

## [News story: New IP and trade toolkits for SMEs](#)



IP connect is the Intellectual Property Office media service.

The production of the toolkits followed a meeting of the UK – US Trade and Investment Working Group in November 2017.

The Working Group, which will meet for the third time later this month, works to deepen current trade and investment ties between the two nations. It lays the groundwork for a potential, future free trade agreement once the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

SMEs are the lifeblood of the UK economy and trade in IP is an increasingly important part of UK business activity. The UK's global exports of intellectual property services totalled £11.5 billion in 2015. At the start of 2017, 99.9% of private sector businesses in the UK were SMEs. These toolkits will provide information to SMEs to encourage trade between our two countries.

The following toolkits are available:

The IPO would welcome your views on the toolkits and ways in which they could be used. Our trade team can be contacted at [IPOTrade@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:IPOTrade@ipo.gov.uk).

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## [Research and analysis: Accounting for adaptive capacity in FCERM options appraisal](#)

Adaptive capacity is the ability to adjust to future change in order to take

advantage of opportunities that arise and appropriately manage additional risks that are presented.

The Environment Agency has produced a new guide that provides tools to ensure that future flexibility is properly valued in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) decision making and options appraisal. This will help to identify cost-effective solutions, able to cope with multiple future uncertainties.

The new tools and guide will supplement existing appraisal guidance, providing practical tools that can be used to assess the value of building in future flexibility.

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## **Research and analysis: Trialling a new approach to beach replenishment in Poole Bay**

The trial tested a new approach to beach replenishment in Poole Bay. The concept was to make use of locally dredged sediment and place it near the shore, allowing the prevailing waves and tidal currents to move material toward and along the beach. A similar approach has been used widely in the Netherlands and more recently in Denmark. The trial was the first of its kind in the UK.

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## **Research and analysis: Understanding the performance of flood forecasting models**

Understanding the performance of the flood forecasting models operated in real-time by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the national Flood Forecasting Centre is crucial to the informed use of model outputs for flood guidance across England and Wales. It is also essential to guide future strategic investment in flood incident management.

This report presents the results of the first nationwide analysis of the performance of the various flood forecasting models operated by local centres on the National Flood Forecasting System. The analysis is based on Wales and

the English geographical regions that align to the old Environment Agency region names.

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## **Research and analysis: Sediment budget analysis: practitioner guide**

The Environment Agency has developed a practitioner's guide on sediment budgets. The guide's main aim is to support flood and coastal erosion risk management practitioners by explaining the need for sediment budget analysis and developing best practice in its application. Use of the guide will provide consistency in the execution and interpretation of sediment budget analysis. It will also help to improve the transparency of decision-making, as the consistent approach will mean stakeholders have greater understanding in the supporting evidence used to calculate a sediment budget.

A sediment budget summarises the balance of inputs and outputs for a defined system (such as an estuary) and time period. This helps determine if a system has an overall surplus (accretion) or deficit (erosion) of material. If the accretion and erosion figures are equal, then the system is considered to be in balance.