

Press release: Plan launched to bring smart energy technology into homes and businesses

A plan to give homes and businesses more control over their energy use and support innovative new technologies, as part of the Industrial Strategy, was set out by Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark today (24 July 2017).

The innovative plan will transform how homes and businesses store and use energy. It will deliver a smarter, more flexible energy system by removing barriers to smart and battery technology, reducing costs for consumers. The report, '[Upgrading our energy system](#)' describes how the UK energy system is changing and how it can ensure economic benefits for businesses and households. Over a quarter of the UK's electricity is being generated through renewables such as wind and solar, much of it located close to homes and businesses. New technologies that help store and manage energy are emerging and the costs are falling.

These changes provide an opportunity to create new businesses and jobs in the UK. At the same time new smart technologies like smart meters – and appliances you can control from your mobile phone – along with other improvements to manage the energy system will help the country save up to £40 billion on energy costs over decades to come.

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said:

Upgrading our energy system to make sure it is fit for the future is a key part of our Industrial Strategy. A smarter energy system will create opportunities to reduce energy costs, increase productivity and put UK businesses in a leading position to export smart energy technology and services to the rest of the world.

By rolling out smart meters, enabling suppliers to offer lower tariffs and making it easier for firms to develop smart appliances and gadgets, the plan will help consumers use energy when it is cheapest or get rewarded for returning it to the grid when it is needed.

The plan also recognises the role that energy storage can play in a smart energy grid and the opportunities presented by falling costs of battery technologies designed to store surplus energy. To allow industry to exploit these new technologies government and Ofgem have committed to removing barriers to the introduction of this technology into our power network.

Andrew Wright, Senior Partner, Energy Systems, Ofgem, said:

The way we are generating and using energy in Britain is changing

rapidly. Today's plan sets out how Ofgem, government and the industry will work together to modernise the energy system and make sure consumers get the benefits of the changes.

We want to open the door to new technologies and services so that they can help to reduce bills for consumers in the long term. It is vital that we get the changes in place as there is potential for a smarter system to save consumers billions between now and 2050.

The plan will also make it easier for new businesses to help customers that are interested in reducing, or increasing, their energy use at certain times, which can help balance the calls on the electricity network.

As part of the Industrial Strategy, the government has committed to modernising the UK's energy system and developing a business environment where new entrants to the market can compete. This will also allow industry to develop innovative new products and services, creating thousands of jobs.

Chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission Lord Adonis said:

Upgrading our energy systems is vital if we are to have clean, affordable and secure supply for the long-term and meet our targets for reducing carbon emissions.

This plan is a clear step forward, and was one of the 12 key infrastructure decisions we said needed to be made as a matter of urgency. I'm particularly pleased that many of the 29 points listed today directly follow recommendations in our Smart Power report.

Our study demonstrated the revolution our energy sector is going through, and the real benefits we can get from that in terms of greater efficiency, flexibility and value for money for customers. The measures announced today will lead to exciting innovations in the industry to help make that happen.

The full implementation of the plan to move to a smarter energy system alongside other changes could help save the country up to £40 billion over the coming decades, according to [research conducted for BEIS by Imperial College and the Carbon Trust.](#)

British company Moixa offers residential battery systems which can help manage energy demands across the electricity network, make better use of energy generated by rooftop solar panels, and enable suppliers to reward consumers who charge their batteries during periods of low demand, when prices are lower. These systems have been deployed in nearly 1,000 homes across the UK, and Moixa calculate that they could help consumers save up to 60% on their electricity bills.

Simon Daniel, CEO of Moixa Energy Holdings said:

Moixa welcomes this plan which recognises the central importance of energy storage in upgrading the UK Energy System – and the potential to save £40 billion off future customer bills. The regulatory improvements proposed and Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund will help storage providers like Moixa participate better in energy markets, and enable our Utility partners to deliver smart tariffs to customers. The actions will make the UK a global leader for new smart technologies and accelerate the transition to a cost-effective, resilient and low carbon energy system.

News story: Crossrail 2: a way forward

Joint statement on Crossrail 2 from the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

Last week the Transport Secretary Chris Grayling and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan had a productive meeting to discuss the way forward for Crossrail 2. They agreed that there is no doubt London needs new infrastructure to support its growth and ensure it continues as the UK's economic powerhouse – boosting productivity and attracting investment. While London has shown how it could pay for half of the scheme over its life, the Mayor and Transport Secretary want to see how London could fund half of the scheme during construction. They agree on the need to ensure a funding package which works for both London and the rest of the country and recognises other priorities, but also delivers the new capacity and connectivity that London needs.

They agreed a way forward in the coming months to examine ways to improve affordability while maximising the key benefits of the scheme, learning lessons from Crossrail 1, ahead of this autumn's Budget.

Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling said:

I am a supporter of Crossrail 2 but given its price tag we have to ensure that we get this right. The Mayor and I have agreed to work together on it over the coming months to develop plans that are as strong as possible, so that the public gets an affordable scheme that is fair to the UK taxpayer. Following a successful outcome being reached I am keen to launch a fresh public consultation to help gather views to improve the scheme and clarify the position around the safeguarded route.

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said:

Crossrail 2 is essential for the future prosperity of London and the south-east, so I'm pleased that the Transport Secretary and I have reached an agreement to take this vital project forward. We will continue to work together to ensure the project is value for money and provides the maximum benefits for jobs and growth in the region over the coming decades. I look forward to moving to the next stage of consultation.

News story: World Class Innovators at the MOD

Announced by the Defence Secretary in Oxford in February, the Panel will be charged with driving forward the MOD's Innovation Initiative, which aims to encourage imagination, ingenuity and entrepreneurship, in pursuit of maintaining a military advantage in the future. Today's session introduced the panel to key aspects of the MOD's work: from operations and research to partnerships with business and support for jobs and the economy.

The panel members are:

- Former Chairman of McLaren Technology Group, Ron Dennis CBE (co-Chair)
- Former CEO of GlaxoSmithKline, Sir Andrew Witty (co-Chair)
- Army Air Corps officer and European Space Agency astronaut, Major Tim Peake CMG,
- Former Director of GCHQ, Robert Hannigan CMG, and
- Chief Executive of Innovate UK Dr Ruth McKernan CBE.

Minister for Defence Procurement Harriett Baldwin said:

Our £800 million Innovation Initiative will help our Armed Forces maintain their edge into the future, where ever-evolving technologies present new challenges and opportunities. That's why we have committed to spending 1.2% of our £36 billion growing defence budget on science and technology.

The Innovation Panel will help meet the complex challenges of the 21st Century, while delivering the high-wage, high-skills jobs of the future; and it's particularly fitting that we welcome astronaut Major Tim Peake as I announce the UK's leading role in cutting-edge satellite research.

The Panel will drive the MOD's partnerships with the UK's most-influential and forward-looking innovators and ensure the Department is driving the right

change at the necessary pace to meet its goals for the future. This might involve advising on individual projects, promoting dialogue with industry, or reviewing the MOD's Innovation strategy.

Chairman of McLaren Technology Group, Ron Dennis said:

Innovation is at the heart of what keeps the UK safe, so I'm delighted to join my fellow Panel Members—all world-leaders in their fields—to get to grips with the challenge of guaranteeing our security through innovation in Defence's technology, culture, and research.

UK Space Innovation

UK space scientists at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) are at the forefront of this drive for innovation; and Mrs Baldwin announced today that the UK is leading an innovative experiment to tackle the growing problem of space junk. If this problem is not addressed, space junk threatens to make space exploration and satellite launches impossible. It also poses a hazard to existing satellites, which make an important contribution to the UK's military capability.

To tackle this problem, Dstl is leading the UK element of the Daedalus experiment – part of the Space Situational Awareness Project in Dstl's Space Programme – which is exploring the effect on satellites of so-called Icarus 'de-orbit sails'. When deployed, the sail increases drag, causing a controlled descent into the Earth's atmosphere where the satellite will burn up.

Innovation driving UK prosperity

Defence Innovation drives UK prosperity. This is demonstrated in a new report by independent economics consultancy SQW, which shows how Ploughshare Innovations, Dstl's commercialisation arm, has directly contributed to UK growth through the creation of hundreds of jobs and multi-million pound export deals. They have:

- Created 585 jobs since 2005;
- Seen an increase of 70% in exports from £44 million to £75 million since 2015;
- Attracted £140 million worth of investment for spin-out companies.

Ploughshare's work has contributed to the development of advanced vehicle armour, electronic warfare software, and bio and chemical threat detection. This also supports UK supply chains: 85% of the suppliers for the vehicle armour are UK-based. Ploughshare's achievements include:

- Ebola Detection Kit – Ploughshare helped to market Dstl technology that provides a screening test for the Ebola virus, trialled in Sierra Leone to support those affected.

- Rapid Biothreat and Explosives Detection – Ploughshare licensed technology for a device to identify powders or liquids in just 15 minutes.
 - Autonomous Boats – licensed to ASV Global, this technology provides an autonomous navigation system which allows Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) to operate safely and remotely at high speed.
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Press release: Exceptionally rare Roman figurine at risk of leaving the UK

Arts Minister John Glen has placed a temporary export bar on an exceptionally rare bronze Roman figurine to provide an opportunity to keep it in the country.

The figure may be wearing a hooded woollen cloak known as the birrus Britannicus, which is specifically noted as being British in the Edict of Diocletian in 301AD.

It is extremely unusual for portable art from this period of Roman rule to depict a distinctively British character. Figures are usually shown wearing hooded garments of a different style common to Gaul and the North-Western provinces.

The level of detail displayed in this figurine and the quality of its execution are particularly fine.

Arts Minister John Glen said:

This exceptionally rare figurine is a fascinating representation of a distinctly British character.

I hope that a buyer comes forward to help keep this unique object in the UK so that current and future generations can continue to enjoy it.

The decision to defer the export licence follows a recommendation by the [Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest \(RCEWA\)](#), administered by The Arts Council.

RCEWA member Leslie Webster said:

This small bronze figurine gives an important new glimpse into the

clothing of our Romano-British ancestors.

It has been suggested that he wears the distinctive birrus britannicus, or hooded British woollen cloak, which, with the quiver on his back, identifies the male figure as a hunter, suitably kitted out for cold and rainy weather.

Both the style and the braided decoration of the cloak is unparalleled in art, supporting the thesis that this is a unique depiction of a specifically British garment, recorded in the early 4th century AD as a significant export within the wider Roman Empire.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the figurine's outstanding significance for the study of provincial Roman costume in the province of Britannia.

The decision on the export licence application for the figurine will be deferred until 23 September 2017. This may be extended until 23 November 2017 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £550.

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the figurine should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

An image of the figurine can be downloaded via our [flickr site](#).

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Notes to editors

1. Details of the figurine are as follows: A figurine of a man wearing a hooded cloak, made of copper alloy 65 mm high, 48mm wide and 17 mm thick, weight 65.8g. Maker unknown, probably Romano-British. Dated between 43-410 AD. In good but incomplete condition; the lower parts of the legs and arms are missing.
2. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.
3. The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. www.artscouncil.org.uk.

Press release: **Zambian Chevening Scholars donate to charity**

The donation to Dorothy's Dream, a community school for underprivileged children in Chainda, Lusaka, is part of the many activities that Chevening Alumni, a body of scholars who were sponsored by the British Government to study in the UK, has planned to support communities and contribute to Zambia's development.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the Acting High Commissioner Andrew Hamilton said:

"I am delighted to see Zambians who have studied at top UK universities using not only their skills and knowledge acquired to contribute significantly to Zambia's development but also supporting their local communities through volunteerism, a culture that is common both in the UK and Zambia."

"The UK has a global reputation for excellence in the field of education and skills, rooted in our centuries-old yet forward-looking educational system. It's a tradition of learning that we continue to share with the world, including Zambia. It is gratifying to see Zambian future leaders who spent time studying in UK contributing to such a worthwhile cause."

Mr Hamilton said one of the Information Technology (IT) experts from among the Chevening Alumni has volunteered to train pupils and staff at the school so that they are empowered with IT skills that will enable them to use the computers effectively.

1. Chevening Scholarships are the UK government's global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations. The programme makes awards to outstanding scholars with leadership potential from around the world to study Postgraduate courses at universities in the UK.
2. Since 1985, over 150 Zambians have studied in the UK under the Chevening Scheme. In 2017, the UK government will be sending seventeen Zambian scholars under Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK in various fields at universities. Chevening and its predecessor schemes have been operating in Zambia since 1983. Over 150 Zambians have studied in the UK under the Chevening Scheme.
3. The four universities in the world's top six are: Oxford, Cambridge, University College London and Imperial College London. Oxford has educated more world leaders than any other university, and Cambridge

graduates have won 65 Nobel Prizes.

4. Chevening Scholarships are aimed at future leaders, influencers and decision-makers. The aim is for them to return to their country of origin after their studies.
5. Chevening Scholarships are currently offered in approximately 110 countries, in most regions of the world. In the current academic year, there are over 1500 Chevening scholars at universities across the UK. In Zambia, Chevening Scholarships are administered by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) on behalf of the FCO.
6. Application window for Chevening Scholarships for the academic year 2017/18 will open and must be submitted online between 7 August and 15 November 2017 on the [Chevening website](#). Applicants should read the online guidance and be able to demonstrate how they meet the Chevening selection criteria before submitting an application.
7. For further information on Chevening Scholarships please visit our social media platforms. [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our [website](#).
8. Numbering around 46,000 worldwide, Chevening Alumni are an influential and highly regarded group comprising people that have studied at some of the UK's top universities under the prestigious Chevening scholarship scheme. The Chevening Alumni Zambia chapter is a registered association of former recipients of the Chevening scholarships formed to serve as a platform for networking amongst alumni and to use their professional skills to contribute to the development of Zambia.

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