initial duration planned in Bounty 19.

### Current status (January 2026):

- Remaining funds: **9,946 KSM**, valued at **~\$76,500.00** (based on an average KSM price of **~\$7.70**).
- Monthly cost: **\$500**, leading to an **annual cost of \$6,000**.
- Future changes: **Hobbyist track services remain active** but are expected to **undergo a redesign** in terms of tasks and responsibilities.

Going forward, we anticipate **modifications to the role and structure** of the Kusama Bounty, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively while continuing to support the ecosystem in a meaningful way.

From May 2024, all member service payments are issued and tracked through [Bounty 50](#) on Polkadot and Kusama Bounty will continue to cover the services delivered through the Hobbyist track.

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### Expansion and Achievements

IBP has successfully established 12 global locations, surpassing our initial target of 10, all while maintaining budgetary constraints. Here's a breakdown of the current status across various regions:

Name	Level	Continent	Element	Website
Dwellir	6	Africa	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Radium Block	6	Asia	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Rotko Networks	6	Asia	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Gatotech	6	Central America	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Amforc	6	Europe	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Interweb	6	Europe	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Turboflakes	6	Europe	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Helikon	6	Middle East	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Lucky Friday	5	North America	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Stake Plus	6	North America	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Polkadotters	5	Oceania	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
Stkd.io	5	South America	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>

From the previous reporting period, several members advanced in rank, reflecting increased capacity, reliability, and long-term commitment:

- **Rotko Networks** advanced from **Level 5 → Level 6**, reflecting increased capacity and sustained reliability in Asia.
- **Turboflakes** advanced from **Level 5 → Level 6**, reaching full professional tier status in Europe.
- **Stkd.io** advanced from **Level 4 → Level 5**, marking continued progression in the South America region and increased service commitment.

In addition, the previous member, **Metaspan**, has since **rebranded to Interweb**, continuing operations within the IBP under the new name.

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## Service Update – Supported Networks (2025)

As of the end of 2025, the Infrastructure Builders Program (IBP) provides **32 active infrastructure services** across Polkadot, Kusama, Paseo, and Ethereum-compatible endpoints.

### Polkadot RPC/WSS Services - Active services: 15

#### Relay Chain

- Polkadot

#### System Chains

- AssetHub-Polkadot
- BridgeHub-Polkadot
- Collectives-Polkadot
- Coretime-Polkadot
- People-Polkadot

#### Community (Parachain) Chains

- Acala
- Ajuna
- Bifrost-Polkadot
- Hydration
- Hyperbridge (Nexus)
- KILT
- Moonbeam
- Unique

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- Xcavate

### Kusama RPC/WSS Services - Active services: 6

#### Relay Chain

- Kusama

#### System Chains

- AssetHub-Kusama
- BridgeHub-Kusama
- Coretime-Kusama
- Encointer-Kusama
- People-Kusama

### Paseo RPC/WSS Services - Active services: 7

#### Relay Chain

- Paseo

#### System Chains

- AssetHub-Paseo
- BridgeHub-Paseo
- Collectives-Paseo
- Coretime-Paseo
- People-Paseo
- PAsset-Hub-Paseo

### Ethereum-Compatible (ETHRPC) Services - Active services: 4

- ETH-Asset-Hub-Polkadot
- ETH-Asset-Hub-Kusama
- ETH-Asset-Hub-Paseo
- ETH-PAsset-Hub-Paseo

## Network Support Changes in 2025

Compared to the previous year, the IBP service portfolio has evolved to reflect ecosystem changes, testnet transitions, and service prioritization. The comparison below highlights **newly added services** and **deprecated services**.

### Newly Added Networks and Services

The following networks were added in 2025 and are now supported:

- **Paseo – Collectives-Paseo**  
Added as part of the full system-chain parity rollout on Paseo.
- **Paseo – PAsset-Hub-Paseo**  
A new testnet system chain has been introduced for smart contract testing.

### Ethereum-Compatible (ETHRPC) Services

Ethereum RPC endpoints supporting Ethereum-style tooling and smart-contract interaction on Asset Hub-based chains now added:

- ETH-Asset-Hub-Polkadot
- ETH-Asset-Hub-Kusama
- ETH-Asset-Hub-Paseo
- ETH-PAsset-Hub-Paseo

### Community / Parachain Additions

- **Xcavate**  
Newly supported Polkadot parachain

### Networks No Longer Supported

The following networks were listed previously but are **no longer active**:

- **Polimec**  
Removed in **October 2025** following the network winding down.
- **Mythos**  
Removed in **December 2025** after the network exited the Polkadot ecosystem affinity.
- **InvArch**  
Removed in **April 2025** following the network winding down.

## Testnet Coverage Changes

**Westend is no longer supported**, having been replaced operationally by **Paseo** as the primary community testnet.

- Networks removed:
  - westend
  - asset-hub-westend
  - bridge-hub-westend
  - collectives-westend
  - coretime-westend
  - people-westend

## Usage, Monitoring, and Transparency

To improve transparency and reduce reporting friction, IBP launched a **public data portal** in September 2025:

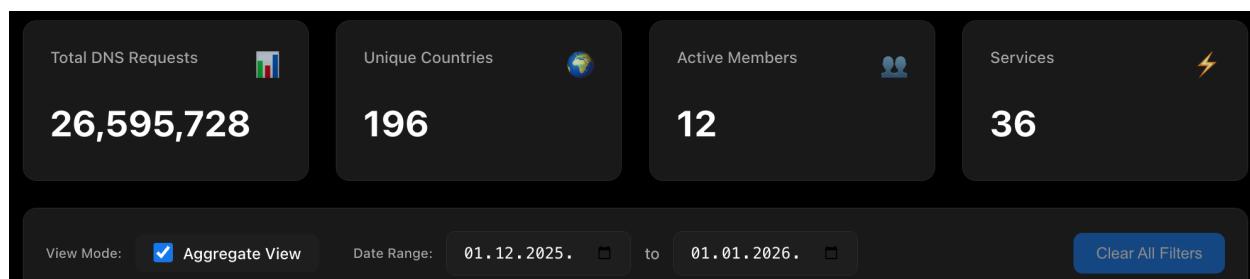
<https://ibdash.dotters.network/data>

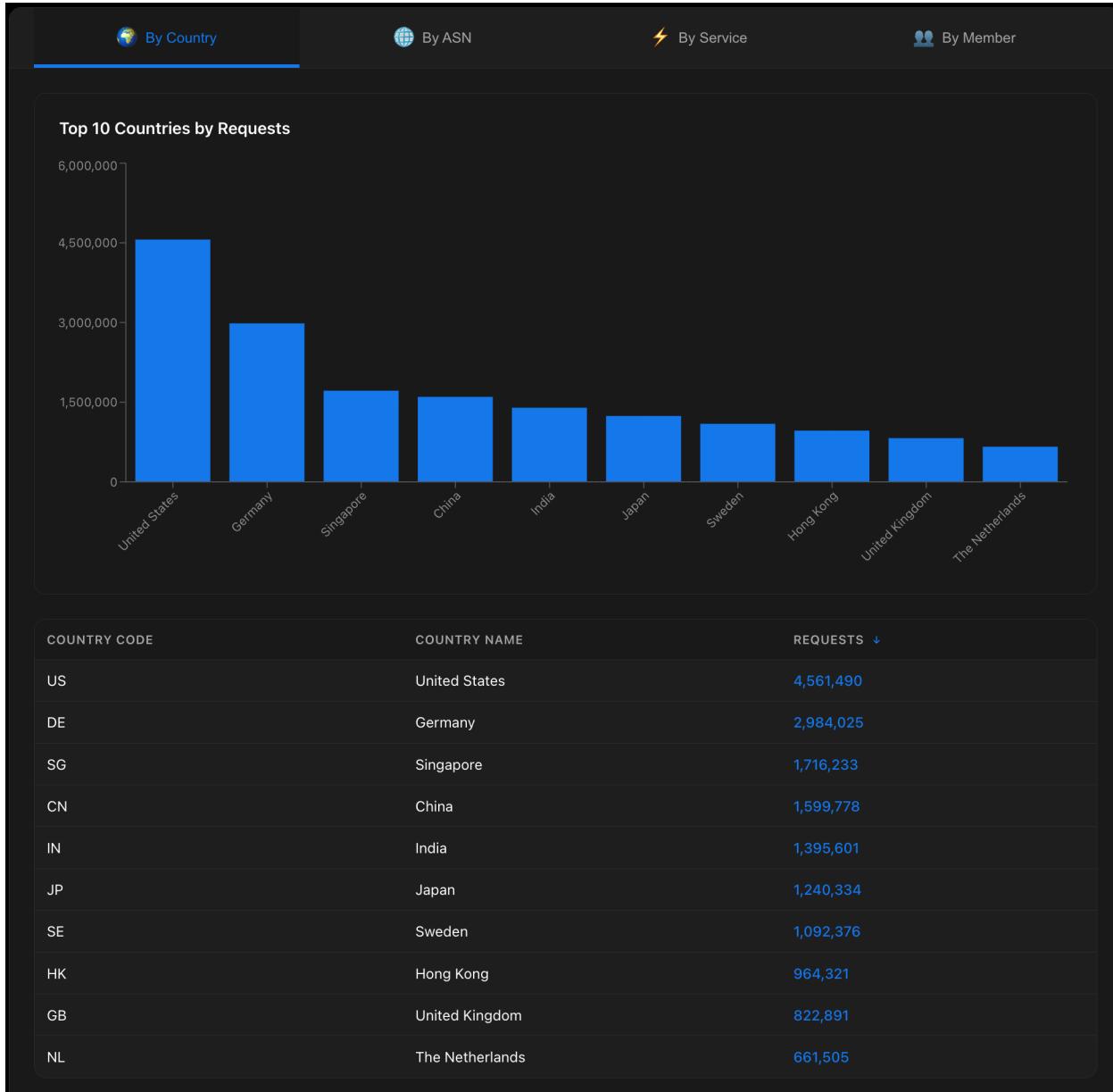
This portal provides:

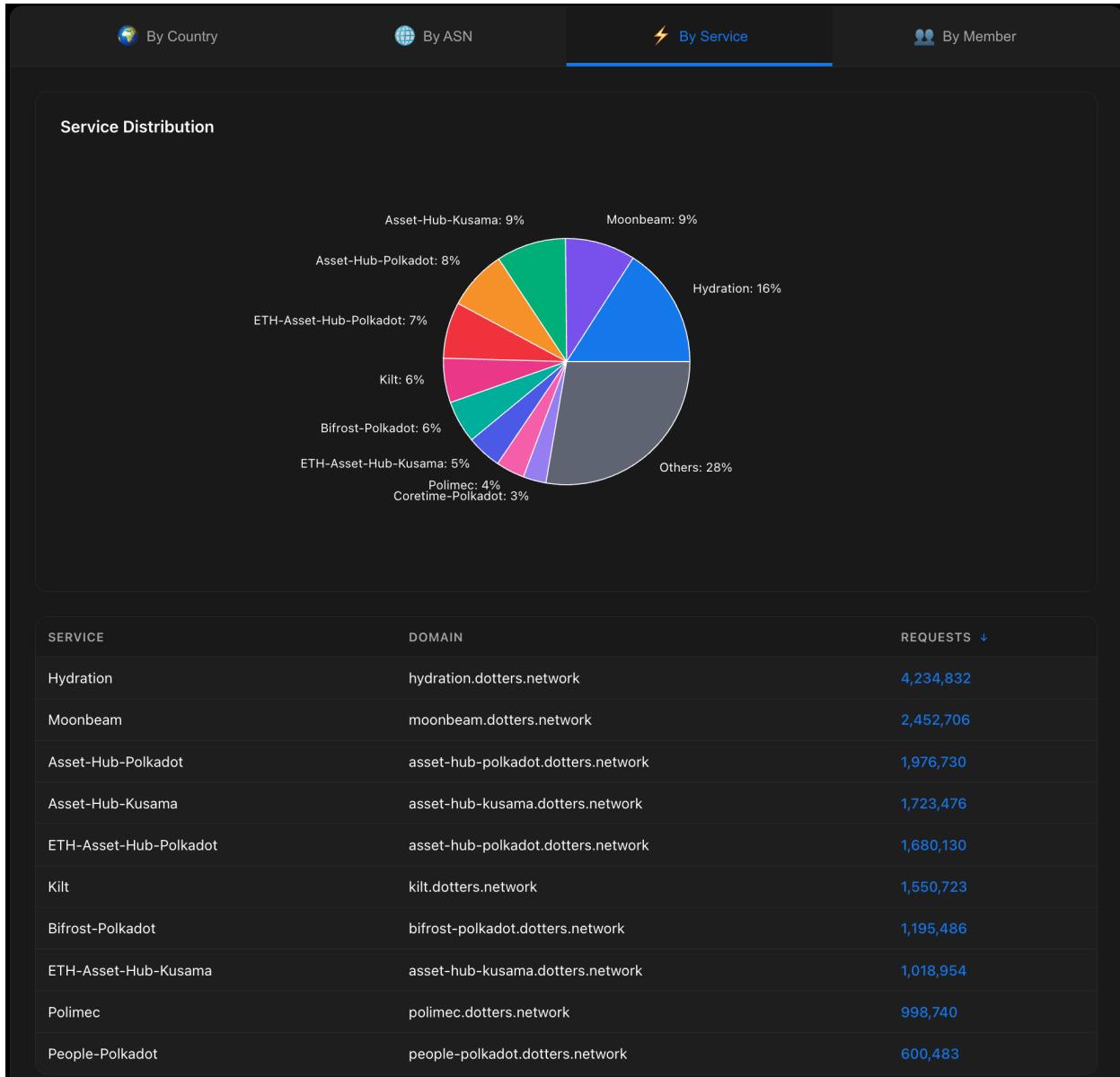
- Real-time usage metrics
- Member service coverage
- Billing and payout references

In parallel, the IBP RFC repository was introduced to track program changes and improvement proposals formally: <https://github.com/ibp-network/RFCs/tree/main>

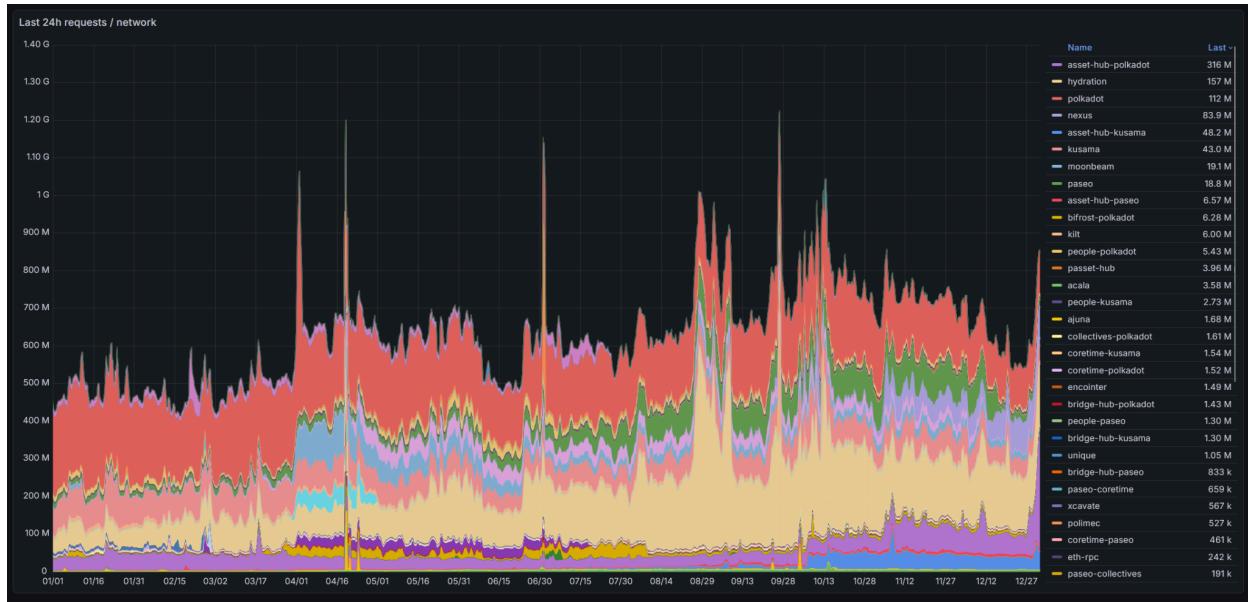
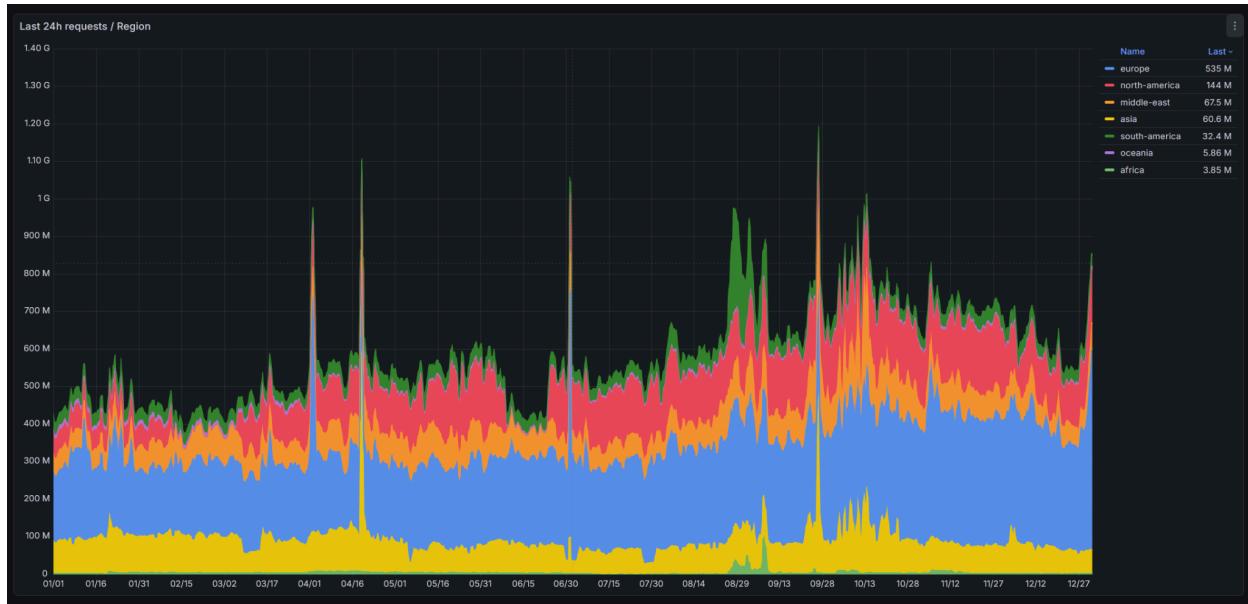
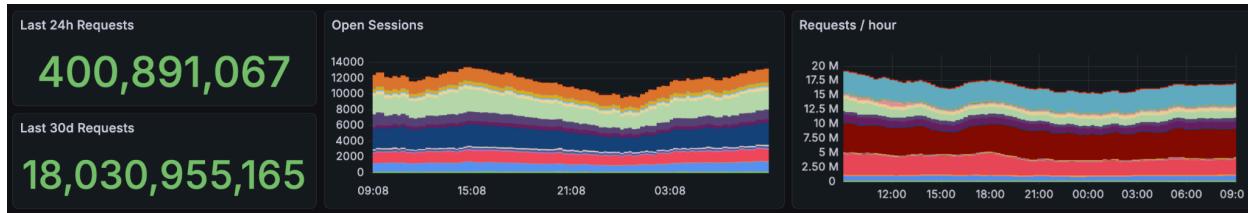
Throughout 2025, IBP infrastructure consistently handled **tens of millions of monthly DNS requests**.

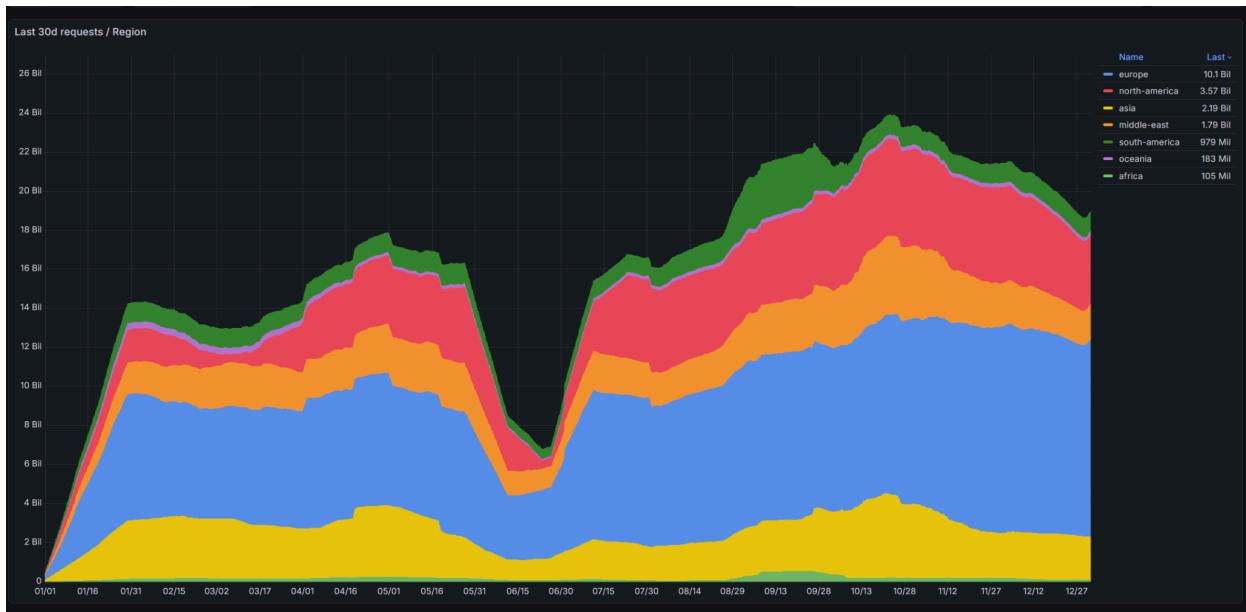
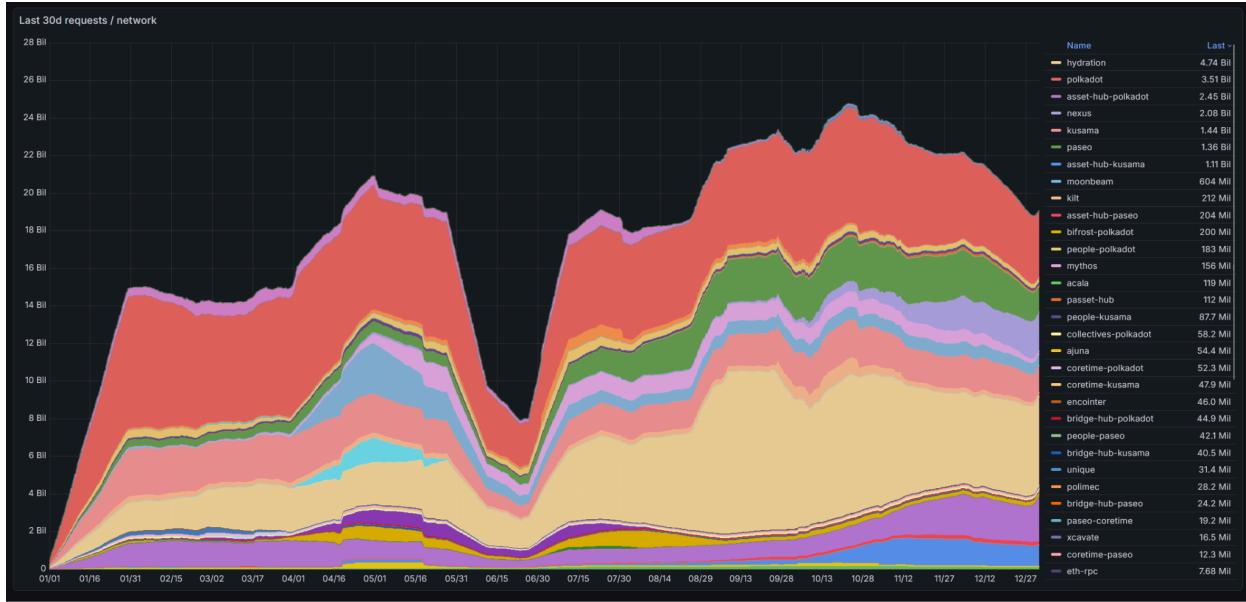


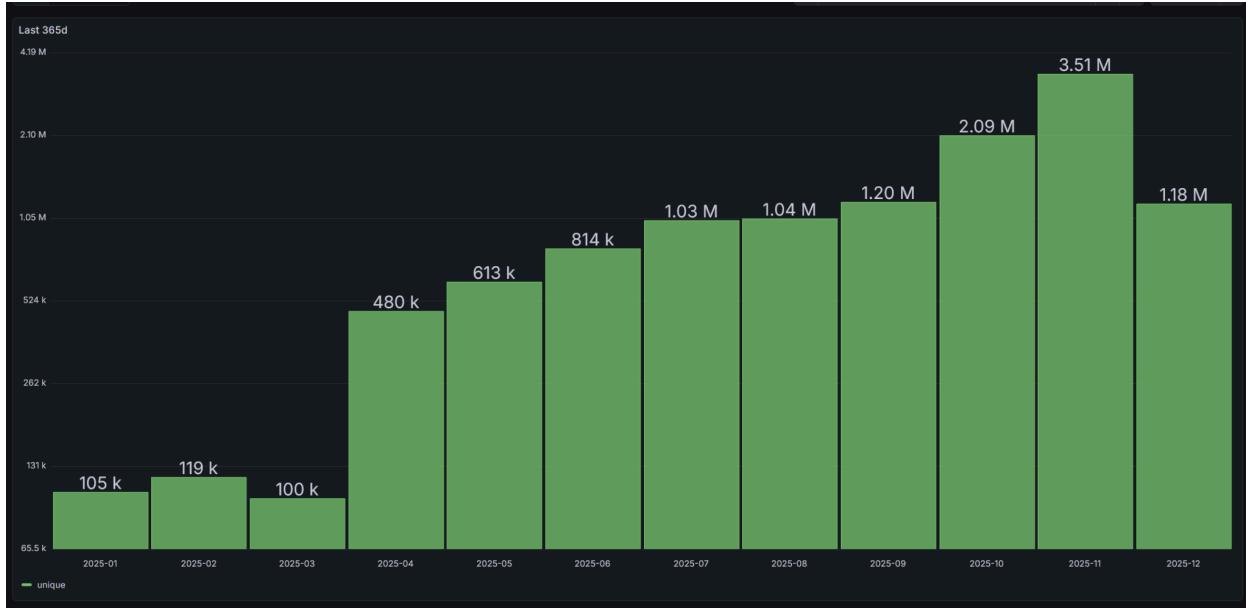


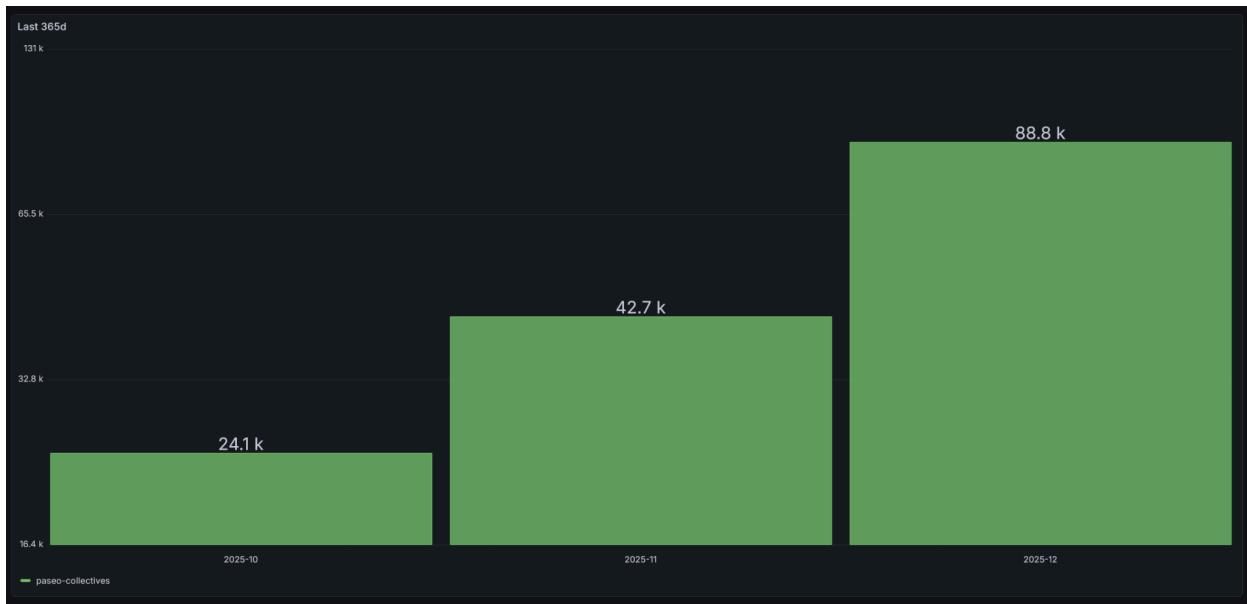
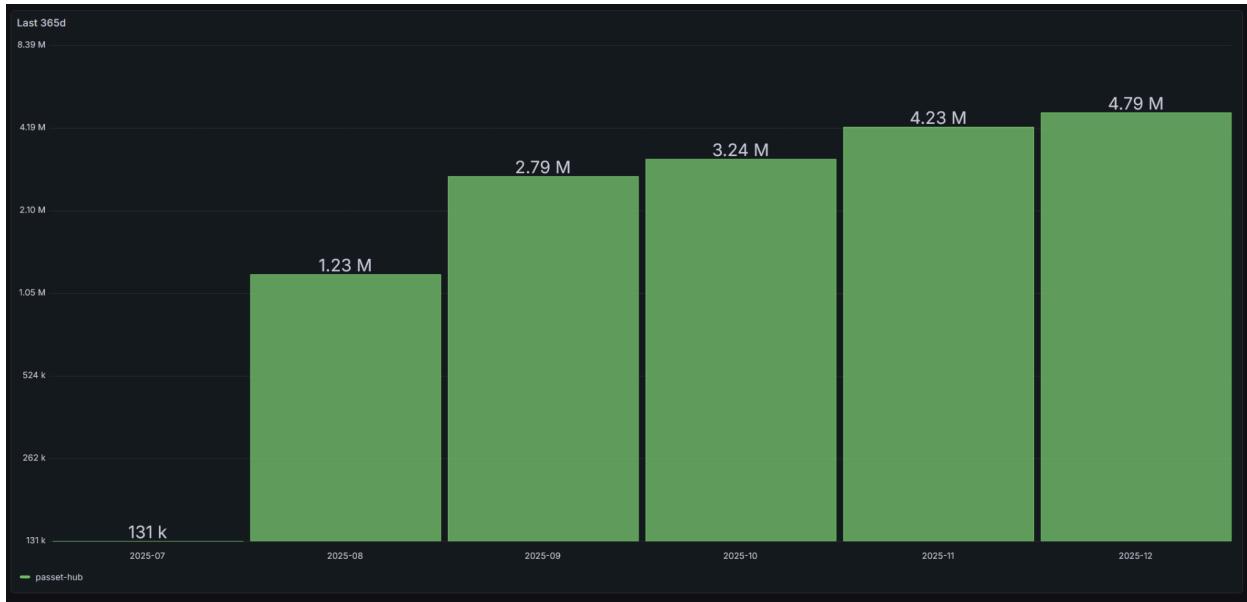


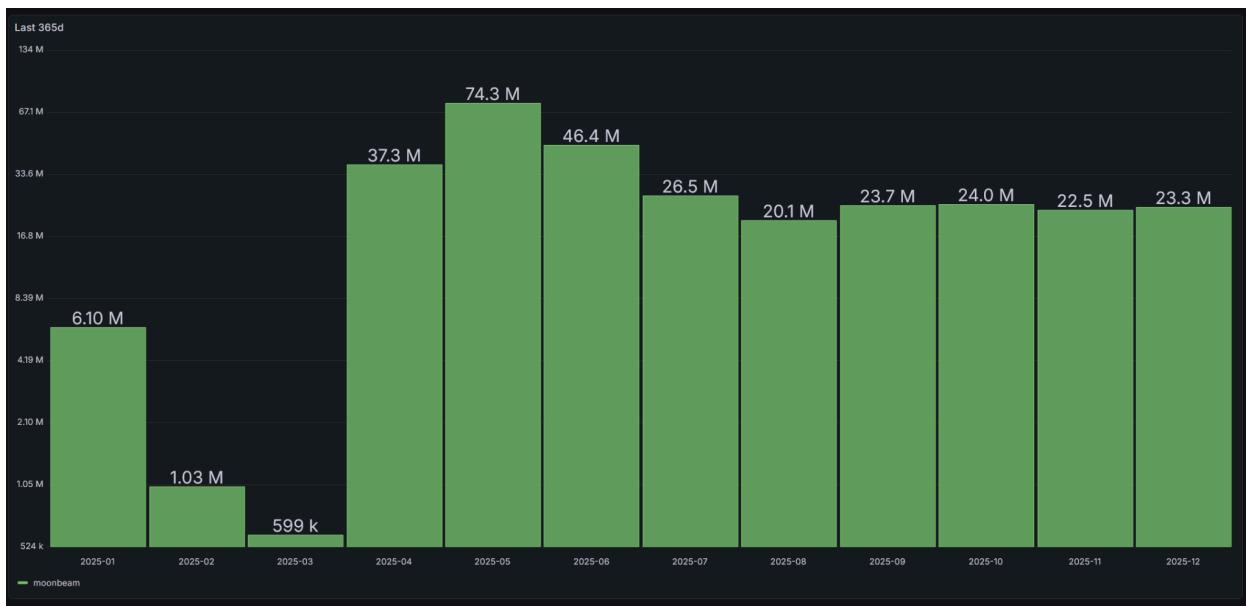
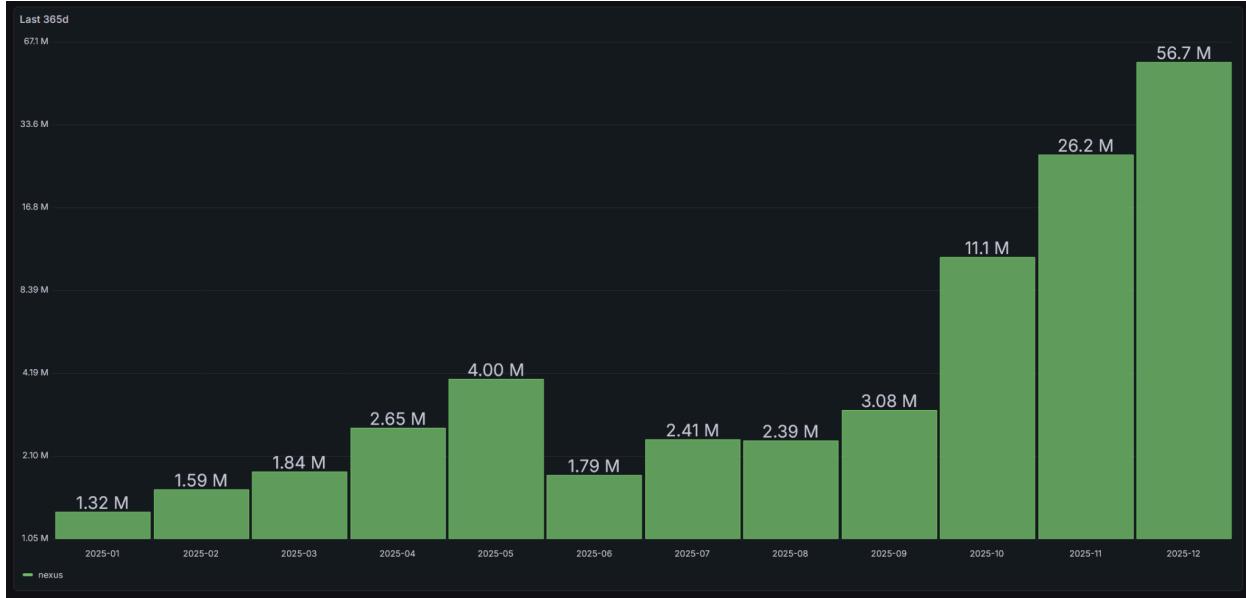
IBP has continuously monitored RPC and WSS request usage across all supported networks to ensure service reliability, capacity adequacy, and fair cost attribution. IBP infrastructure consistently handles **18+ billion monthly RPC/WSS requests.**

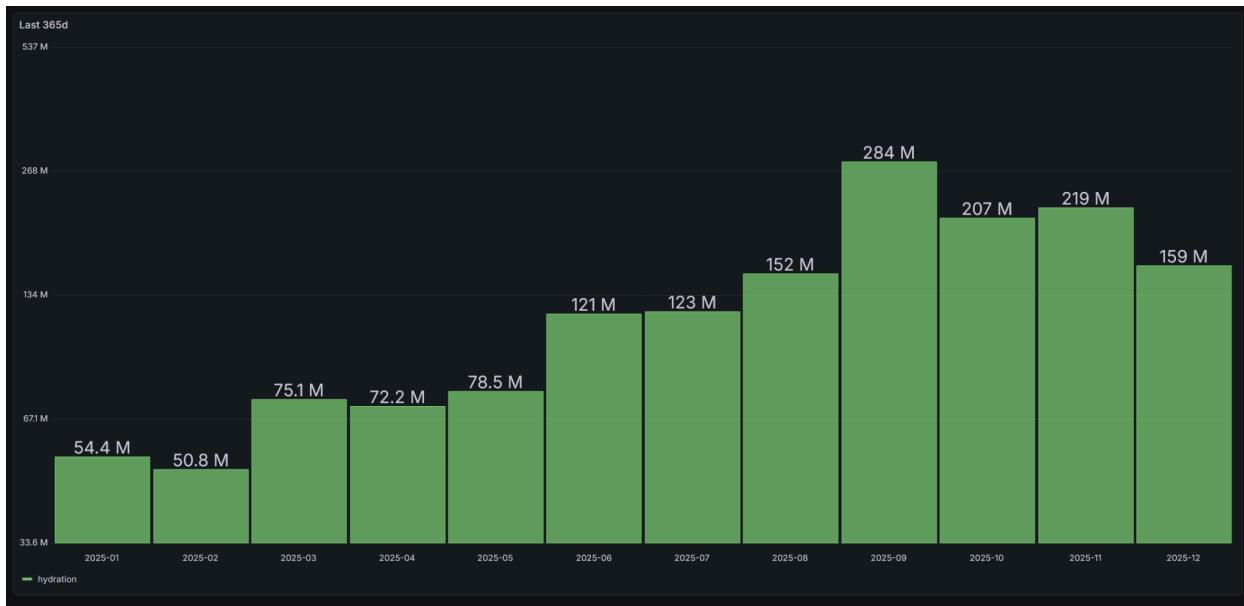
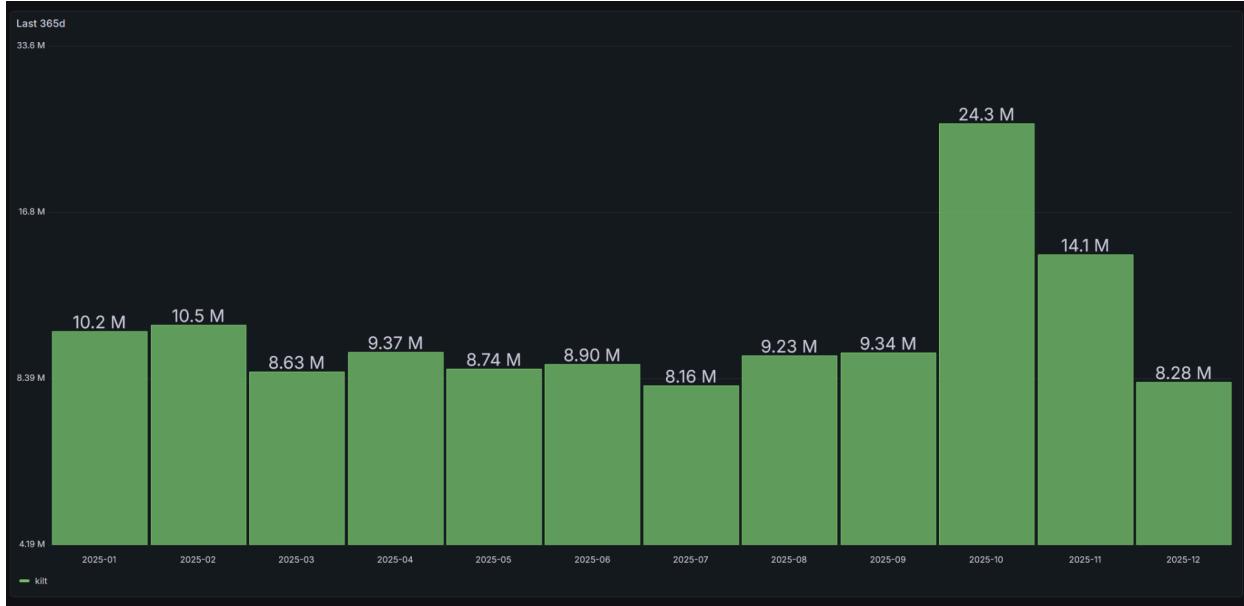


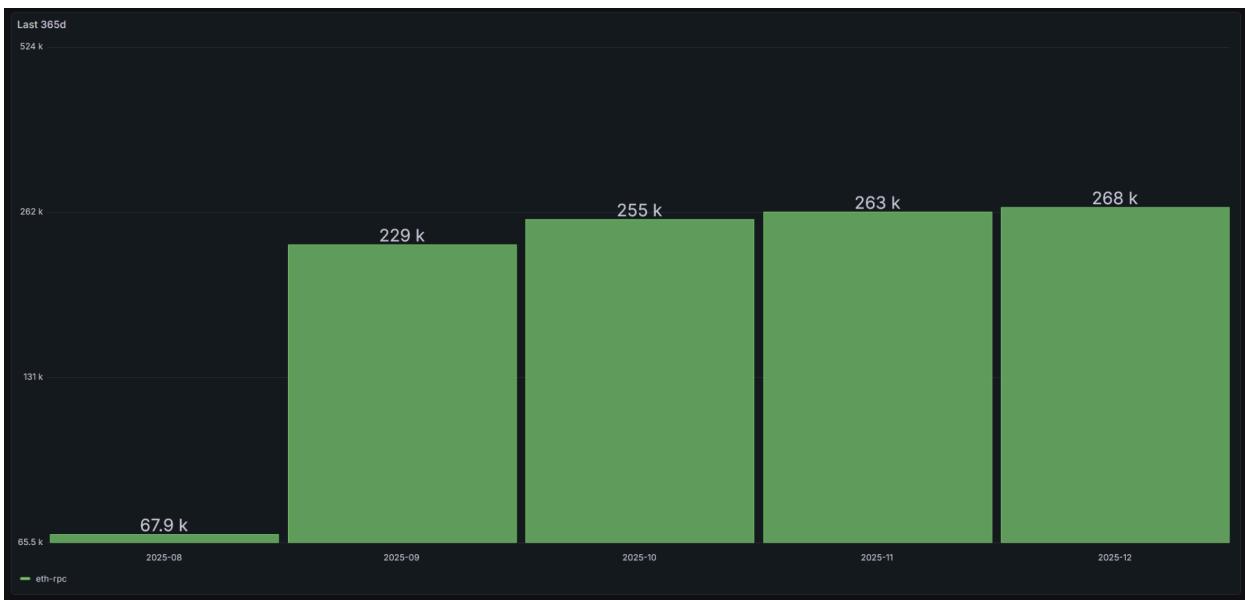
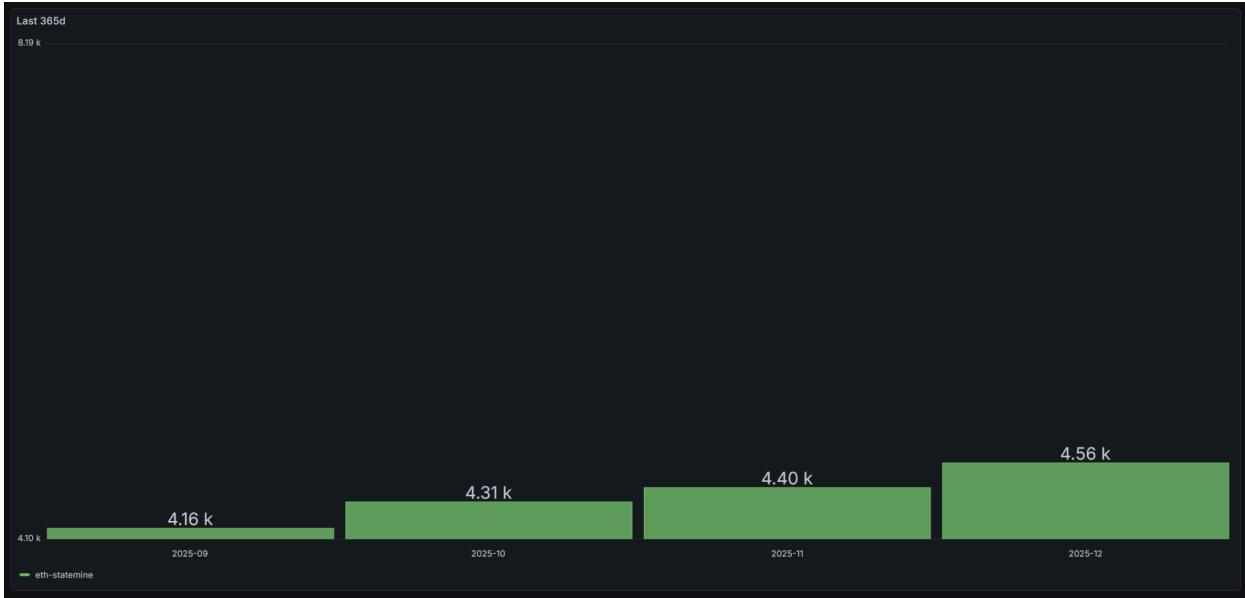


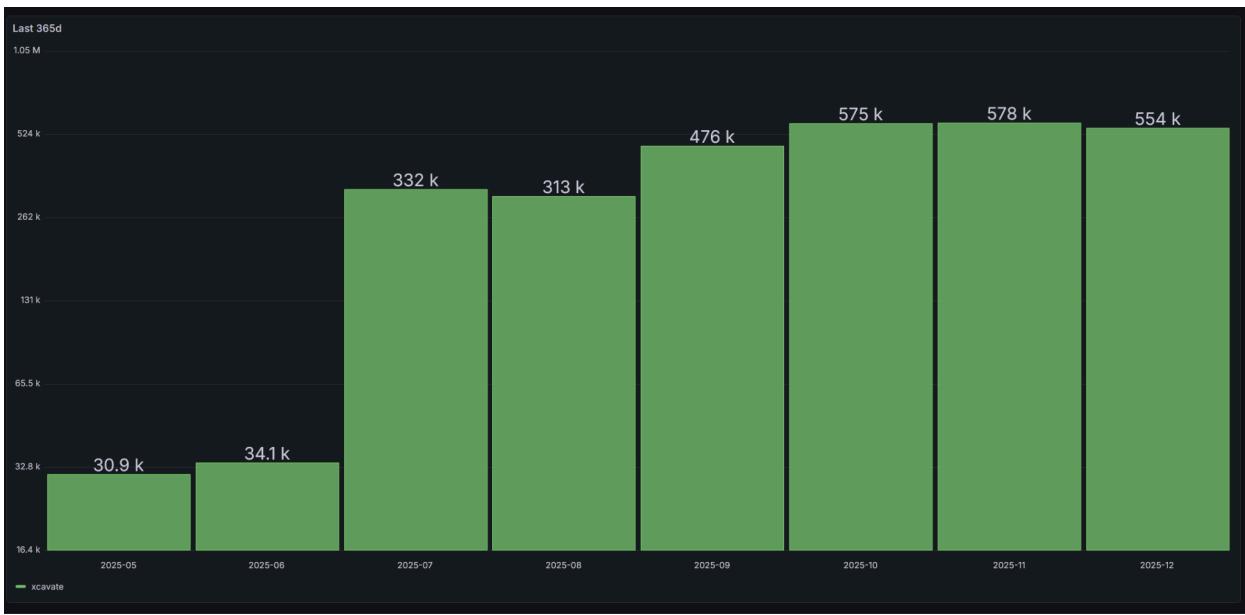
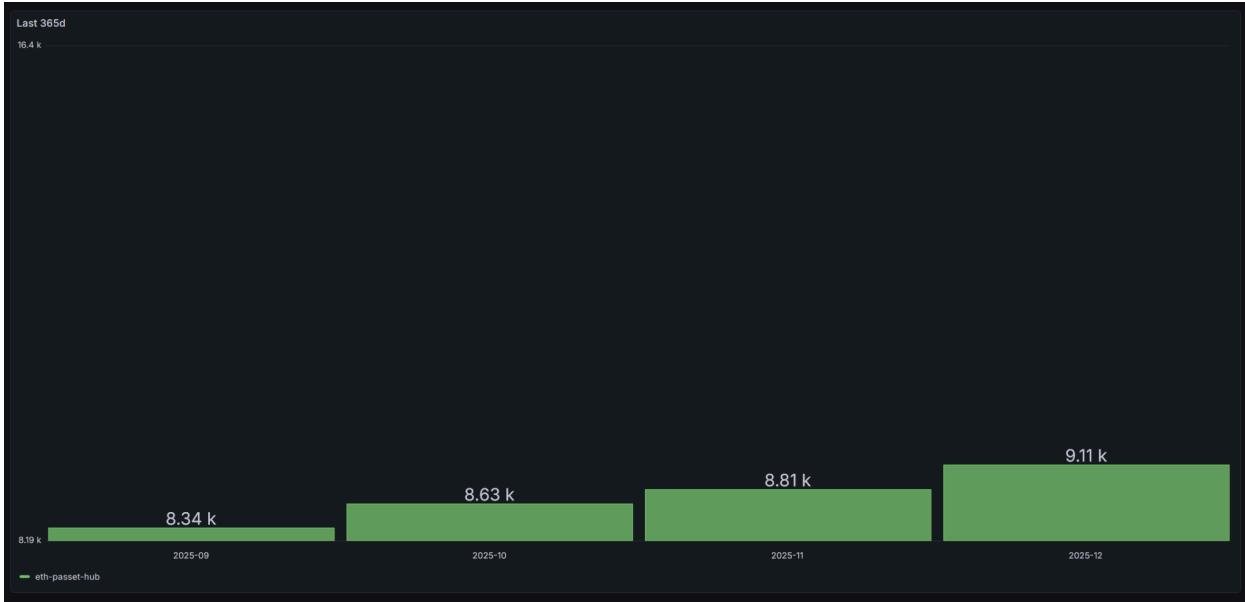






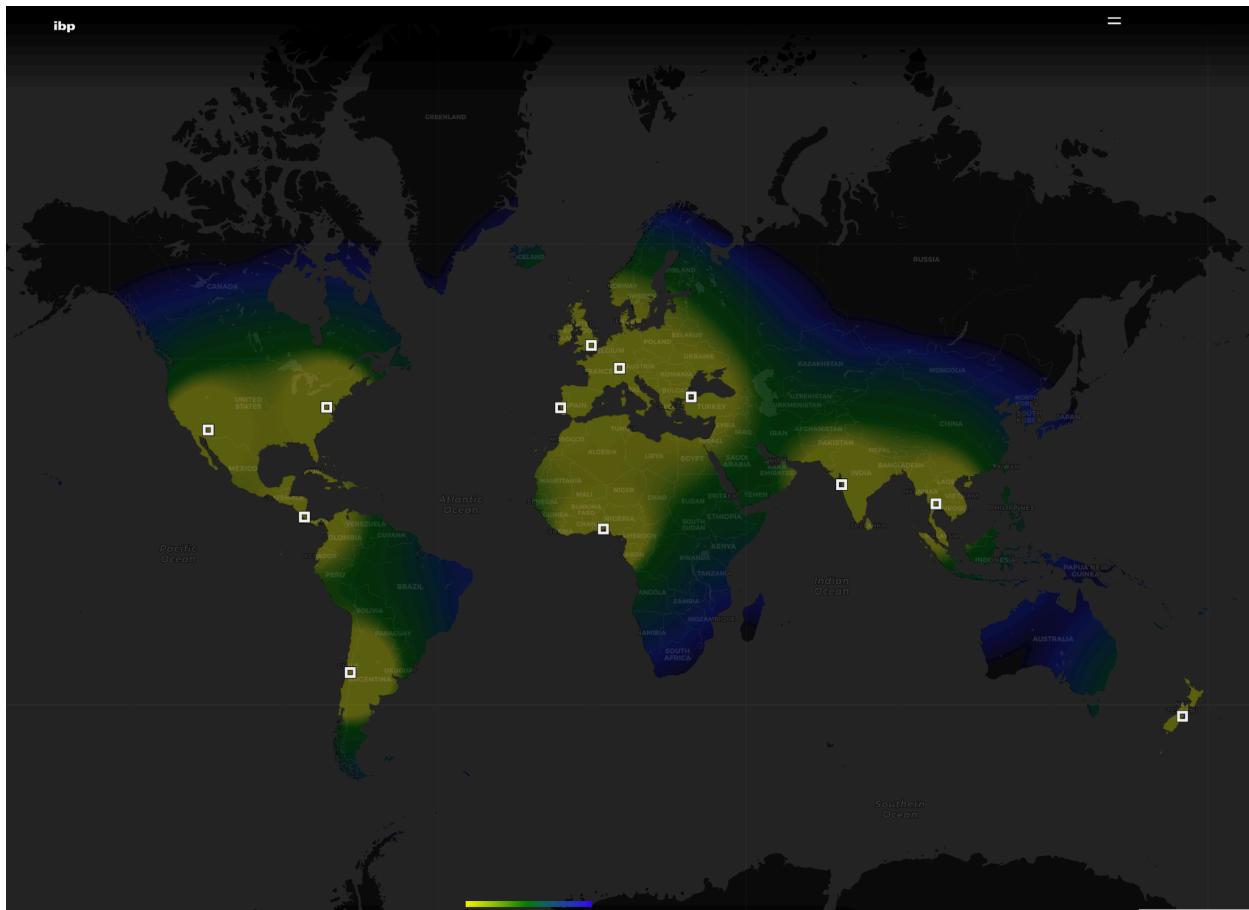






## Geolocation Diversity

The IBP focus is on its geolocation diversity, ensuring robust and reliable service across the globe <https://ibdash.dotters.network/earth>. Below is a map image showcasing our current distribution:



This diverse distribution allows us to route requests to the closest active member, significantly reducing latency and improving performance.

## Membership Status

Currently, we have reached our operational goal of 12 geo-distributed locations. As a result, we are not accepting new members at this time. However, we have received several pending applications. These applicants are on a waitlist pending further program expansion and the introduction of additional locations. If you are interested in contributing to the IBP, please submit your application through the following [IBP Application Form](#).

To follow up on future IBP developments, please visit our repository at [GitHub - ChildBounties](#).

## Ecosystem Integration

The IBP has been successfully implemented by multiple ecosystem applications, including:

- Polkadot.js
- Talisman Wallet
- Nova Wallet
- Subsquare
- Polkassembly
- Staking Dashboard

## Contributions from Hobbyist Members

The contributions of our hobbyist members further contribute to the IBP. These members will not be part of the Polkadot Bounty but will continue their valuable work within the Kusama Bounty by running a decentralized service monitor. Looking forward, hobbyist members are expected to support and learn by providing services to parachain teams on the Paseo test network.

It is important to note that it is not possible for members to participate in both the hobbyist and professional tracks simultaneously. All payments for hobbyist members will remain under the Kusama bounty, ensuring a clear and distinct separation from the professional track.

Our current hobbyist members running decentralized monitoring solutions include:

Member	Role/Service
Aperturemining	Hobbyist Monitor
Dozenodes	Hobbyist Monitor
STKD	Hobbyist Monitor
Mathcrypto	Hobbyist Monitor
Paradox	Hobbyist Monitor

## Curators and Program Administration

IBP uses a multi-sig curator account to administer child bounty payouts for verified infrastructure delivery. Curators are responsible for vetting and executing monthly treasury disbursements under the retrospective billing model.

While the original governance framework allowed curator compensation, CoinStudio is the only curator receiving compensation for curator responsibilities. He acts as lead curator and accountant, while the remaining active curators have opted out of compensation.

The responsibilities associated with this role include ongoing operational oversight of the IBP, task coordination, multisig call preparation and execution, handling RFCs and payout administration, and maintaining reporting and documentation. These duties are compensated based on an agreed workload of approximately 40 working hours per month, reflecting the sustained operational effort required to keep the program functioning reliably.

### **Current Curator Set (2025)**

- Anaelle — Community
- Otar — Just Ventures
- Erin — Parity
- CoinStudio — Community
- s3krit — Parity — Curator has resigned because of increased Parity work duties. Active on multisig until a replacement is found.

The program currently operates under a **3-of-4 multisig**, following curator departures and resignations during the year.

### Former Curators

- bLd — Astar — Unpaid & Resigned
- Will — Parity — Unpaid & Resigned
- s3krit — Parity — Unpaid & Resigned — Active on multisig until a replacement is found.

## **Communication & Support**

### **IBP Public Matrix Room**

<https://matrix.to/#/!qkzFQtV0kOsPxZYOXr:matrix.org?via=matrix.org&via=matrix.parity.io&via=parity.io>

Sincerely,

CoinStudio,  
Part of the IBP Bounty Team