

[News story: Open call for innovation](#)



image caption and accreditation

jHub Defence is inviting organisation's with innovative ideas which will benefit Joint Forces Command and wider defence.

We are looking for technology and processes that will help improve the capability of our joint force, in terms of effectiveness and efficiencies.

Your idea could be a product or service that is already developed or close to being developed. We are specifically interested in building military technology, where innovative digital technology can be adapted for military use.

Our 5 focus areas are:

- artificial intelligence
- autonomy
- data analytics
- simulation
- behavioural sciences

Please note we do not do scientific and technical research.

Our online submission service will be available soon.

Published 8 March 2018

[News story: Augmented Intelligence](#) [Infinity Awards: call for entries](#)

Call for entries for BT Infinity Awards: Augmented Intelligence. Photo: all rights reserved

The partners are on the hunt for SMEs with expertise in machine learning, robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Focusing on the theme of 'Augmented Intelligence,' this year's judges want to see ideas that harness both the data processing powers of technology and the expertise of human manpower.

The initiative is the latest in a series of BT Infinity Lab competitions, with a £30,000 prize pot up for grabs for three winners.

There are 3 categories in this year's competition, with a focus on the areas of defence, public services and retail.

The judges are keen to see innovations that could help provide more insight to the military when planning an operation, humanitarian mission or disaster relief. They would also like to see how robotics could be used to make a retail experience more personalised, or improve a customers' experience when they contact a public service.

In addition to £10,000, the winning start-ups will have the chance to develop their idea with the support of industry experts and tech gurus from BT for 6 months. They will also receive membership to TechHub's global entrepreneur community, workspace and support programme.

To enter, the SMEs will need to submit a 3 minute video explaining why their solution could be the next big tech innovation to help transform public services, retail or defence.

Amongst a range of executive public sector, retail and innovation experts from BT, this year's judges also includes:

- Co-Op CIO Simon Bourne
- General Sir Chris Deverell, Commander, Joint Forces Command, Ministry of Defence,
- Alison Pritchard, COO, Government Digital Service,
- Elizabeth Varley, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of TechHub
- a range of executive public sector, retail and innovation experts from BT

Oliver Dowden, Minister for Implementation, said:

The government is committed to transforming public services, making them as efficient and effective as possible so that they deliver the best services for taxpayers.

Small businesses play a vital role in helping us do this by harnessing the latest digital technologies. I am delighted that we are partnering with BT to highlight and support innovative small businesses in the tech sector.

Margot James, Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries, said:

We want the UK to be the best place to grow a digital business and this partnership will give our dynamic, up-and-coming innovators the opportunity to develop the technology of tomorrow.

I look forward to seeing these ideas become reality and help improve our public services so everyone can benefit from the technological revolution as we build a Britain fit for the future.

General Sir Chris Deverell, Commander, Joint Forces Command, Ministry of Defence, said:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to champion a Defence Challenge as part of the BT Infinity Awards. We are looking for innovative ways in which we can fully embrace digital capabilities, and thereby improve our effectiveness.

There are a wealth of opportunities in the fields of artificial intelligence and machine learning, including robotics, simulation and modelling. We are keen to learn from FinTech and apply similar technologies in the military sector to modernise Defence and create a MilTech ecosystem.

We're therefore reaching out to SMEs who can bring their innovations to this Defence challenge. Colm O'Neill, managing director of BT Business and Public Sector, said: "Last year, our research found that AI had divided the opinions of IT decision makers over whether it would replace or create jobs.

With that in mind, we launched this year's Infinity Labs competition with the theme 'Augmented Intelligence,' as we believe that there's still work to do to demonstrate that automated technologies and business processes can play to the strengths of both people and machines.

I'm looking forward to seeing all the entrants to this year's Infinity Labs competition and to working together on the innovations that we could see transform defence, public sector services and retail businesses in years to come.

Entries close on 12 March 2018. To find out more, visit: [BT Infinity Lab Augmented Intelligence](#) or join in the conversation on Twitter: [#BTInfinityAwards](#)

The winners will be announced after a judging event at the iconic BT Tower on the 24 April 2018.

Press release: Triple killer to spend longer behind bars

A man who murdered his ex-partner will spend more time in prison after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient.

Theodore Johnson, 64, was originally sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 26 years in January at the Central Criminal Court. The minimum term was increased today after the Solicitor's action, meaning Johnson will now serve at least 30 years behind bars.

Johnson, who had previously been convicted of the manslaughter of 2 former partners, attacked and killed his 51 year old ex-partner after she ended her relationship with him.

The Solicitor General presented the case personally to the Court of Appeal. Speaking after the hearing he said:

"This was a vicious and brutal attack which ended in the tragic death of a woman. The offender is a danger to women and his crimes deserved tougher sentencing. I am pleased the Court has now seen fit to increase the prison term."

Press release: Gibraltar and UK Government agree measures to ensure strong relationship continues

This was agreed during today's constructive Joint Ministerial Council (Gibraltar, European Negotiations) by Minister at the Department for Exiting the EU, Robin Walker and the Chief Minister for Gibraltar Fabian Picardo.

The package sets out how we will continue to collaborate closely in a range of important areas, such as on the environment, online gaming, financial services market access, transport and the level of university tuition fees during our Brexit negotiations and beyond.

The measures include a commitment to continued market access for financial services, assurance that British Citizens resident in Gibraltar will continue to be eligible for higher education home fee status at English Institutions, enhanced liaison on environmental issues, and that Gibraltar can continue to refer an unlimited number of their patients to the UK for free elective

treatment. The full details of the deal are available in the UK Government statement here [link].

Following the meeting, Minister Robin Walker said:

I'm delighted that the sixth meeting with Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and his team saw us agree this set of measures to ensure UK-Gibraltar ties will endure and strengthen.

Today we have agreed a positive package deal on issues surrounding our exit from the EU, once again demonstrating that we stand shoulder to shoulder with Gibraltarians in our unwavering commitment to the UK-Gibraltar relationship.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen said:

We know the people and businesses of Gibraltar have been asking for certainty, and we have heard them. We are ensuring that Gibraltar's access to UK markets will continue unchanged until 2020, even in the unlikely event of no deal being reached. This will give us the time we need to work with the Government of Gibraltar to design a new, modernised agreement, based on similar, high standards of regulation and enforcement.

Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo said:

Today our bilateral relationship grows stronger and the terms for it to endure are further cemented as we realise the commitment to maintain and enhance market access for Gibraltar service providers into the UK post-Brexit.

There is a lot to celebrate in this and a lot of hard work to recognise on the part also of the team in Gibraltar, in particular the Deputy Chief Minister and the Attorney General, and in the UK FCO, DExEU, Treasury, DCMS, Cabinet Office and Downing Street. I extend the gratitude of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar and the people of Gibraltar to all involved.

[Notice: CH41 1AW, United Utilities](#)

Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: United Utilities Limited
- Installation name: Birkenhead Waste Water Treatment Works – Sludge Treatment Facility
- Permit number: EPR/PP3330YU