

News story: UK and India strengthen defence ties with new agreement

At bilateral defence and security equipment talks in London this week, the two nations agreed to re-double efforts to identify mutual defence and security capability needs and collaborate on solutions.

Air Marshal Richard Knighton signed the Defence Equipment Memorandum on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence, while Shri Barun Mitra, Additional Secretary Defence Production at the Ministry of Defence, signed on behalf of the Indian Government.

Defence Minister Stuart Andrew said:

As major world economies, Britain and India both have a proud global maritime history, with impressive futures ahead. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding underpins the collaboration between our two nations, building on our defence ties, and ensuring our nations are able to combat emerging threats for generations to come.

The agreement, which marks a step change in India and United Kingdom's defence relationship, comes after a visit by India's chief of naval staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, to HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth last month. It also follows HMS Dragon's visit to Goa in December last year, where the ship took part in the longstanding naval exercise, The Konkan Series.

By collaborating and exploiting procurement opportunities together, both nations will be able to benefit from technological and manufacturing capabilities and support long-term cooperation between their defence and security industries.

In addition to the bilateral talks this week, UK and Indian industry met to discuss how they would forge deeper and broader partnerships to contribute to these efforts.

Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion Baroness Fairhead said:

I am delighted that the Ministries of Defence of India and the United Kingdom have signed this Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement will help us develop closer, mutually beneficial relationships between our respective defence and security industries.

[Press release: Meet the start-ups set to receive support from Geovation](#)

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Over the next 12 months the 7 start-ups will receive a range of resources, including access to experienced software developers, geospatial expertise from Ordnance Survey, property expertise from HM Land Registry and mentorship on business proposals and investor relationships. They will also receive up to £20,000 in funding.

PropTech track

[DronePrep](#) uses location data to open up new low-level airspace access possibilities by connecting drone pilots to landowners to share and agree flight information.

[Winston](#) is the digital concierge supporting the home of the future.

[Property-Markets](#) is the people's property investment market place.

[RenKap](#) is an online marketplace working to alleviate the housing crisis by scaling the delivery of affordable homes.

GeoTech track

[Digital-Field](#) provides digital solutions for better land management to improve soil health and food production and reduce environmental impacts.

[The Future Fox](#) creates software for communities to transform their neighbourhood and for planners to create better places, faster, with artificial intelligence.

[Watchkeeper International](#) uses the latest geospatial technology, IoT (internet of things) systems and secure cloud services to provide clients with real-time monitoring and alerts for security incidents, natural disasters and supply chain disruptions.

Over the past 12 months PropTech company [Hipla](#) has been a member of Geovation's Accelerator Programme. The company has been receiving assistance to develop a Home Buyer Passport, which aims to improve transparency in the homebuying process. This launches soon.

Hipla co-founder Adam Phillips said:

Receiving the backing, guidance and help from HM Land Registry, Geovation and Ordnance Survey has helped our early stage start-up gain a much steadier footing than it otherwise would have done. Their help with early stage funding, office space, data and market insights has been invaluable. Their support has meant we are now in a much better position to deliver on our objectives of improving the homebuying process.

Pae Natwilai, founder of drone software company [Trik](#), was accepted onto the programme last year. Her company automatically turns drone photo feeds into interactive 3D models for the structural inspections of buildings.

She said:

Through Geovation we have grown our team significantly and managed to secure pre-seed investment from two amazing investors, Alex Chesterman, the founder of Zoopla, and Simon Franks, founder of Lovefilm. Next for us is scaling up the system and marketing it globally. We are currently finalising a deal with a couple of large engineering enterprises both in the UK and internationally.

The Geovation Accelerator Programme is delivered and funded jointly by Ordnance Survey and HM Land Registry. It has been designed to provide start-ups with specialist help in the aim of helping unlock the hidden value in the nation's data.

Alex Wrottesley, Head of Geovation, said:

We offer a founder-friendly environment, great mentors, high-quality workshop content and, almost uniquely, a dedicated software development team in house, who work hand in hand with our companies to build and release their first products. This is something very few accelerators can offer, and it means the businesses joining us can move faster and further than they otherwise would have been able to. We're very much future focused and are looking forward to meeting and working with the next group of programme members and being a part of their story and then ours. We can't wait to begin working with them.

For further information, examples of businesses, interviews and images contact Keegan Wilson on 02380 055332 or email keegan.wilson@os.uk.

Background

About Geovation

[Geovation](#) is an Ordnance Survey initiative dedicated to supporting open innovation and collaboration using location and property data. Location is at the heart of many of the most successful digital products and services. Land and property is the foundation of our national economy. The Geovation Accelerator Programme is delivered and funded jointly by Ordnance Survey and HM Land Registry.

About HM Land Registry

HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.

HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £4 trillion, including around £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 25 million titles, which show evidence of ownership, for some 86% of the land mass in England and Wales.

For further information about HM Land Registry visit www.gov.uk/land-registry. Follow us on [Twitter](#), our [blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

About Ordnance Survey

[Ordnance Survey](#) (OS) is the national mapping agency for Great Britain, and a world-leading geospatial data and technology organisation. As a reliable partner to government, business and citizens across Britain and the world, OS helps its customers in virtually all sectors improve quality of life. OS expertise and data supports efficient public services and infrastructure, new technologies in transport and communications, national security and emergency services and exploring the great outdoors.

News story: Evaluating medical innovations: apply for funding

Life sciences is one of the defining industries of the UK, [with over 5,000 companies and 250,000 employees](#), and a turnover of £70.3 billion. It is also a sector that fosters growth, with more than 95% of life sciences businesses being micro, small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

However, a [2016 Accelerated Access Review](#) revealed that life sciences SMEs often face obstacles in presenting real-world evidence – within an NHS setting – to support their efforts to get their innovations commissioned within the NHS to help patients.

Up to £1.5 million is available in a competition through Innovate UK and the Office for Life Sciences to support evaluating cutting-edge devices, diagnostics and digital technologies in a real-world clinical setting.

Performance and effectiveness

The competition will support SMEs to develop an evidence base for how their products and services perform in NHS settings. SMEs can choose between 1 of 2 options for projects:

- support collecting clinical performance and cost effectiveness. Total project costs can be up to £250,000
- support to develop detailed and feasible plans for the collection of data, with total eligible project costs up to £50,000

Projects must:

- have a product that aligns with at least one NHS priority healthcare area, as detailed in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#)
- have a product currently available for the NHS to purchase but has been marketed in the UK for less than 5 years

In the competition priority will be given to projects related to:

- ageing well
- cancer
- digital transformation
- learning disabilities and autism
- mental health
- personalised care
- prevention

Competition information

- the competition will open on 22 April 2019, and close at midday on 3 July 2019
- to lead the project, you must be a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise based in the UK
- up to £250,000 including VAT is available
- projects must start by 12 December 2019, and be completed by the end of December 2020