

[News story: Live longer, better, healthier: new innovation funding](#)

Nurse showing patient health data on tablet.

There will be new opportunities for UK businesses and researchers to apply for funding to develop new products and services that support people living more healthy, active lives as they get older.

This is government's announcement that it will invest £300 million to meet the needs of an ageing society – one of its [4 grand challenges](#) to get funding under the Industrial Strategy Fund, part of government's [Industrial Strategy](#).

It will draw on the expertise of the UK research base and leading industry to innovate and keep people fit, well and active for longer.

Support people as they age

The UK is getting older as a country. One in 12 people today are over 75-years-old. By 2040, it's thought this will be around one in 7. We're also living for longer. A third of children born this year are expected to live to be 100.

Up to 98 million will be invested in research and innovation that supports people as they age and their carers'.

This challenge will get businesses working on ideas that allow people to live better and independently for longer, building on the research that comes out of academic institutions, research and technology organisations and hospitals.

It's an opportunity to revolutionise the way we age, with products and services that give everyone the best chance to continue to be active and independent.

[ISCF Wave 2 Healthy Ageing](#)

Identify problems to treat them earlier

Identifying diseases and conditions early is usually the best way to contain them later on. They can be mitigated, managed and made to have a less serious impact on a patient's quality of life.

Once diagnosed, it's important that a patient gets the right treatment. Through an improved understanding of a disease and its characteristics, it means that the best treatment for the individual can be selected first time.

The £210 million being invested in this challenge support the early diagnosis

of patients and the development of precision medicine to treat them.

The research sector will look at improve how we use the health data we have in the UK to better identify diseases, even before clinical symptoms emerge. This includes sequencing the genomes of 500,000 Biobank volunteers to create a data-rich resource and improve understanding.

Using the data available, businesses will be called on to develop innovative new diagnostic tools, medical products and therapies that support the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and improve patient care.

[ISCF Wave 2 – from data to early diagnosis and precision medicine](#)

Find out about funding

The funding programme for the challenge will run in 2018 and 2019. There will be various funding opportunities for businesses to apply into over the 2 years.

It will be made available through [UK Research and Innovation](#), which becomes an official organisation on 1 April 2018, bringing together the 7 research councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

[News story: NDA shows off its expertise on the world stage](#)

Addressing hundreds of delegates at the 2018 Civil Nuclear Showcase, Dr Simper told the audience that “all aspects of the NDA’s experience is commercially available”.

Run by the UK’s Department of International Trade, the event promotes opportunities for international collaboration across all areas of the nuclear sector.

Dr Simper highlighted the progress being made in decommissioning and hazard reduction at the NDA’s 17 nuclear sites across the UK, including:

- the removal of waste from the oldest and most challenging plants at the Sellafield site in West Cumbria
- the removal of almost all of the spent nuclear fuel from the Magnox nuclear reactors
- innovative technology being used to safely carry out decommissioning work in a variety of challenging and hazardous environments

Dr Simper said:

The UK nuclear industry leads the world in many areas of its work to decommission and clean up the legacy from the earliest days of the civil nuclear legacy,

Even though we have different reactor types, our waste management, decommissioning and spent fuel management capabilities are very applicable to Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China and other markets.

We are eager to work with international suppliers and industry colleagues, maximising the benefit of our learning and experience.

The event provides an opportunity to network with a diverse mix of senior international and UK delegates representing government, utilities, technology providers, major contracting companies and all tiers of the supply chain.

Recently, technology that was developed through NDA funding was used to measure radiation levels in the damaged Fukushima reactors. The RISER drone carries a sophisticated radiation detection and mapping system which was originally used to examine conditions in the remaining Windscale Pile chimney at Sellafield.

[News story: Record-breaking turbines leave Wylfa](#)

The last remaining Proteus Gas Turbines in use anywhere in the world were stood down on 20 January 2018 after 47 years of faithful service

Wylfa is seeking a new home for 5 ageing back-up generators whose illustrious cousin, the Rolls-Royce Proteus Gas Turbine Generator, famously powered Donald Campbell's Bluebird CN7 as it smashed the world land speed record in 1964.

The first 4 generators, each capable of 3MW output, provided essential standby electricity in the event that normal supplies were lost.

In 1983, a fifth Proteus turbine was installed to provide additional power to Wylfa's Secondary Dry Store Cells, used to hold spent nuclear fuel after being removed from the reactors.

They were believed to be the last remaining Proteus Gas Turbines in use anywhere in the world but, after 47 years of faithful service, they were stood down on 20 January 2018.

When electricity generation at Wylfa ended in 2015 the site's Electrical Overlay System was capable of providing back-up electricity supplies and

there was no further need for the gas turbines.

The Proteus engine has a distinguished history: having seen naval service in fast torpedo boats, powered the Bluebird CN7 car used by Donald Campbell to break the world land speed record in 1964, powered cross-channel hovercraft until 2000 and provided essential supplies to Magnox's Oldbury Power Station in Gloucestershire.

The gas turbines will be disconnected and all potential hazards removed, such as oils and batteries, before the asset disposals team sets about finding them a new home.

[Press release: Mucking in together in Tyneside](#)

Around 80,000 cubic meters of soil, that's enough to fill 32 Olympic sized swimming pools, is being reused to help form the embankments on a nearby scheme.

By reusing this material it will benefit both schemes by reducing vehicle movements and costs. Transporting the soil will involve more than 10,000 lorry movements totalling over 60,000 miles.

The A19 Coast Road scheme is digging deep to remove the earth to form an underpass, creating the first triple decker roundabout in the North East.

As the soil is removed it will be transported to a site in Wardley where it will be stored to create the embankments for the A19 Testos's scheme.

Highways England's project manager for the A19 Testos scheme Paul Ahdal said:

This is just one of the many examples where Highways England is re-using materials which will not only reduce costs but also provide environmental benefits for both schemes.

Both of the schemes will provide smoother journeys for drivers along the A19 as they will no longer need to negotiate the roundabouts. Work on the A19 Coast Road involves digging out an underpass and the A19 Testos's involves creating a flyover structure over the roundabout. The excess soil will be used to form the embankments for the Testos's scheme which is due to start in 2019 in the same year Coast Road is due to be completed.

This is just one of the ways the A19 Coast Road team is re-using or recycling excess material from site in line with Highways England's Sustainable

Development Strategy.

Around 250 tonnes of the old road surface has been donated to Benton Quarry Park in Benton and 160 metres of steel fence from the central reservation has been donated to Stephenson Railway Museum in North Shields.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Speech: Commonwealth has key role to play in the bright future for Britain: article by Boris Johnson](#)

Do you know what occasion attracted one of the biggest mass gatherings in the history of East Africa? A Bob Marley concert, perhaps? Or a Papal visit? In fact, it was the Queen's arrival in Uganda to open a Commonwealth summit that inspired hundreds of thousands of people to come together in 2007.

As Her Majesty and Prince Philip drove from Entebbe Airport to the capital, Kampala, they were greeted by cheering crowds lining every inch of the 20-mile route. I cannot imagine any head of state except the Queen – or any international organisation except the Commonwealth – stirring such popular enthusiasm.

So I'm delighted to report to readers of the Sunday Express that Her Majesty will be opening another [Commonwealth summit](#) on April 19 and this time the occasion will be here in London.

We are unlikely to rival Uganda when it comes to mass gatherings – something that will be of comfort to the Metropolitan Police – but this event will demonstrate the immense value of the Commonwealth, now and in the future. In some countries, international meetings happen in plate glass conference centres – think sumptuous and functional but, dare I say it, rather bland.

That's not how Britain does these things, certainly not when the occasion is so special. We will hold the summit in Buckingham Palace, Lancaster House and St James's Palace. On the final day, the leaders will travel to Windsor Castle. I hope this will be a uniquely memorable gathering, showing just how

much importance Britain attaches to the Commonwealth. And I believe that our faith is amply justified.

As we celebrate Commonwealth Day tomorrow, the Commonwealth's 53 members comprise a third of humanity. Of those 2.4 billion people spread across 6 continents, 60% are under the age of 30. They are joined with us by ties of history and friendship and the English language. They share our values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. And our natural affinity finds its expression through the institution of the Commonwealth.

When you're looking for future opportunities, any good businessperson will tell you to go where the growth is. And for decades, if you untangle the numbers, you will discover some remarkable facts. Since Britain decided to join what became the European Union in 1972, the EU has recorded average annual economic growth of just over 2%. Yet, over the same period, the Commonwealth's economies have expanded twice as fast – by an average of 4.4% every year. Today, the Commonwealth has a combined GDP of \$10.5 trillion, accounting for almost 14% of the global economy.

India alone has an economy of \$2.3 trillion and annual growth of 7% – faster than any EU country. All of this represents a huge opportunity for British business.

The good news is that when we leave the EU, we will regain the power to sign free trade agreements with our Commonwealth friends, allowing the UK to make the most of thriving markets. Brexit will give us the ability to open a new era of friendship with countries across the world.

A key theme of the London summit will be how to boost trade within the Commonwealth. We'll also discuss how to improve security co-operation and take joint action to protect the world's oceans, bearing in mind that the Commonwealth includes island states in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean.

And I will ensure that the summit focuses on the terrible injustice that deprives millions of girls of the chance to go to school. At this moment, over 130 million girls across the world are not in the classroom, many of whom – alas – live in Commonwealth countries.

My aim is for all governments to promise to deliver 12 years of quality education and learning for every child. The fact that we will discuss such a wide range of subjects – trade, security, girls' education, protecting the oceans – is yet more proof of the value of the Commonwealth.

This is going to be a great summit and a huge opportunity for a Global Britain.