

High-tech route for silo waste

News story

We know that removing nuclear waste from our Pile Fuel Cladding Silo is one of our biggest challenges at Sellafield.



The high-tech Direct Import Facility

To do it we'll fill tens of thousands of specially created boxes. And move them to specially built stores through our multi-million pound Box Encapsulation Plant Product Store Direct Import Facility (BEPPS-DIF).

We now know the process for moving the boxes works – because we've tested it.

Work on building the infrastructure to deliver our mission has continued through COVID-19 and a harsh winter. BEPPS-DIF will be integral to dealing with the waste brought from our legacy silos.

It's the DIF part of the operation that will bring the 3 metre cubed boxes full of waste safely and securely into our stores.

This high-tech facility is the vital bit between the waste coming out of the silo and being stored in one of our product stores.

The project has now brought a test package through the path from the DIF into the facility's transfer cell, completing the latest round of commissioning and showing, on the video below, the route our waste will take.

The current date for real waste to start coming through the facility is summer 2022.

This week the project celebrates another milestone as we move towards that date – the handover of its first pipework system to commissioning. System 905 will provide process air supply to the air skates that will lift the crane maintenance area shield door.

Project manager Mike Robinson, Sellafield Ltd said:

Achieving this milestone will complete level 2 commissioning on the shield door, is vital for the completion of all plant performance demonstrations and will provide invaluable learning to support the handover of the remaining pipework systems.

Here's how the facility will help us create a clean and safe environment for future generations.

[The Box Encapsulation Plant Product Store and Direct Import Facility – High-tech route for waste](#)

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[Chancellor prioritises climate change and urged support for vulnerable countries in first UK G7 Finance Meeting](#)

News story

The Chancellor today called on his international counterparts to make climate and nature considerations a central part of all economic and financial decision-making in 2021.



- Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak co-hosted the first G7 meeting with Governor of the Bank of England Andrew Bailey (Friday 12 February)
- the Chancellor called on the G7 to take the lead in shaping support for vulnerable countries in 2021, and makes climate and nature considerations a central priority for this year's Finance Agenda, paving the way to a truly green global economic recovery
- attendees included Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from

across the G7 nations, representatives from the European Commission, European Central Bank, and Eurogroup, and leaders of the IMF, World Bank Group, OECD and Financial Stability Board

Chairing his first meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the UK Presidency, Chancellor Rishi Sunak set out his priorities for the year ahead which also include protecting jobs and supporting the global economic recovery, working to reach a global solution to the tax challenges created by digitalisation of the economy and providing necessary support for the world's most vulnerable countries.

Hosting the meeting alongside Governor of the Bank of England Andrew Bailey, the Chancellor urged his counterparts to match the UK's ambitions ahead of COP26, and stressed the importance of working together to support a smooth and effective transition of our economies to net zero.

Ministers and Central Bank Governors exchanged views on how best to shape and respond to the phases of the global recovery from Covid-19, including supporting workers and businesses in the near term while ensuring sustainability in the long term.

The Chancellor also highlighted the moral, health and economic case for rapid and fair vaccine distribution across the world and called on the G7 to take the lead in shaping support for vulnerable countries in 2021. The G7 must ensure that International Financial Institutions have the right tools to equip and enable vulnerable countries to respond to the pandemic, and the Chancellor called on private sector creditors to play their full part to help ensure sustainable debt treatments for the poorest countries, paving the way for a truly global recovery.

Making progress on reaching an international solution to the tax challenges of the digital economy was noted as a key priority. The UK underlined our commitment to this issue, and called on the G7 to work together towards reaching an enduring multilateral solution by the mid-2021 deadline agreed by the G20. To this end the Chancellor pointed to the need for constructive joint work across the G7, G20 and OECD.

Joined by counterparts from the G7 the Chancellor also warmly welcomed US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to her first G7 meeting in her new capacity.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak thanked his colleagues for the call, and closed by stressing this once in a generation opportunity to work together in our efforts to save lives, support jobs, and build a fairer, greener and more prosperous world.

Further information

- the G7 comprises of the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the EU

[Privy Council appointments: 12 February 2021](#)

Press release

The Queen has approved the following new appointments to Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.



The Queen has been pleased to approve that Stuart Andrew MP, Nigel Evans MP, Mark Pritchard MP, Col Robert Stewart DSO MP, Stewart Hosie MP, Dame Diana Johnson MP, Angela Rayner MP, Nicklaus Thomas-Symonds MP, Jonathan Ashworth MP and Lord (Edward) Udney-Lister, be sworn of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

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[Scottish seafood taskforce meets to drive progress](#)

A new seafood taskforce met for the first time today (Friday 12 February), drawing together senior political figures, industry representatives and UK Government officials, all bidding to solve ongoing problems with exports.

Chaired by UK Government Minister for Scotland, David Duguid, the virtual meeting was attended by UK Environment Secretary George Eustice and Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism with the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce included industry representatives drawn from the catching, processing and exporting sectors.

Minister Duguid told the meeting:

This taskforce is about developing solutions and delivering action rapidly.

It is not a talking shop and we will provide evidence of delivery.

Mr Eustice said other UK Government working groups to tackle immediate problems would continue to operate and support businesses to adjust to the new requirements and troubleshoot where problems occur such as issues with Export Health Certificates and customs declarations.

During the meeting the movement of mixed loads of small consignments, known as groupage, was discussed and the variation in time taken for loads to be cleared, with constructive discussions on how practical solutions could be arrived at to ease the flow of goods.

Minister Duguid said after the meeting:

The spirit of co-operation between all parties was good to see and my officials will now drill down to identify areas for rapid action.

The next taskforce meeting is in a fortnight but our engagement with industry continues on a daily basis, as does our work to speed world-class Scottish seafood from port to plate as smoothly as possible.

The taskforce has a core body of representatives from stakeholders and UK Government departments but also has the ability to invite in other industry representatives and experts on an ad hoc basis

Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and the UK Government Border Delivery & Protocol Group were represented.

The meeting comes in the same week that the UK Government's £23 million Seafood Disruption Support Scheme opened for applications to businesses that suffered a financial loss because of delays related to the export of fresh or live fish and shellfish to the EU during January 2021.

This is in addition to the £100 million fund announced by the Prime Minister in December to help modernise fishing fleets and the fish processing industry and is on top of the £32 million that will replace EU funding this year.

Support provided to the industry includes:

- Dialogue has already delivered swift solutions to a number of problems that caused difficulties for the industry, including – but not limited to – computer system glitches.
- Issuing clear guidance on the required IT forms to stakeholder representative groups, hauliers and businesses.
- Frequent meetings with businesses to understand and address issues as they arise.
- Working closely with individual businesses to help them get used to the new procedures required to ensure that errors or problems are tackled early.
- UK Government has stood up extra physical resources to support certification in a Scottish export hub.
- The UK Government has provided specialist certifiers to support Food Standards Scotland and DFDS.
- Working with French authorities to ensure that minor administrative issues associated with EHCs have not prevented goods from entering the market and with the EU Commission to help member states adopt consistent approaches.
- Providing extensive guidance as part of a range of measures to help the industry meet new export requirements, including training, regular engagement and weekly bulletins.

UK donates 100 vehicles to stop terrorists crossing into Lebanon

The UK has donated 100 Armoured Patrol Vehicles to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to tackle the threat from terrorism on its border with Syria, which is frequently used by violent extremists and smugglers.

The Revised Weapons Mounted Installation Kit (RWMIK) Land Rovers, which are capable of tackling the rugged Syrian border terrain and can be mounted with heavy weapons, have been given to the LAF's Land Border Regiments (LBRs) that patrol the area. This allows them to keep closer watch over their borders and

stop extremists trying to enter Lebanon, who could otherwise then attempt to travel on to Europe.

The Lebanese border is also used by international arms and drugs smugglers, with the illicit substances and arms then transited through the country and onto other parts of the world.

Supporting the LAF and promoting security and stability in the region during a time of economic crisis is also crucial to reinforcing the LAF's ability to defend the state of Lebanon from a range of threats.

Minister for the Armed Forces James Heapey said:

This fantastic border project marks the next chapter of the longstanding relationship between the British Armed Forces and our Lebanese counterparts.

The donation of these vehicles demonstrates the UK's commitment to security and stability in the region. A stable border between Lebanon and Syria is firmly in the UK's national interest.

We share a common enemy in Daesh. The UK will continue to work closely with our partners in the region to stamp out the threat posed by terrorist groups.

The RWMIKs are being taken out of service by the British Military this year after a long and successful period on UK operations around the globe, including in Iraq and Afghanistan. Following a request from General Aoun, the Commander in Chief of the LAF, to help bolster border security, the vehicles left the UK on 18 January and arrived safely in Lebanon on 31 January. The total value of the vehicles is £1.5million.

A small specialist team from 16 Air Assault Brigade deployed to meet the vehicles on arrival in Beirut and have delivered an initial round of vehicle training to the LAF. This training will continue in the spring to ensure the LAF can get the very best tactical and operational effect from them. The Conflict Security and Stability fund is also providing £300,000 for spare parts for the vehicles.

Minister for the Middle East and North Africa James Cleverly said:

Keeping Lebanon's land border secure is key in our shared fight against Daesh in the Middle East. On my recent trip to Lebanon, I saw for myself the excellent work the UK and Lebanese Army is doing together, to keep Lebanon stable and secure at a time of turmoil in the country.

These patrol vehicles, donated by the UK, will help strengthen the border with Syria against weapons smugglers and terrorist groups, and ultimately protect both of our countries' national security.

The donation builds on significant support already provided to Lebanon by the UK, including the construction of 79 border towers, provision of 350 vehicles, and training over 23,000 LAF personnel. Following the devastating Beirut explosion in August 2020, the UK also provided £27 million in humanitarian assistance and deployed HMS Enterprise to assist at the port – the first foreign ship to arrive in support of the Lebanese people.

In recent years Lebanon has become an increasingly important counter-terrorism partner for the UK. The UK's support to the LAF – who drove Daesh out of Lebanese territory in 2017- is an important part of the UK's contribution to Counter-Daesh efforts in Iraq and Syria.

UK Armed Forces continue to take the fight to Daesh in the region by supporting Operation Shader alongside our allies. On 24 January, RAF Typhoons launched an airstrike on a Daesh cell in northern Iraq. Four Paveway IV guided bombs struck their targets accurately and the strike was assessed to have been a success in eliminating the terrorist threat.