

## [News story: The AAIB is sending a team to the Western Isles, Scotland](#)

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## [Press release: Unlocking of government's mapping and location data to boost economy by £130m a year](#)

As part of the Prime Minister's London Tech Week roundtable today, the government has announced that key parts of the OS MasterMap will be made openly available for the public and businesses to use.

It is estimated that this will boost the UK economy by at least £130m each year, as innovative companies and startups use the data.

The release of OS MasterMap data is one of the first projects to be delivered by the new Geospatial Commission, in conjunction with Ordnance Survey. The aim is to continue to drive forward the UK as a world leader in location data, helping to grow the UK's digital economy by an estimated £11bn each year.

This is a step on a journey towards more open geospatial data infrastructure for the UK.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, David Lidington, said

Opening up OS MasterMap underlines this Government's commitment to ensuring the UK continues to lead the way in digital innovation. Releasing this valuable government data for free will help stimulate innovation in the economy, generate jobs and improve public services.

Location-aware technologies – using geospatial data – are revolutionising our economy. From navigating public transport to tracking supply chains and planning efficient delivery routes, these digital services are built on location data that has become part of everyday life and business.

The newly available data should be particularly useful to small firms and entrepreneurs to realise their ideas and compete with larger organisations, encouraging greater competition and innovation.

OS MasterMap data already supports emerging technologies such as driverless vehicles, 5G and connected cities – important drivers of economic growth.

Today's announcement follows the launch of the first GovTech challenge in May this year – a competition designed to incentivise Britain's tech firms to come up with innovative solutions to improve public services. These competitions will be delivered using the £20m GovTech fund launched by the Prime Minister in November 2017.

Neil Ackroyd, Interim CEO of Ordnance Survey said:

Ordnance Survey holds the most accurate and comprehensive set of location data for Great Britain, making public sector services work more efficiently and helping to build innovative businesses across every sector of the economy.

Since its launch in 2001, OS MasterMap has been one of the most comprehensive and detailed geospatial reference datasets in the world. This latest development is another step on Ordnance Survey's open data journey. We're looking forward to supporting the Geospatial Commission in making this data more accessible and more widely used.

Read more information on the announcement [here](#).

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## **Statement to Parliament: Road safety: recent progress and future work**

A40 Stokenchurch –West Wycombe Buckinghamshire County Council £999,000  
2017/18 A628 Ashton-Under – Lyne – A62 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
£1,400,000 2019/20 A6033 – Hebden Bridge – Cross Roads Calderdale  
Metropolitan Borough Council £1,432,000 2019/20 A6033 – Hebden Bridge –  
Littleborough Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council £899,000 2019/20 A1303

Stowe-cum-Quy – Newmarket Bypass Cambridgeshire County Council £1,302,000  
 2017/18 A532 Ashton-Under – Lyne – A62 Cheshire County Council £1,030,500  
 2017/18 A536 Lower Heath A34 – Macclesfield Cheshire County Council  
 £2,310,000 2020/21 A537 Macclesfield – A34 Buxton Cheshire County Council  
 £2,490,000 2020/21 A3058 Quintrell Downs – Summercourt A30 Cornwall County  
 Council £1,160,000 2020/21 A3071 St Just – Penzance A30 Cornwall County  
 Council £1,940,000 2020/21 A684 M6 J37 – A1 Leeming Bar Cumbria County  
 Council £1,987,940 2018/19 A592 A591 Windermere – A66 Penrith Cumbria County  
 Council £7,440,000 2020/21 A619 Bakewell -Baslow Derbyshire County Council  
 £1,179,000 2018/19 A5012 A515 – A6 Cromford Derbyshire County Council  
 £3,079,000 2020/21 A5004 Buxton – Whaley Derbyshire County Council £2,540,000  
 2020/21 A3121 Ermington A37 – Wrangaton A38 Devon County Council £1,900,000  
 2019/20 A3123 Mullacott Cross A361 – A399 Devon County Council £2,200,000  
 2020/21 A67 A66 Bowes – Barnard Castle Durham County Council £528,000 2017/18  
 A161 Goole -Ealand East Riding of Yorkshire Council £3,861,000 2017/18 A4173  
 A38 – Pitchcombe A46 Gloucestershire County Council £2,160,000 2017/18 A27  
 Fareham – Cosham Hampshire County Council £178,000 2017/18 A32 Fareham –  
 Gosport Hampshire County Council £149,000 2017/18 A36 Wigley – Totton  
 Hampshire County Council £568,000 2017/18 A27 Fareham – Cosham Hampshire  
 County Council £600,000 2019/20 A32 Fareham – Gosport Hampshire County  
 Council £1,581,000 2019/20 A36 Wigley – Totton Hampshire County Council  
 £180,000 2019/20 A252 Charing A20 – Chilham A28 Kent County Council  
 £2,146,000 2019/20 A290 Canterbury – Seasalter Kent County Council £1,501,000  
 2020/21 A682 Barrowford -A65 Long Preston Lancashire County Council £450,000  
 2018/19 A588 Lancaster – Skippool A585 Lancashire County Council £1,904,000  
 2018/19 A683 Lancaster – A65 Kirkby Lonsdale Lancashire County Council  
 £3,110,000 2019/20 A6 Lancaster-M6 J33 Lancashire County Council £1,216,000  
 2019/20 A581 A59 Rufford – A49 Euxton Lancashire County Council £1,263,000  
 2020/21 A1084 Brigg – Caistor Lincolnshire County Council £1,245,000 2019/20  
 A631 Bishop Ridge – Market Rasen Lincolnshire County Council £645,000 2019/20  
 A631 Market Rasen – Louth Lincolnshire County Council £2,725,000 2020/21 A18  
 Laceby – Ludborough North East Lincolnshire Council £2,822,000 2018/19 A161  
 Urban Area North Lincolnshire Council £3,225,000 2020/21 A167 Topcliffe –  
 Carleton Miniott North Yorkshire County Council £900,000 2017/18 A684 M6 37 –  
 A1 Leeming Bar North Yorkshire County Council £7,065,000 2018/19 A682  
 Barrowford – Long Preston North Yorkshire County Council £615,000 2018/19  
 A6108 Ripon – Scotch Corner North Yorkshire County Council £2,972,000 2020/21  
 A371 Weston-Super- Mare A370 – Banwell North Somerset Council £982,000  
 2019/20 A634 Maltby – Blyth Nottinghamshire County Council £2,181,000 2017/18  
 A670 Ashton-under-Lyne – A62 Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council £962,000  
 2019/20 A361 Banbury – Chipping Norton Oxfordshire County Council £4,135,000  
 2017/18 A27 Fareham – Corsham Portsmouth £178,000 2017/18 A27 Fareham –  
 Corsham Portsmouth £61,000 2019/20 A529 Hinstock A41 – Market Drayton A53  
 Shropshire County Council £3,888,000 2018/19 A4 M4 J7 – M4 J5 Slough Borough  
 Council £1,711,000 2020/21 A57 M62 J7- Lingley Green St Helens Metropolitan  
 Borough Council £1,040,000 2019/20 A1290 Usworth – West Bolden Sunderland  
 Borough Council £210,000 2017/18 A1290 Usworth – West Bolden Sunderland  
 Borough Council £782,500 2020/21 A217 Reigate – Gatwick Surrey County Council  
 £1,117,000 2020/21 A126 Lakeside – Tilbury Thurrock Borough Council  
 £2,488,792 2020/21 A285 Petworth – Boxgrove West Sussex County Council  
 £1,532,000 2017/18

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## **News story: UK and Poland defence ministers hold their first meeting**

The agreement, which provides a framework for defence cooperation in areas such as training, information sharing and capability development, was the second such treaty to be signed with a European Union nation after France.

Defence Minister Guto Bebb said:

Meeting with Minister Sebastian Chwalek today has not only strengthened our ties with Poland, but provided both Governments a great opportunity to speak about future defence relationships.

Our defence and security cooperation is already strong, and this partnership between the two countries has real potential to benefit both our forces and our national interests going forward.

Today's meeting builds on the common ground we share, including the deployment of our troops to Poland under NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in the country, as we work together to protect our shared values, national security and people.

The Defence Capability and Industrial Dialogue was established last December, alongside the joint signing of the UK-Poland Treaty on Defence and Security Co-operation.

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## **Press release: Brazil and South Africa tech hubs launched to drive international growth**

New tech hubs to connect businesses in the UK with those in emerging digital markets will be launched in Brazil and South Africa, DCMS Secretary of State Matt Hancock announced during London Tech Week.

The Brazil and South African tech hubs will be formed of locally-engaged teams based in the respective British Embassy and High Commission. They will facilitate the sharing of UK expertise and best practice for digital tech with those countries, supporting local entrepreneurs, start-ups and

established tech companies through training and mentoring. The hubs will help to develop digital skills in Brazil and South Africa as well as strengthening partnerships on research and innovation and trade. They will also act as a link for businesses looking to scale up in or export to the UK.

The hub model is based on a successful world first tech partnership between the UK and Israel which has already led to 175 business partnerships, with a potential impact of over £800 million for the UK economy since 2011. It has also supported jobs growth by building a better skilled digital workforce in Israel. The model will be taken to the each country and tailored to the local market.

The announcement comes a week after new statistics published by DCMS showed that UK tech and digital firms have seen their international trade grow by more than 20 per cent. The UK digital and tech sectors exported more than £39 billion in services in 2016, up from £32 billion in 2015.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Matt Hancock said:

Britain is a nation of digital dynamos and we want the UK to be the best place in the world to start and grow a digital business, but we can go further. We are spearheading the global digital transformation and our network of tech hubs will connect us with some of the best emerging technology hotspots across the world.

International Tech Hubs will create positive change locally by supporting job creation, improving skills and boosting innovation partnerships, whilst strengthening our own booming digital economy even further.

Nigel Casey, British High Commissioner in South Africa said:

We're delighted to be launching a tech hub in South Africa. South Africa is cementing itself as one of the world's most exciting destinations for technology. The tech hub will help to position the UK as the go-to destination for South African tech startups looking to expand abroad. The skills training and other support that the hub will provide will also help to ensure that more people are able to benefit from South Africa's surging tech scene.

This will broaden our already strong economic partnership with Africa's most sophisticated and developed economy, and help South Africa ensure growth in the tech sector is more inclusive. The UK is invested in South Africa for the long term, and this new tech hub is one of the many ways that we are demonstrating that.

South Africa has one of the largest technology sectors in Africa and over a quarter of new startups in South Africa now list themselves as being in the technology sector. It has received the highest amount of investment in technology of any African country.

Brazil is the biggest economy in Latin America and accounts for over half of spend in the region on tech. The Department for International Trade has identified significant opportunities for UK companies in areas such as smart cities and Agritech. The Brazilian IT market is the 7th biggest in the world and the country has the 5th largest number of mobile phone and internet users in the world.

The two new tech hubs will join a global network which DCMS is rolling out. This includes the existing Israel tech hub and new UK-India tech hub announced earlier this year. They will work closely with DfID and FCO to realise the opportunities for Brazil and South Africa, and with DIT's network of Trade Commissioners, to ensure the full range of opportunities are realised for UK companies.

Over the next three years DCMS aims to expand the network of international tech hubs to more countries.

## **Notes to editors**

The initiative is funded by the Prosperity Fund, aimed at removing barriers to sustainable and inclusive growth in middle income countries, where 70% of the world's poor live. The Fund will also help to harness the potential of developing markets, boosting prosperity internationally, including for the UK through increased trade and investment.

The hubs will focus on three key areas; skills and capability development, digital ecosystem building, and facilitating links with UK businesses. This will help to build skilled, entrepreneurial and networked populations which will create jobs and address digital inequality.

The Hub model is based on the highly successful UK-Israel Tech Hub, which has generated £85 million worth of deals over the past five years, with a potential impact of over £800 million for the UK economy. The Israel Tech Hub was not ODA-funded but its model will be taken to the each country and tailored to the local market in these developing countries. Originally part-funded by DIT, the UK-Israel Tech Hub is now part-funded by DCMS.

For more information please call Dan Palmer in the DCMS Press Office on 02072112210