

Press release: Business and civil society leaders form partnership to tackle challenges in society

The Partnership sees government, businesses and civil society working together to identify and develop solutions to societal challenges

Leaders from business and civil society organisations have come together to create an Inclusive Economy Partnership that will tackle significant challenges facing our society.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley chaired the first meeting on Monday 11th September 2017.

The Partnership is led by an Advisory Group of 14 chief executives from a wide range of businesses and civil society organisations, including National Grid, Nationwide, 02, TechUK, NCV0 and Big Lottery Fund. It is being convened by DCMS and Cabinet Office, with support from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Partnership will address issues relating to financial inclusion and capability, mental health and transition to work.

Over 80 individuals from business and civil society have already signed up to working groups for each of these areas, which will develop solutions to help tackle these issues over the coming months.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley said:

It was a hugely positive first meeting to kick start the Partnership which will help us build a stronger and fairer society. This Partnership brings together key leaders from the business sector and civil society world and working together we can help make a real difference to people's lives.

Chris Skidmore MP, Minister for the Constitution, said:

Government cannot tackle big societal challenges on its own which is why I am pleased to see collaboration and innovation at the heart of Partnership with the aim to positively impact the lives of hardworking families, removing barriers and creating opportunities.

The Group will meet at least twice a year over a three to five year period.

The Group is made up of:

- Olly Benzecry, managing director of Accenture UK & Ireland
- Sacha Romanovitch, chief executive of Grant Thornton
- John Pettigrew, chief executive of National Grid
- Joe Garner, chief executive of Nationwide Building Society
- Mark Evans, chief executive of O2
- Robert Noel, chief executive of Landsec
- Jacqueline de Rojas, president, techUK
- Caroline Mason, chief executive, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Mark Norbury, chief executive, UNLtd.
- Peter Holbrook, chief executive, Social Enterprise UK
- Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive, NCV0
- Dawn Austwick, chief executive, Big Lottery Fund
- Cliff Prior, chief executive, Big Society Capital

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Notes to editors

Media enquiries – please contact the DCMS News and Communications team on 020 7211 2210 or out of hours on 07699 751153.

To learn more about the Partnership please contact: iep@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Press release: PM statement: 20th anniversary of vote for creation of a Scottish Parliament

Twenty years ago today Scotland voted for the creation of the Scottish Parliament. That historic moment brought decision making closer to the people of Scotland and marked the beginning of a devolution process that has strengthened the precious Union between Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Since then, we have seen a wealth of new powers devolved to Holyrood, including through the Scotland Act 2016. Delivering the Smith Commission recommendations in full, the Act transferred a raft of significant powers, including on tax and welfare. As a result, the Scottish Parliament is now one of the most powerful devolved administrations in the world.

It is now for the Scottish Government to make full use of these powers to support the Scottish economy and to deliver the housing, education and healthcare services people in Scotland deserve.

The UK Government will not devolve and forget, we will continue to work with the Scottish Government to deliver for the people of Scotland. We may be four

nations, but at heart we are one people. Together we can build a stronger, fairer society for people in Scotland and right across the UK.

Press release: Dstl at DSEI

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) will be at the forefront of innovation at this year's Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI), with announcements on its latest projects, competitions and futuristic solutions to today's rapidly-evolving threats.

Based at the Innovation Hub in the North Hall, activity will include announcements on the [Defence and Security Accelerator's](#) Last Mile Challenge, which will bring commercial technology such as delivery drones to battlefield logistics. The first model of the Dragonfire laser directed energy weapon and cutting-edge technology with the latest designs for combat clothing and body armour will also be on display.

There will be news of the latest protection for armoured vehicles, and an opportunity to speak to some of our world-leading experts on everything from autonomous vehicles to threat early warning systems.

Today also marks the launch of Dstl's annual [graduate recruitment scheme](#); with 90 posts available in specialist science and technology research, advice and analysis. For ambitious, motivated and curious graduates, Dstl offers the chance to work on mind-blowing projects in a truly unique environment.

Katrina Ward, from Dstl's Early Careers team, said:

As a graduate you'll be supporting real projects from day one and work across your division to grow your technical skills and knowledge of defence. Our graduate scheme also provides a host of training and development opportunities including the chance to start your journey towards chartership.

Dstl can be found at stand N3582a at DSEI.

News story: New online service:

Request Historic Copies (HC1)

Business customers can now request historic copies of title registers and title plans online.

Following customer feedback, business customers can now apply for historic copies, which are previous editions of a title register or title plan, via [the portal](#), our online channel for transactions. Customers apply for these with [application form HC1](#).

The fee for lodging a request for an HC1 via the portal varies depends on which document(s) the customer requires. A historic copy of a title:

- register is £3
- plan is £7
- register and title plan in the same application is £7.

Please check our [fee information](#) as the fees quoted here are accurate on 11 September 2017 and may change over time.

We classify a request for a historic copy of a register as a preliminary application. Customers use preliminary applications to find information that they often need before they send us an application to update the register. The addition of this new service enables customers to lodge every type of preliminary application online, an important step in our [digital transformation](#).

Find out [how to make an HC1 application](#) in our latest user guide.

News story: Urban innovation in Singapore: opportunities for the UK

UK SMEs will travel to Singapore to meet potential partners this week – and there's a chance for you to join the next mission in 2018.

Eleven UK-based businesses will visit Singapore from 16 to 22 September 2017 as part of an Innovate UK global innovation mission.

The mission will support UK-Singapore partnerships in urban infrastructure. It aims to build bridges between the 2 countries and get UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to a position where they are aware and able to exploit the opportunities on offer.

Meet the UK delegation

Companies heading to Singapore this week include:

- [Amplyfi](#), whose proprietary AI platform, DataVoyant, interprets open source content online to deliver insights and impact on societal and consumer behaviour change
- [Brite Yellow](#), which provides indoor positioning, navigation, and virtual and augmented reality software-as-a-service platform (SaaS) for pedestrian smart mobility applications. This includes application in shopping centres, airports, train stations, hospitals and museums
- [Bronze Software](#), whose Framework42 product can be integrated into new and legacy systems, sensors and devices, to improve rail travel and station operations, support citizen engagement for local authorities and city flood resilience
- [CitiLogik](#), which analyses aggregated anonymised data to better understand vehicle and pedestrian movements to create a reliable picture of the interaction between static, slow moving, vehicle and rail movements
- [Connected Space](#), who are experts in product technology across connected (IoT) and emerging technologies, mobile and desk apps, with a particular focus on future cities. The company uses agile for rapid product development
- [DriverNet](#), a driver and customer facing app producer that connect logistics partners together via cloud infrastructure. It is able to improve the accuracy of navigation, provide drivers with site information in advance, and reduce queuing, congestion and emissions
- [EM Solutions](#), which pioneers AI, control systems, software development, networks and infrastructure, sensing technology, remote monitoring, systems integration, water management and sustainable drainage systems to ensure that regulations, legislation and environmental goals are met
- [Masabi](#), whose JustRide transit ticketing platform is a cloud-based, end-to-end mobile ticketing and fare collection system. It allows passengers to purchase tickets in any place at any time, reducing the costs to operators while improving the customer experience
- [MassiveAnalytic](#), with solutions including an intelligent transport system that gives early warning of heavy congestion, supports congestion management and enables smart parking, as well as AI technology for autonomous and connected cars
- [Quantimetrika](#), whose devices use voice recognition to interact with controlled devices, such as applications in internet of things and home automation
- [Red Ninja](#), which leverages open data from city systems to improve urban planning, transport systems and security. This includes clearing junctions of traffic for approaching ambulances, to speed up journey times

Building innovation and research partnerships

This is the second mission we've run under the Singapore urban bridges programme. These events:

- introduce UK delegates to Singaporean peers, partners, stakeholders and challenge-holders
- define the challenges and opportunities that can be addressed by UK-Singapore collaborations
- explore commercial and collaborative research and development opportunities in Singapore
- support consortium-building that will allow UK businesses to more easily exploit commercial opportunities

The activity is in line with government's UK-Singapore Innovation and Research Partnership and commitment to Singapore's [National Research Foundation](#) (NRF) to collaborate in support of innovation.

Take part in our next mission

We are now inviting applications for the next mission to Singapore. This is due to take place in early 2018.