

# Press release: More than £3m invested in space exploration

A further £230,000 of funding has been awarded to studies into experiments that could be built and flown to the International Space Station (ISS), which could potentially support future human exploration of space.

The £3 million from the UK Space Agency Aurora Science programme, which is exploiting the data from robotic exploration, including our major investment in ESA's ExoMars mission, will target questions of past and present life on Mars, investigating the presence of water and the geochemical environment as well as atmospheric trace gases and their sources.

Science Minister, Jo Johnson, said:

"Science enables and shapes the UK's future in space exploration. This government funding will play a vital role in ensuring UK academics can continue to study the secrets of our solar system, from the polar regions of the Moon to the potential of life on Mars.

"Research and innovation are at the core of our Industrial Strategy, and by investing in these types of projects, we are reinforcing our position as a world leader in these important and exciting areas."

The £3 million has gone to 17 academics and individual scientists working at UK research organisations. The scientific objectives of the first mission in the Aurora programme, ExoMars, are to understand Mars's environment and its atmosphere.

In addition, £230,000 of funding has been awarded to the UK microgravity and space environments community in academia and industry. Four proposals have been funded, which will study concepts and designs for experiments which will deliver high quality science on the ISS as part of a national science programme.

British ESA astronaut Tim Peake was involved in many experiments during his sixth-month mission on the ISS from December 2015 to June 2016, including several with contributions from UK scientists.

Libby Jackson, Human Spaceflight and Microgravity Programme Manager at the UK Space Agency, said:

"Microgravity science in the UK has grown rapidly since we joined the ISS programme back in 2012. Any future mission to the ISS represents a really exciting opportunity to build on this and to ensure that the UK science community is properly placed to capitalise on the research opportunities that such a flight would offer."

The studies undertaken will address how high quality science can be implemented within the constraints of the ISS and provide an accurate cost

for the full flight experiment.

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## **[News story: RAF football team play Irish Defence Forces](#)**

The Royal Air Force Ladies football team travelled to Dublin to play an Irish Defence Forces team and promote defence relations between Ireland and the UK.

In wet and blustery conditions in late September, the Royal Air Force team started well, dominating possession and creating chances. However, a shot from the Irish side caught the RAF goalkeeper off guard to make it 1-0. The second half brought a flurry of chances for the visitors, but the Irish Defence Forces team put away another goal to end the match 2-0. A well-disciplined match, with strong and competitive performances from both sides, it was fantastic preparation for the Royal Air Force team in their campaign to retain their Inter-Services title in March 2018.

Following the match, the Irish Defence Forces team hosted their Royal Air Force visitors to dinner where the teams exchanged gifts, and Senior Aircraftwoman Rachael Rutherford was awarded player of the match.

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## **Government response: Cancer Research UK's campaign about the Early Diagnosis Workforce**

The Department of Health's response to the Cancer Research UK campaign.

In September, Cancer Research UK (CRUK) started [a campaign](#) urging the government to train and employ more NHS diagnostic staff.

This is the government's response:

Cancer is a priority for this government and survival rates are at a record high, with 7,000 more people surviving cancer compared to 3 years ago. This is thanks to great efforts to diagnose cancer earlier and the incredible care cancer staff provide patients day in and day out.

The government knows it needs to get the right staff in place. This is why Health Education England will publish a comprehensive cancer workforce plan by the end of the year. NHS England will continue to drive forward implementation of the independent Cancer Taskforce's recommendations, as the department strives to save an extra 30,000 lives a year by 2020.

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## **Press release: Boston Prime director banned for 12 years**

Boston Prime Ltd went into Special Administration on 9 February 2015 owing over £8 million to creditors. Following an investigation by the Insolvency Service, George Alex Popescu has been disqualified from acting as a director for 12 years.

A disqualification order was made in the High court on 2 August 2017.

The court found Popescu had breached his fiduciary duties to act in the best interest of Boston Prime and failed to ensure that both Boston Prime, and himself individually, as the approved person, complied with the FCA's rules and guidance, following a proposed conditional sale of the company to a multinational group of companies in July 2014, which subsequently did not complete.

The Insolvency Service's investigators discovered that Popescu relinquished control of Boston Prime's affairs, including control of its bank accounts and books and records, to the purchaser following the proposed sale, without informing the FCA of the sale or change in control and that after he relinquished control.

The investigation also found he caused or allowed adjustments to be made of over \$3 million to client's trading accounts which were subsequently disputed by clients; caused or allowed the transfer of \$3 million from a trading account of Boston Prime to that of connected company and caused or allowed payments totalling \$6.2 million to be made to two connected companies.

When asked to explain these transactions by the Insolvency Service's investigators, Popescu was unable to provide the precise details or their legitimacy.

Commenting on the disqualification, Robert Clarke, Investigations Group Leader at The Insolvency Service, said:

Directors have a duty to ensure that they exercise sufficient control over company operations to ensure that the company complies with relevant regulations and that its transactions can be accounted for.

This disqualification should serve as a warning to other directors who fail to fulfil their duties.

## **Notes to editors**

Boston Prime Limited (Company No. 07435569) was incorporated on 10 November 2010.

George Alex Popescu was born in October 1981 and was registered with Companies House as a director of Boston Prime Limited between 10 November 2010 and 9 February 2015. He was disqualified from acting as a director or being concerned in the promotion, formation or management of a company for a period of 12 years on 2 August 2017.

Boston Prime Limited was incorporated on 10 November 2010 and traded from Citypoint Suite 1248, 1 Ropemaker Street, London, EC2Y 9HT.

When Boston Prime Limited went into Special Administration on 9 February 2015, the company disclosed assets estimated to realise £770,820, and liabilities to creditors of £8,185,981.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company

- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

## Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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## [News story: UK reiterates support to the fight against Boko Haram](#)

During the visit, Minister for the Armed Forces saw first-hand the support the UK is providing to the Nigerian Armed Forces leading the fight against Boko Haram in North East Nigeria.

Almost 700 UK military personnel have deployed on a range of short term training tasks in support of the BMATT since early 2015. Crown copyright.

As well as meeting those delivering expert training to the Nigerian Armed Forces through the resident British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT), the Minister met with UK personnel in the Liaison and Support Team (LST) based in the North East of the country. The LST provides non-lethal operational advice and guidance to the Nigerian Armed Forces as they tackle the terror threat of Boko Haram.

Minister for the Armed Forces, Mark Lancaster, said:

The UK stands united with Nigeria in the international fight against terror. With our world class military expertise, we are

helping the Nigerian military develop the skills necessary to tackle the threat of Boko Haram.

From expert operational guidance and medical mentoring in the North East, to counter explosive device training across the country, the UK is leading the way in its commitment to supporting a safe and stable Nigeria.

Nigeria is a key partner for the UK in West Africa. Throughout the week, the Minister visited various Nigerian defence institutions currently receiving military support from UK training packages, and met with senior Nigerian military officials in Abuja to discuss how the UK and Nigeria can continue to work together to meet the complex challenges facing the country.

The UK shares a deep and long-standing Defence partnership with Nigeria, and over 40 UK personnel are deployed on an enduring basis in country to coordinate training and advisory support. Crown copyright.

At Makurdi and in Kaduna State, the Minister spoke to Nigerian troops receiving training from UK personnel. Courses and training packages delivered to date have covered topics including infantry skills and tactics, response to terrorist attacks, bomb scene management and airfield defence, operational planning and leadership, enabling the Nigerian military to tackle terrorist threats more effectively and better defend the provision of humanitarian relief.

The UK shares a deep and long-standing Defence partnership with Nigeria, and over 40 UK personnel are deployed on an enduring basis in country to coordinate training and advisory support. The UK is not only increasing counter-terrorism cooperation with Nigerian partners, but British military personnel are also working alongside US and German allies in a multinational effort to step up counter improvised explosive device support.

Alongside France and the US, the UK is assisting in regional coordination and intelligence sharing arrangements between Nigeria and its neighbours, with a small number of UK personnel deployed alongside the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) headquarters in N'Djamena, Chad. The UK was one of the first donors to support the MNJTF, with £5 million to help equip the force.

Almost 700 UK military personnel have deployed on a range of short term training tasks in support of the BMATT since early 2015, many from 7 Infantry Brigade (the famous Desert Rats), and the RAF Regiment, which is helping to develop its Nigerian counterpart.

Over 28,500 members of the Nigerian military have received UK training and Defence education in this time. The UK remains committed to strengthening its strategic partnership with Nigeria, and will continue to deliver world class training to help the Nigerian military adapt to meet the modern security challenges facing the country.