

News story: Managing traffic in real time: apply for funding

Traffic congestion is an issue across the UK, particularly in large urban areas where it adds to emissions and causes delays. It's also hard to manage; [a local transport report](#) from the Department for Transport shows that many local authorities do not have reliable information on vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, and much of the research they do have has been carried out manually.

In response, this new challenge from the [Department for Transport](#) and the [Royal Borough of Greenwich](#) is a [Small Business Research Initiative \(SBRI\)](#) aimed at finding innovative ways to understand and respond to traffic congestion. Funding for the competition is provided by the [GovTech Catalyst](#).

High-quality data

Projects should be able to pull together high-quality data that's easier to access and learn from than existing approaches. They should build understanding and improve responses to congestion while keeping affordability in mind. In particular, the competition is looking for ideas that:

- support local authorities with real-time traffic analysis as well as longer term strategy
- can be scaled up and applied to other authorities
- consider how data could influence the behaviour of motorists across the country

A 2-phase competition

The competition is likely to run in 2 phases, with the first phase focusing on feasibility studies and the second phase moving to prototype development and testing. In phase 1, up to 5 contracts will be awarded at up to £50,000 each.

In phase 2, another 2 contracts worth up to £500,000 each will be awarded to successful phase 1 projects. Successful projects should be ready to test in a real environment after phase 1.

How to apply

The applicant – or lead applicant if it's a collaborative project – must register online and consider attending the [briefing event in London on 20 August](#).

Competition information

- the competition opens on 13 August 2018 and the deadline for applications is midday on 26 September 2018
 - successful applicants will be contacted on 16 November 2018
 - phase 1 contracts will be awarded on 14 December 2018
 - we will not be able to fund proposals that rely on purchasing large amounts of data from a single existing provider or those that heavily duplicate existing initiatives
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[News story: National product safety strategy now published](#)

The strategy, along with a delivery plan, is part of Safety & Standard's commitment to deliver the highest level of protection for consumers and build confidence in the system, whilst helping British businesses to thrive.

The strategy sets out how Safety & Standards will:

Analyse: strengthening analysis to support effective decision making, making the best use of scientific evidence, risk and intelligence

Inform: providing information to support consumers in making informed choices and ensuring that businesses have the information they need to be responsible and comply with the law

Enforce: delivering responsive, effective and targeted enforcement to maintain protection, fairness and confidence

Build: creating a robust product safety system infrastructure that supports innovation and ensures the UK system is fit for the future.

Since the Office was established within BEIS in January this year, it has been working closely with the British Standards Institution, National Trading Standards, Government departments and manufacturers to upgrade the product safety system.

Actions to date include helping to develop the first Code of Practice for Product Recalls, training 250 Trading Standard Officers on the Code, reviewing compliance systems at white goods manufacturers and working with Trading Standards to strengthen our ability to stop unsafe products at the border. It is also taking steps to improve labelling for laser pointers and working with industry to improve warning notices on products containing button batteries.

Through the strategy, the Office will provide a number of specialist services

centrally to support consistent national enforcement, including aspects of product testing and technical expertise.

The strategy does not lessen any of the legal responsibilities of manufacturers, importers and retailers to present safe products to the market, and to take rapid effective action when safety issues arise with their products. There are no changes to the roles and responsibilities of local authorities or other market surveillance authorities.

The strategy sets out a commitment to roundtable discussions (including a new Consumer Panel) in the Autumn, both to deliver its contents and to help develop the consultation proposals on the future of the Office.

Primary Authority across the UK will play a key role in helping to deliver these objectives.

[New strategy launched to keep consumers safe and protect businesses that do the right thing](#)

[Strengthening national capacity for product safety: Strategy 2018-2020](#)

Page also includes:

- Delivery plan 2018-2019
- Early impact: our immediate actions
- Strategic research programme
- Incident management plan

[**News story: New strategy launched to keep consumers safe and protect businesses that do the right thing**](#)

- Plan forms part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, building confidence in the system delivering the highest level of protection for consumers and helping British businesses to thrive
- Strategy will also help protect responsible businesses from unfair competition posed by unsafe products

Plans to strengthen the UK's world-leading product safety regime have been set out today (10 August 2018) by the government's newly established Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

The OPSS was established in January to help keep consumers safe and enforce the UK's strict safety laws and the strategy and delivery plan launched today sets out a bold programme of action to enhance the UK's ability to identify risks, protect consumers and co-ordinate large scale product recalls and

repairs.

Included in the plan are ambitious new measures such as:

- a new national incident management team for product safety incidents capable of coordinating large scale product recall and repair programmes
- establishing a new website to support consumers with reliable information and advice about recalled products
- increased support for local authority enforcement teams at ports, borders and points of entry to ensure the safety of goods that are entering the UK
- close working with manufacturers to ensure they are compliant with safety regulations from an earlier stage of the production process
- developing tools and guidance to assist local authorities in improving risk assessments, identifying mistakes before they happen

Consumer Minister Kelly Tolhurst said:

Our top priority is keeping the British public safe and we established the Office for Product Safety and Standards in January to play an enhanced role in strengthening our tough and well-respected product safety regime.

Today's strategy will fulfil that promise, allowing consumers to buy products with confidence, secure in the knowledge there is a robust and effective system in place to keep people safe and hold companies accountable.

It will also ensure that the vast majority of businesses that do the right thing and comply with the law are protected from the unfair competition presented by companies that bypass the rules and sell unsafe products.

Chair of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety, Neil Gibbins, said:

I am pleased to see this strategy is designed to lead to the implementation of one of the key steps identified by the group. National capacity to support our locally based trading standards officers is warmly welcomed.

Today's strategy forms a key part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, delivering on its commitment to provide consumers with the highest levels of protection while ensuring the UK has a business environment that protects businesses that do the right thing.

The delivery plan 2020, published alongside the strategy, also sets out a

number of additional commitments for the OPSS including:

- working with white goods manufacturers, gaining assurance that their compliance systems are robust and that they are implementing the Product Recalls Code of Practice
- publishing a Strategic Research Programme, setting out priorities for scientific research into potential product safety risks
- preparing the first national Strategic Assessment to prioritise product safety actions, based on scientific evidence
- working with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and public health bodies to further improve injury data collection
- working with the government's Behavioural Insights Unit to understand how to most effectively reach consumers in product recall scenarios and with wider product safety messages
- encouraging greater diversity in standards committee membership
- supporting consumer awareness campaigns about specific hazards

Since its formation in January, the OPSS has been working closely with regulatory bodies such as National Trading Standards, other government departments and manufacturers to upgrade the product safety system.

This has included publishing the world's first Code of Practice for Product Safety Recall which sets out how businesses should recall products, work with manufacturers and retailers to improve labelling and raise consumer awareness of the risks of laser pointers, and beginning work, ahead of EU exit, with Trading Standards at key border checkpoints to strengthen our ability to stop unsafe products at the border.

Backed up by a clear delivery plan to 2020, the strategy sets out how Safety and Standards will:

- analyse: strengthening analysis to support effective decision making, making the best use of scientific evidence, risk and intelligence
- inform: providing information to support consumers in making informed choices and ensuring that businesses have the information they need to be responsible and comply with the law
- enforce: delivering responsive, effective and targeted enforcement to maintain protection, fairness and confidence
- build: creating a robust product safety system infrastructure that supports innovation and ensures the UK system is fit for the future

Office of Product Safety and Standards

The government created the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) on 21 January 2018 to identify consumer risks and manage responses to large-scale product recalls and repairs, enabling the UK to meet the evolving challenges of product safety by responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online shopping and the increasing rate of product innovation.

Alongside the product safety strategy and delivery plan, the government will today publish an incident management plan, a strategic research plan and a summary of key achievements by the OPSS since its launch in January.

The strategy does not lessen any of the legal responsibilities of manufacturers, importers and retailers to present safe products to the market, and to take rapid effective action when safety issues arise with their products.

There are no changes to the roles and responsibilities of local authorities or other market surveillance authorities. The office will provide a number of specialist services centrally to support consistent national enforcement, including aspects of product testing and technical expertise.

News story: Special Recognition for Ministry of Defence Police Inspector Anne Turner

Inspector Anne Turner, a training manager in the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) Operational Capability Centre in Scotland, was presented with a Special Recognition Award by the British Association for Women in Policing (BAWP) at their awards ceremony in June. There were 247 nominees for the awards from 34 forces.

Sponsored by Deloitte, Anne's award category was open to male and female nominees, either within policing or in partnership with the community who have made 'a significant contribution to gender equality or service to females'.

A normal day for Anne in the office.

Anne was nominated for her dedication and commitment to MDP training (and in particular police firearms training) throughout her career, and more specifically for the work she has done to support female officers. Anne has always been viewed as a role model by her female colleagues in the MDP and says that:

Being the first female firearms instructor was a proud achievement for me, and let me show other females they too could push themselves into any career path they wished.

When I was contacted by the BAWP to tell me of my award I was dumbfounded. I never think of myself as doing anything special, I just get on with a job I enjoy and help others where I can. When I heard the stories behind the others who had been nominated for awards I felt privileged to be considered in the same group, but I think all of us felt the same. We were just doing our job and if there is one thing that this award has taught me it is to do just

that. Do what you can to support others whenever the chance arises because it's amazing the difference it can make to everyone, as well as making you feel good about yourself.

News story: Billion-pound backing for British innovation

- £780m of extra funding for high-tech hubs
- This builds on £180m announced last month for North East
- Backing for British expertise at 40-year high
- Latest GDP figures confirm economy continues to grow

Britain's world-leading researchers and entrepreneurs will benefit from an additional £780 million to create the technologies of tomorrow, the Chancellor announced today (10 August 2018).

Philip Hammond will expand successful 'catapult centres' which are fuelling innovation across the country as part of the UK's ambitious, modern Industrial Strategy. This new funding backs Britain's brightest talent – supporting work in high-tech labs, cutting-edge factories and advanced training centres.

So far this has helped create hundreds of new products, services and inventions, including a portable pollution sensor that parents can attach to a child's buggy, cellular therapies to fight cancer and improve recovery of stroke victims, LED treatment for blindness, and more-efficient wings for aeroplanes.

The Chancellor made the announcement during a visit to the West Midlands on the day GDP figures showed the UK economy has grown by 0.4%.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

We are working hard to build a stronger, fairer economy – dealing with the deficit, helping people into work, and cutting taxes for individuals and businesses. Unemployment is at its lowest since the 1970s, our national debt is starting to fall, and the economy has grown every year since 2010.

It is by backing innovative British companies to grow and create jobs that we will continue this progress and build an economy fit for the future. Today's £780 million investment will support innovators across the country to create the technologies of the future, and the better, highly-paid jobs we urgently need.

This builds on £180 million announced by the Prime Minister for centres in the North East last month, taking the total of additional funding to almost £1 billion.

Mr Hammond met with apprentices and workers, who specialise in automation and machining, at the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry. This high-tech facility has benefited from £122 million of government funding, and is currently a world-leader in 3D printing.

The UK has a reputation for innovation and is building on this strength with the largest investment in research and development in 40 years. This is part of our balanced approach, getting debt falling while investing to create more opportunities for the high-skilled, well-paid jobs of the future.

The catapult network supports sectors and technologies that are going to be in high demand in the years ahead. It brings together the best of UK business, science and engineering to work side by side in research and development to 'catapult' products from ideas to market. It helps remove barriers to growth, which often can include access to finance, inadequate facilities or skills shortages.

Business Secretary Greg Clark added:

We are a nation of innovators, creators and entrepreneurs. Through our modern Industrial Strategy, backed by the largest investment in R&D in 40 years, we are boosting growth, creating new highly skilled jobs and helping change people's lives for the better.

This government wants to make the UK the most innovative nation in the world and the investment in our world leading catapult network will play a key role in building on UK strengths, bringing new ideas and products to market and helping drive local economies across the UK.

Dr Ian Campbell, Interim Executive Chair of Innovate UK, said:

Today's significant announcement means our world-class network of catapults can build on their success and continue helping thousands of businesses across the UK to undertake innovative R&D. This long-term investment will mean the catapults can help deliver the Grand Challenges of the Industrial Strategy in their sectors and help the UK achieve its ambition to raise investment in R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

In their first five years the catapults have supported around 3,000 small businesses to develop and exploit new technologies. They operate more than £850m world-class facilities and are also training hundreds of apprentices and doctoral students, such as at the High Value Manufacturing Catapult where in the last year 900 apprentices have gained invaluable practical experience with

cutting-edge technologies used in modern manufacturing.

Further Information

Regional breakdown of funding:

Region	New funding	Project
West Midlands	£270.9m	For the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry and Warwick Manufacturing Group (both part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre) and the Energy Systems Catapult, in Birmingham.
Yorkshire and the Humber	£126.7m	For the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, in Rotherham and Sheffield, and Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Rotherham (both part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre).
North East	£180.3m	For the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult in Blyth and the Centre for Process Innovation in Redcar.
Greater London	£70.6m	For the Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult in London (and Stevenage).
South West	£65.4m	For the National Composite Centre (part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre) in Bristol.
South East	£68.3m	For the Satellite Applications Catapult in Harwell.
Wales	£51.3m	For the Compound Semiconductor Catapult in Cardiff.
Scotland	£96m	For the Advanced Forming Research Centre in Strathclyde (part of the High Value Manufacturing Centre) and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult.

Today's announcement includes an allocation, confirmed by the Prime Minister last month, that the [Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult](#) in Blyth and the [Centre for Process Innovation](#) in Redcar, part of the [High Value Manufacturing Catapult](#), will benefit from additional £180 million to support hundreds more businesses to develop products and services which will be in high demand in the future.

The purpose of [catapult centres](#) is to remove barriers to innovation, help new entrants to increase competition and innovation in the economy by levelling the field for disruptors to challenge incumbents. They address these market failures by:

1. strengthening industry-academia links (maximising impact of our world-class science base)
2. maintaining open-access, cutting-edge facilities which individual companies could not afford to invest in, particularly SMEs (e.g. the Manufacturing Technology Centre houses multiple experimental facilities for prototyping different manufacturing techniques)
3. helping to build ecosystems conducive to innovation, by assisting regulators to be agile in response to technological advancement (e.g. the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult worked with the medicines regulatory agency to cut the time it took firms to get gene therapies into clinical trials, from over a year to 60 days)

The catapults are private entities, which work in close partnership with Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation and industry. Started in 2011, the catapult network is based on successful international models (e.g. the German Fraunhofer Institutes), which generate income from a balance of public grant, collaborative R&D awards and commercial contracting (in a 1:1:1 ratio). They operate in areas where the UK has significant economic opportunities and an international competitive advantage to drive growth.

Case studies

Hybrid Manufacturing Technology (High Value Manufacturing Catapult)

This new technology combines 3D printing with high speed computer controlled machining. It has the potential to save UK industry millions of pounds by re-manufacturing high value components that would otherwise have gone for scrap. Work is being taken forward to further commercialise this R&D, which has already made Britain a world leader in developing hybrid manufacturing technology.

Project Eyes on the Seas (Satellite Applications Catapult)

The Satellite Applications Catapult has been working to tackle the global challenge of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by combining satellite technology with big data. 'Project Eyes on the Seas' has already had major successes in combating this, improving the efficiency of enforcement and could in the future help to protect marine reserves and the overall wellbeing of the Earth's oceans.

New manufacture processes (High Value Manufacturing Catapult)

Local SME Technicut have partnered with Japanese-owned Nikken to develop the TiTan X-Treme – a new tooling system that dramatically speeds up the cutting of tough alloys such as titanium. The system is now sold and used worldwide, including in the new £100m Rolls-Royce Advanced Aerospace Disc Manufacturing facility, which was opened in June 2014, creating many valuable jobs.

Medical devices to cure common causes of blindness (High Value Manufacturing Catapult in Durham)

PolyPhotonix is on the verge of revolutionising treatment for degenerative sight-threatening conditions caused by age and diabetes. The current treatments are both costly and unpleasant and this innovation could potentially fill an urgent need for an effective, repeatable, value for money treatment.

Improving offshore wind turbines (Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult)

SMAR Azure has developed products used by 200 organisations in 29 countries, specialising in creating lighter, more efficient blades for offshore wind turbines that create more energy than existing offerings. It is now developing a new test rig at its world-leading National Renewables Energy Centre at Blyth, Northumberland, to validate and demonstrate a section of the blade prototype.