

News story: Swansea receives £36 million UK government funding for its clean energy tech breakthrough

- The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, is announcing new £36 million UK government funding for clean energy innovation in the construction sector through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.
- The funding will go to a consortium led by Swansea University, which develops new building materials and coatings which generate electricity from light and heat.
- This energy can be used to power homes, hospitals and schools, or be sold back to the national grid.

More than £36 million of UK government funding will be provided to Swansea to support cutting-edge building materials which generate electricity, the Chancellor has announced during a visit to Wales.

The green technology uses light and heat to make energy, and has the potential to power homes, workplaces, schools and hospitals. These materials could replace conventional walls, roofs and windows, generating electricity which is stored and released by a smart operating system. Excess electricity could also be sold back to the national grid.

Today's announcement supports the government's mission to at least halve the energy use of new buildings by 2030: making buildings more energy efficient by embracing smart technologies will cut household energy bills, reduce the demand for energy, and boost the UK's economic growth whilst meeting targets for carbon reduction.

On a visit to Swansea University, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

Swansea University and the innovative companies working with it are world-leaders in clean energy. The UK government is backing the industries of the future that will deliver jobs and opportunities across Wales. This £36 million new funding will support exciting green technology that could cut energy bills, reduce carbon emissions and create better homes and workspaces.

The funding, through the 'Transforming Construction' challenge of the government's Industrial Strategy, will develop supply chains in the UK and give certainty to leading researchers and students, helping attract more

investment and jobs to the local area.

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark said:

This centre has the potential to transform how buildings use energy, turning them from energy consumers into power stations. This £36 million investment in clean energy innovation shows the UK continues to lead the way in cutting emissions while growing our economy.

We are putting our world-leading science and innovation sector at the heart of our modern Industrial Strategy, and have set the ambitious target for investment in research and development to reach 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, said:

The UK government is committed to leading the world in delivering clean energy technology and this additional investment at Swansea University shows that we are prepared to support innovation in this critical area.

The cutting-edge research being developed at this institution is being translated into practical inventions and techniques that can improve our lives. It truly is science with a purpose.

Today's funding announcement, on top of the £68 million commitment to Swansea University since 2010, will ensure that Wales and one of its most forward-thinking universities will play a key role in keeping the UK at the vanguard of innovation for years to come.

This new funding is part of the biggest increase in research and development (R&D) investment for 40 years, supporting high-value jobs in emerging industries. Since Autumn 2016, the government has invested an additional £7 billion in R&D – demonstrating clear progress towards the ambition to raise investment in R&D across the entire UK economy to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is delivering the funding for the new Centre. UKRI Chief Executive Professor Sir Mark Walport said:

As we move towards a low-carbon economy, we need to explore more efficient ways of generating, conserving and using power and

energy.

Active buildings, which integrate solar generation and storage technologies for electricity and heat within their construction, can help to achieve this. The Active Building Centre will work to remove barriers to the large-scale adoption of active buildings on new developments throughout the country.

The UK's work in this field has been world-leading, and the Centre announced today is an important step towards realising the potential of low-carbon technologies.

Remaining at the forefront of next generation clean energy is a key part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, playing a key part in growing our national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Maximising the advantages for UK industry in clean growth, will increase our productivity, create good jobs, and help protect the climate and environment upon which we and future generations depend.

At the same time, the UK government continues its wider support for Wales. This includes:

- As a result of the recent NHS announcement, the Welsh Government are expected to benefit from a £1.2 billion a year boost to their budget by 2023/24.
- Autumn Budget 2017 provided a £1.2 million boost to the Welsh Government's budget.
- The UK government is investing £615 million for the Cardiff and Swansea City Deals and making progress on growth deals with North Wales and Mid-Wales.
- The number of people in work in Wales is at a record high level and productivity growth in Wales is the 3rd strongest of all 12 UK regions and nations.

The final funding is subject to agreement of governance arrangements around the new centre.

News story: Innovative ideas to transform UK rail in line to bid for millions in government grants

Second year of funding for innovative projects:

- focus this year is on decarbonisation and customer experience
- ten projects have already secured funding from first round of grants.

Innovative ideas to transform rail travel for passengers could be in line for a slice of up to £3.5 million funding, Rail Minister Jo Johnson announced today (19 September 2018).

The First of a Kind (FOAK) competition, now in its second year, seeks ideas that can be adapted to improve the UK rail network.

This year the competition, which is run by [Innovate UK](#) and is part of the Department of Transport's wider Accelerating Innovation in Rail (AIR) scheme, focuses on 2 themes – decarbonising of the railway and improving the passenger experience in stations.

Mr Johnson said:

There are many brilliant ideas already out there that, with just minor modifications, could help to transform rail journeys for passengers across the network.

We want to hear from those companies whose projects fit this template, because we can offer them the grant funding to make that a reality.

We are investing in the biggest rail modernisation programme since Victorian times and we want to put passengers at the heart of everything we do.

Earlier this year, 10 projects succeeded in securing funding for improving the passengers experience on rail in the first round of funding. They included a smartphone app that highlights landmarks on a journey in real-time and beacons that guide visually-impaired passengers through stations to their seats.

Simon Edmonds, Innovate UK's Director, Manufacturing, Materials and Mobility, said:

We are delighted to be working with DfT on this competition. We want to unlock the talent of UK companies to demonstrate tomorrow's

stations today and to contribute to de-carbonising the railway. This first of a kind competition will result in tangible, realistic prototypes that have the potential to meet these challenges, to deliver a greener railway and an enhanced customer experience.

Round 2 of the FOAK competition runs from 8 October to 28 November 2018 and is open to projects looking for individual funding of between £250,000 and £350,000.

Competition bosses are particularly keen to hear about projects that can improve air quality in stations, reduce noise pollution, provide consistent and reliable information to passengers during periods of disruption and enhance accessibility for everyone, especially those with less visible impairments.

[More information on how to enter the FOAK competition.](#)

National Statistics: Historical statistics notices on the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in cattle in Great Britain, 2018 – quarterly

Updated: Removed England Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Quarterly Overview, this can be found on Latest national statistics on tuberculosis (TB) in cattle in Great Britain – quarterly page.

This publication gives previously published copies of the quarterly statistical publications on the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in cattle for Great Britain in 2018. Each publication gives the figures that were available at that time. The figures are subject to revision each quarter as new information becomes available.

The latest publication and the accompanying data sets can be found [here](#)

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Press release: UK House Price Index for July 2018

The July data shows:

- on average, house prices have risen by 1.2% since June 2018
- an annual price rise of 3.1%, which makes the average property in the UK valued at £231,422

England

In England, the July data shows, on average, house prices have risen by 1.2% since June 2018. The annual price rise of 3% takes the average property value to £248,611.

The regional data for England indicates that:

- the North West experienced the greatest monthly price rise, up by 3.4%
- the East Midlands saw the most significant monthly price fall, down by 0.2% and
- house prices in London fell by 0.7% in the year to July 2018

Price change by region for England

Region	Average price July 2018	Monthly change % since June 2018
East Midlands	£188,716	-0.2
East of England	£294,603	1.3
London	£484,926	0.6
North East	£131,505	2.6
North West	£165,529	3.4
South East	£327,002	0.4
South West	£259,971	2.4
West Midlands	£195,447	0.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	£161,712	0.4

Repossession sales by volume for England

The lowest number of repossession sales in May 2018 was in the East of England.

The highest number of repossession sales in May 2018 was in the North West.

Repossession sales May 2018

East Midlands	42
East of England	13
London	46
North East	104
North West	150
South East	51
South West	40
West Midlands	63
Yorkshire and the Humber	90
England	599

Average price by property type for England

Property type	July 2018	July 2017	Difference %
Detached	£378,473	£361,493	4.7
Semi-detached	£230,284	£222,914	3.3
Terraced	£200,889	£194,396	3.3
Flat/maisonette	£230,603	£230,482	0.1
All	£248,611	£241,406	3.0

Funding and buyer status for England

Transaction type	Average price July 2018	Annual price change % since July 2017	Monthly price change % since June 2018
Cash	£234,732	3.2	1.6
Mortgage	£255,602	2.9	1.1
First-time buyer	£208,378	2.5	1.1
Former owner occupier	£282,435	3.4	1.3

Building status for England

Building status*	Average price May 2018	Annual price change % since May 2017	Monthly price change % since April 2018
New build	£306,514	5.7	1.3
Existing resold property	£240,225	3.1	0.7

*Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

Sales volumes for England

The most up-to-date HM Land Registry sales figures available for England show:

- the number of completed house sales in England fell by 16.1% to 58,073

compared with 69,176 in May 2017

Month Sales 2018 Sales 2017 Difference %

April	54,466	62,318	-12.6
May	58,073	69,176	-16.1

London

London shows, on average, house prices have risen by 0.6% since June 2018. An annual price fall of 0.7% takes the average property value to £484,926.

Average price by property type for London

Property type July 2018 July 2017 Difference %

Detached	£929,854	£903,023	3.0
Semi-detached	£584,546	£582,307	0.4
Terraced	£502,363	£499,705	0.5
Flat/maisonette	£426,731	£434,837	-1.9
All	£484,926	£488,527	-0.7

Funding and buyer status for London

Transaction type	Average price July 2018	Annual price change % since July 2017	Monthly price change % since June 2018
Cash	£512,115	-0.5	1.6
Mortgage	£476,645	-0.8	0.3
First-time buyer	£423,730	-1.2	0.6
Former owner occupier	£548,046	-0.2	0.6

Building status for London

Building status*	Average price May 2018	Annual price change % since May 2017	Monthly price change % since April 2018
New build	£506,128	2.9	1.1
Existing resold property	£478,313	-0.3	0.5

*Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

Sales volumes for London

The most up-to-date HM Land Registry sales figures available for London show;

- the number of completed house sales in May 2018 fell by 25.6% to 5,861 compared with 7,874 in May 2017

Month Sales 2018 Sales 2017 Difference %

April	5,934	7,120	-16.7
May	5,861	7,874	-25.6

Wales

Wales shows, on average, house prices have fallen by 0.2% since June 2018. An annual price rise of 4.2% takes the average property value to £157,368.

Average price by property type for Wales**Property type July 2018 July 2017 Difference %**

Detached	£240,704	£226,982	6.0
Semi-detached	£150,370	£145,234	3.5
Terraced	£121,100	£116,835	3.7
Flat/maisonette	£112,941	£110,704	2.0
All	£157,368	£151,028	4.2

Funding and buyer status for Wales

Transaction type	Average price July 2018	Annual price change % since July 2017	Monthly price change % since June 2018
Cash	£154,022	4.5	0.5
Mortgage	£159,349	4.0	-0.6
First-time buyer	£135,390	3.6	-0.5
Former owner occupier	£183,161	4.9	0.2

Building status for Wales

Building status*	Average price May 2018	Annual price change % since May 2017	Monthly price change % since April 2018
New build	£208,490	8.7	1.3
Existing resold property	£151,817	4.9	0.7

*Figures for the two most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

Sales volumes for Wales

The most up-to-date HM Land Registry sales figures available for Wales show:

- the number of completed house sales in May 2018 fell by 14.4% to 3,368 compared with 3,933 in April 2017
- there were 44 repossession sales in May 2018

Month Sales 2018 Sales 2017 Difference %

April	3,166	3,490	-9.3
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	Month Sales	2018 Sales	2017 Sales	Difference %
May	3,368	3,933		-14.4

[Access the full UK HPI](#)

UK house prices rose by 3.1% in the year to July 2018, down from 3.2% in the year to June 2018. This is the lowest UK annual rate since August 2013 when it was 3.0%.

The [UK Property Transaction Statistics for July 2018](#) showed that on a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of transactions on residential properties with a value of £40,000 or greater was 99,270. This is 3.2% lower compared with a year ago. Between June and July 2018, transactions decreased by 0.8%.

House prices grew fastest in the North West region, increasing by 5.6% in the year to July 2018, followed by the South West and the West Midlands, both increasing by 4.4% over the year. House prices in London fell by 0.7% in the year to July 2018, down from an increase of 0.3% in the previous month.

See the [economic statement](#).

Notes to editors

1. The UK House Price Index (UK HPI) is published on the second or third Wednesday of each month with Northern Ireland figures updated quarterly. The August 2018 UK HPI will be published at 9.30am on Wednesday 17 October 2018. See [calendar of release dates](#).
2. The UK House Price Index achieved National Statistic status on the 18 September 2018. The National Statistics badge indicates that the index has been independently assessed and meets the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value as defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics.
3. We have made some changes to improve the accuracy of the UK HPI. We are not publishing average price and percentage change for new builds and existing resold property as done previously because there are not currently enough new build transactions to provide a reliable result. This means that in this month's UK HPI reports, new builds and existing resold property are reported in line with the sales volumes currently available.
4. The UK HPI revision period has been extended to 13 months, following a review of the revision policy (see [calculating the UK HPI](#) section 4.4). This ensures the data used is more comprehensive.
5. Sales volume data is also available by property status (new build and

existing property) and funding status (cash and mortgage) in our [downloadable data tables](#). Transactions involving the creation of a new register, such as new builds, are more complex and require more time to process. Read [revisions to the UK HPI data](#).

6. Revision tables have been introduced for England and Wales within the downloadable data. Tables will be available in csv format. See [about the UK HPI](#) for more information.
7. Data for the UK HPI is provided by HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Valuation Office Agency.
8. The UK HPI is calculated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. It applies a hedonic regression model that uses the various sources of data on property price, in particular HM Land Registry's Price Paid Dataset, and attributes to produce estimates of the change in house prices each month. Find out more about the methodology used from the [ONS](#) and [Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency](#).
9. The [UK Property Transaction statistics](#) are taken from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) monthly estimates of the number of residential and non-residential property transactions in the UK and its constituent countries. The number of property transactions in the UK is highly seasonal, with more activity in the summer months and less in the winter. This regular annual pattern can sometimes mask the underlying movements and trends in the data series so HMRC also presents the UK aggregate transaction figures on a seasonally adjusted basis. Adjustments are made for both the time of year and the construction of the calendar, including corrections for the position of Easter and the number of trading days in a particular month.
10. UK HPI seasonally adjusted series are calculated at regional and national levels only. See [data tables](#).
11. The first estimate for new build average price (April 2016 report) was based on a small sample which can cause volatility. A three-month moving average has been applied to the latest estimate to remove some of this volatility.
12. Work has been taking place since 2014 to develop a single, official HPI that reflects the final transaction price for sales of residential property in the UK. Using the geometric mean, it covers purchases at market value for owner-occupation and buy-to-let, excluding those purchases not at market value (such as re-mortgages), where the 'price'

represents a valuation.

13. Information on residential property transactions for England and Wales, collected as part of the official registration process, is provided by HM Land Registry for properties that are sold for full market value.
14. The HM Land Registry dataset contains the sale price of the property, the date when the sale was completed, full address details, the type of property (detached, semi-detached, terraced or flat), if it is a newly built property or an established residential building and a variable to indicate if the property has been purchased as a financed transaction (using a mortgage) or as a non-financed transaction (cash purchase).
15. Repossession sales data is based on the number of transactions lodged with HM Land Registry by lenders exercising their power of sale.
16. For England, this is shown as volumes of repossession sales recorded by Government Office Region. For Wales, there is a headline figure for the number of repossession sales recorded in Wales.
17. The data can be downloaded as a .csv file. Repossession sales data prior to April 2016 is not available. Find out more information about [repossession sales](#).
18. Background tables of the raw and cleansed aggregated data, in Excel and CSV formats, are also published monthly although Northern Ireland is on a quarterly basis. They are available for free use and re-use under the Open Government Licence.
19. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.
20. 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.
21. 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 showing evidence of ownership for some 85% of the land mass of England and Wales.
22. For further information about HM Land Registry visit

23. Follow us on Twitter [@HMLandRegistry](#), our [blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

Contact

[News story: Sainsbury's / Asda merger referred for in-depth investigation](#)

In August, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) [opened its initial \(Phase 1\) investigation](#) into the merger and announced the companies had requested a 'fast-track' referral to Phase 2.

The CMA has now confirmed, through its Phase 1 investigation, that the deal raises sufficient concerns to be referred for a more in-depth review. The companies are 2 of the largest grocery retailers in the UK and their stores overlap in hundreds of local areas, where shoppers could face higher prices or a worse quality of service.

These concerns will be considered further in the Phase 2 investigation, along with other issues raised so far with the CMA – including those relating to fuel, general merchandise (such as clothing) and increased 'buyer power' over suppliers.

The Phase 2 investigation is a more in-depth review, led by an inquiry group chosen from the CMA's independent panel members. This will be chaired by [Stuart McIntosh](#), with the other members being [Roland Green](#), [John Thanassoulis](#), [Richard Feasey](#) and [Claire Whyley](#). The group will gather evidence – in particular through multiple customer surveys and engagement with other retailers, suppliers and industry bodies – to inform its detailed analysis.

An issues statement, setting out in detail the issues that the inquiry group expects to investigate, will be published in the coming weeks. Members of the public and other interested groups will be invited to give their views on this.

The CMA's full referral decision and expected timelines for its Phase 2 investigation will be published shortly on the [case page](#).