

## **News story: Notice of competition launch 'Don't Blow It! Safely eliminating munitions on the battlefield'**

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) is launching a new competition aimed at the private sector and academia, to seek innovative solutions and approaches to accessing, disabling and/or irreversibly destroying chemical and biological weapons munitions, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and bulk agents on the battlefield.

The competition is aimed at non-traditional defence and security innovators and DASA will be particularly interested to hear from those in allied technology areas such as the oil and gas, mining sectors as well as those which have experience in handling hazardous materials.

With an initial £500,000 to fund multiple proof-of-concept proposals at low Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), it is anticipated that an additional funding of £1.5 million may be available depending on the outcome of the initial funding phase.

It is jointly funded by the UK Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defense, and will operate under an existing memorandum of understanding between both nations.

The competition will formally launch at an event in London on 26 September 2018.

If you are interested in attending please register your [Expression of Interest](#) by 5pm on 12 September 2018. Places are limited and we reserve the right to limit attendance if needed. If you are accepted to attend the event, you will be sent full details and an agenda.

Details about the competition can be found [here](#).

Any queries regarding this competition, should be sent to [accelerator@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:accelerator@dstl.gov.uk)

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## **Speech: Climate change threatens lives**

## and economies across the globe

Thank you very much indeed Madam President, and may I once again thank and congratulate Sweden for picking such a good menu of themes for us to discuss in the Security Council. I was here in 2007 when we had the first climate change debate in the Security Council and I think this is already shaping up to be a very worthy continuum in that theme and it's obvious that there's lots of common ground. Thank you to all of the Ministers who have taken the time to come and be with the Council today and share these very interesting and compelling and very sad stories.

The Earth is known as the blue planet but many of you have given descriptions of how some of the most iconic, geographic features on the planet are being irredeemably affected by climate change. That's an important warning to us all and hopefully out of this meeting we can find a renewed sense of commitment to take action. I particularly welcomed what his Excellency, the Iraqi Minister said, about joint cooperation with neighbours to try and solve some of the resource problems that flow from climate change. But I think like many speakers, it was your presentation Ms Ibrahim about your people that was most compelling.

I think you very graphically set out the link between development and security and what it means on the ground for ordinary families and how much they are vulnerable to developments like terrorism because of the incredibly stark and unfair choices that they face. So, thank you for bringing that to the Council's attention and for the United Kingdom, we will work as hard as we can with Sweden and other partners to try and help the UN come up with answers to address the points that you and the Ministers have made. It must be considered as a holistic issue throughout the UN system so I think we very much welcome Madam President some of the ideas that you and the Netherlands have been setting out. The interplay between climate and security is not an abstract, theoretical risk – if we don't manage climate change, we will threaten lives, livelihoods and economies across the globe. With migration, that will begin to impact on all of our economies, even those that are not directly affected by climate change.

One figure that really struck me was the one that I have heard from the World Bank which estimates that 720 million people are at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change by 2050. So, that's not only a shocking figure in itself, what it means is that it would be reversing much of the progress that we would have had in the first quarter of the 21st century. So, we're working against ourselves if we don't take action to do something about this. That is in addition to the fact that there will be other consequences of conflict and instability that arise from climate change.

My Prime Minister, Theresa May, has gone on record as saying that there is a clear moral imperative for developed economies to help those who stand to lose most from the consequences of man-made climate change. We have pledged 7.7 billion dollars in international climate finance to try and help alleviate the problem. I think the actions and solutions that we agree on in

the Security Council need to take into account all the risks that we face today and how they might interact to address potential risks in future. I think the Council has, if I may say so Madam President, been quite good about reflecting in recent resolutions these points, particularly on Lake Chad, Somalia and the Sahel. Of course, the task now is to have effective implementation. For our part in the United Kingdom, we have committed to champion a greater focus on building resilience to climate change and this is for the Secretary-General ahead of his 2019 Climate Summit. We will be collaborating with a range of actors, including governments, aid agencies, regional bodies and the United Nations to launch what we hope to be genuinely transformational actions to build climate resilience.

As I've already said, we completely agree with you that we need an improved understanding of climate related risks. We ourselves have been working on climate risk assessment and were one of the first countries to conduct a national climate change risk assessment and we will support other countries in doing theirs. We have worked very closely with experts in China, India and the US to look at complex, systemic risks including how climate change interacts with security. We will, with the Chinese, develop a framework to monitor climate related risk continuously and we hope to launch that later this year. So there's lots of good work happening in which I think we can all reinforce each other and make sure that we build on all this progress rather than duplicate it.

I think I'll just conclude by saying you know we've always known, particularly in the UN, about the interdependence between security and development and stability and issues like human rights. That in itself is not a new concept and indeed the Charter alludes to it. But, I think it is true to say that it is now all intensifying as the world becomes more complex and above all it's exemplified by climate change. And it was given a very moving guise by Ms Ibrahim's testimony today. So I hope we can all go away from here with renewed determination to put right some of the problems you have all highlighted.

Thank you.

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## [World news story: Call for proposals for Colombia's Technical Assistance Programme](#)

*Updated:* The London Workshop venue has been confirmed.

## **The BEIS ICF Technical Assistance Programme aims to:**

1. Contribute to the reduction of Colombia's emissions and poverty reduction by improving the capacity and capability of key institutions (national, subnational, non-state).
2. Support demand-led technical assistance that prioritises implementation and helps raise climate ambition, by addressing barriers, constraints and areas of opportunity at different levels of government based on the country's political and economic context and sectoral priorities.

## **The programme has the following themes:**

- a. Diffusion of non-conventional renewable energy sources to ensure an affordable, resilient, and low emissions energy system
- b. Addressing key policy, finance and technical barriers to scale up the energy efficiency market
- c. Financial and non-financial incentives (existing and new) and better access to innovative finance instruments, combined with a more comprehensive and coherent policy and regulatory framework, to accelerate the deployment of low emission vehicles
- d. Improving energy access through decentralised renewable energy generation models in areas that complement other UK forests and land use programmes
- e. Sustainable tourism and scientific research as a strategy to protect forests, ensure sustainable rural development and consolidation of peace in areas that have been affected by conflict

## **Crosscutting themes are:**

- a. Implementation of Colombia's Green Growth Policy to consolidate long-term GHG emission reduction and sustainable economic development
- b. Improved understanding of investment opportunities and risks in green growth and support implementation of Colombia's roadmap to establish a green bond market
- c. Operationalisation of Colombia's MRV system for mitigation action, including a transparent registry, to track progress and ensure NDC implementation

## **Call for proposals (C4P)**

BEIS ICF has allocated up to £2 million for technical assistance activities in Colombia through an open, competitive call for proposals. Funds are available for projects of up to one year in length.

This C4P request implementation partners to submit concept bids for the

following project types:

1. Year 1 projects should require funding from the ICF of between £250,000 – £500,000 (indicative), for up to one year of activity from the point of signing the grant agreement. The total project budget may exceed the amount requested from the ICF with co-funding and exceed the timescale of one year, if the activity applied for is an initial phase or component within a larger multi-year project.
2. Skill share projects should require funding from the ICF of between £25,000 – £100,000 (indicative), for up to one year of activity from the point of signing the grant agreement.
3. Early transition activity projects should require funding from the ICF of between £25,000 – £100,000 (indicative), for up to six months of activity from the point of signing the grant agreement. Projects funded through this bidding round must:
  - relate to one or more of the themes of the call for proposals
  - require funding of between £25,000 – £500,000 (indicative), for up to one year length of activity from the point of contracting, based on the project types described in the ICF Colombia Call for Proposals Strategy and Guidelines.
  - be compatible with Official Development Assistance (ODA) criteria
  - facilitate the exchange of policy and commercial expertise. Good proposals will demonstrate substantial collaboration and involvement on implementation between Colombian and UK and/or international partner
  - explain how the project has sufficient buy-in from Colombian stakeholders to deliver the expected outcomes. Further information on our programme work can be found in the attached publication (links below)

### **Bidding round stages**

The ICF Technical Assistance Programme in Colombia is coordinated by the British Embassy in Colombia. The bidding process is split between a concept stage and a full proposal stage.

Stage 1: Concept bid development. Implementing organisations develop concept bids in consultation with the Embassy, and submit by the deadline (using the Project Concept Bid form provided).

Stage 2: Approval of concept bids. Concept bids are assessed on five criteria: strategic fit, potential for transformational impact, value for money, additionality, and deliverability. Implementers successful at this concept stage will be invited to develop full bids.

Stage 3: Development and approval of full bids. Successful implementing organisations are invited to submit full bids, which are assessed by a

Programme Board. Successful projects will then begin from Autumn 2018.

### **Proposed timetable**

Submissions should be sent to both [ICF.Colombia@fco.gov.uk](mailto:ICF.Colombia@fco.gov.uk) and [ICF.Colombia@beis.gov.uk](mailto:ICF.Colombia@beis.gov.uk), based on the following deadlines:

<b>Early Transition Activity</b>	<b>Skill Sharing</b>	<b>1 Year Projects</b>
Deadline of concept bids for early transition activity projects is August 8, 2018 – 23:59 (GMT)	Deadline of concept bids for skill share projects is August 22, 2018 – 23:59 (GMT)	Deadline of concept bids for 1 Year projects is August 22, 2018 – 23:59 (GMT)

The timetable is subject to change, at the discretion of the Colombia TAP Team.

### **Attachments to download**

- [ICF Colombia Call for Proposals Strategy and Guidelines \(English Version\)](#)  
(PDF, 716KB, 14 pages)
- [ICF Colombia Call for Proposals Strategy and Guidelines \(Spanish Version\)](#)  
(PDF, 760KB, 15 pages)
- [Technical Assistance Project Concept Bid template](#)  
(MS Word Document, 149KB)
- [Technical Assistance Project Concept Bid Guidance](#)  
(PDF, 486KB, 4 pages)
- [Technical Assistance Project Concept Bid Checklist](#)  
(MS Word Document, 115KB)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
(PDF, 356KB, 4 pages)
- [Answers to questions derived from Colombia Workshop \(Webinar\)](#)  
(PDF, 476KB, 12 pages)

If proposals are accepted at the concept stage, implementers will be required to submit a more detailed bid form and more detailed activity-based budget (ABB). The Colombia TAP Team will provide the template documents for full proposals to successful implementing organisations in due course.

### **Colombia TAP Team contact details**

For further details on the call for proposals, please contact the Colombia TAP Team by email at [ICF.Colombia@fco.gov.uk](mailto:ICF.Colombia@fco.gov.uk) and [ICF.Colombia@beis.gov.uk](mailto:ICF.Colombia@beis.gov.uk)

### **Implementers briefing workshops**

The Programme team will host two workshops for potential implementers in Colombia and London (to be delivered in English).

#### **The workshops will:**

- brief on ICF Technical Assistance Program, including Colombia strategy
- explain the requirements for the bid form
- provide opportunities for potential implementers to make questions on the C4P process

**Colombia Workshop will take place Wednesday 18 July, 2018 from 15:00 to 16:30 (GMT) / 9:00 to 10:30 (COL time).**

Registration deadline: by 13:00 on Monday 16 July 2018 (GMT)

Venue: WebEx virtual room to be confirmed

Register form:

[Colombia TAP Registration Form](#)

(MS Word Document, 15.5KB)

If you are interested in attending the workshop, please send an email, fill in the relevant form above and send to [ICF.Colombia@fco.gov.uk](mailto:ICF.Colombia@fco.gov.uk) before deadline, with "Colombia workshop" in the subject field. The programme team will send to all registered organisations a confirmation with details for connection.

**London Workshop will take place on Thursday 02 August.**

Registration Deadline: by 9:30 on Friday 27 July 2018 (GMT)

Venue: 1VS Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

Register form:

[London TAP Registration Form](#)

(MS Word Document, 15.4KB)

If you are interested in attending the workshop, please send an email, fill in the relevant form above and send to [ICF.Colombia@beis.gov.uk](mailto:ICF.Colombia@beis.gov.uk) before

deadline, with “London workshop” in the subject field. The programme team will send to all registered organisations a confirmation including date, time and venue.

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## **Press release: Foreign Secretary marks the 23rd anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica**

On the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

On this day, the 23rd anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica, we remember the more than 8,000 civilians who lost their lives in a brutal act of murder.

At this time, we must reflect on how the perpetrators were held to account by International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for committing an act of genocide. The verdict will not bring back the thousands who were killed, nor erase the grief of their families, but it sends a clear message that there will be no impunity for those who commit such crimes.

The UK is committed to helping the region overcome the legacy of past conflict. Yesterday, I attended the Western Balkans Summit alongside the Prime Minister and other European and Western Balkan leaders. The Summit demonstrated a shared will to work together to build a more peaceful, prosperous and stable future for all.

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## **Press release: Border Force seize cocaine at Gatwick**

Officers discovered approximately 1.5 kilos of the Class A drug on Saturday (7 July) when a passenger was stopped after arriving on a flight from Port of

Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The drugs, which have an estimated street value of around £75,000, were found inside a suitcase.

Border Force officers stopped and questioned a man who had arrived on a flight from Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

A search of luggage by officers revealed the drugs within a suitcase and a full forensic analysis will now take place.

Tim Kingsberry, Director of Border Force South said:

The professionalism and vigilance of our officers has prevented a significant quantity of Class A drugs entering the UK and ending up on our streets.

Working with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other law enforcement partners we will continue to tackle drug smuggling and bring those responsible to justice.

Following the seizure by Border Force, the investigation was passed to the NCA.

A 25-year-old man from Trinidad and Tobago, Nehemiah Timon Gulston, was charged with importing a Class A drug. Gulston, of no fixed UK address, appeared at Croydon Magistrates Court on Monday, 9 July where he was remanded in custody. He will next appear at Croydon Crown Court on 24 August.

The government's Serious Violence Strategy, which was launched in April, aims to combat the devastating impact drugs have on levels of serious violence.

It also highlights a strong link between drugs and serious violence and the related harm and exploitation from county lines. The government has set out the action it will take to tackle this violent and exploitative criminal activity. The action of Border Force to stop drugs before they get into the country forms a key part of this work.

Border Force officers use hi-tech search equipment to combat immigration crime and detect banned and restricted goods that smugglers attempt to bring into the country.

Nationally, they use an array of search techniques including sniffer dogs, carbon dioxide detectors, heartbeat monitors and scanners – as well as visual searches – to find well-hidden stowaways, illegal drugs, firearms and tobacco which would otherwise end up causing harm to local people, businesses and communities.

Anyone with information about activity they suspect may be linked to smuggling should call the hotline on 0800 59 5000.