

[Press release: Joint UK-China strategy for science, technology and innovation cooperation sets new horizons for closer international collaborations](#)

- Science Minister Jo Johnson and Chinese Vice-Minister Wang Zhigang sign jointly agreed strategy to boost science and innovation between the UK and China
- new strategy will support partnerships between academics, researchers and businesses in both countries to create new opportunities to tackle global challenges
- first international cooperation agreement since the UK government published its Industrial Strategy, investing an additional £2.3 billion in research and development

The [UK-China Joint Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation](#) was officially launched today (6 December 2017) by Science Minister Jo Johnson and Vice-Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, Wang Zhigang. Witnessed by His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Duke of York and China's Vice-Premier, Liu Yandong, the strategy outlines a commitment for both nations to take science and innovation collaboration to a new level.

The new strategy represents a step-change in UK-China science and innovation collaboration, building on almost 40 years of cooperation, and is the first bilateral science and innovation strategy China has developed jointly with another country.

Science Minister Jo Johnson said:

The UK has a history of successful collaboration with China and we are increasingly looking to strengthen this partnership. This new joint strategy is a central part of the UK-China bilateral relationship, underpinning our mutual commitment to drive growth and tackle global challenges through science and innovation.

The recent launch of our Industrial Strategy underlines our commitment to ensuring science and innovation remains at the core of the UK's future ambitions. It is international partnerships like this that are a testament to our ongoing commitment to propel Britain towards global leadership of future industries.

The UK and China have a strong foundation of existing collaboration, including the ongoing UK China Research and Innovation Partnership Fund (channelled through the Newton Fund in the UK), which has supported over 460

joint projects since its launch in 2014.

China's Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, Wang Zhigang said:

The Chinese government attaches great importance to China-UK cooperation on science, technology and innovation. Over the past 4 decades, the continuously expanded sci-tech relations have yielded fruitful outcomes. With this new strategy, the level and scope of the cooperation will be further extended to take the golden era forward.

As China enters into a new era, our government identifies innovation as the primary engine of development underpinning the building of a modernised economy. We will follow the principle of win-win cooperation and mutual benefit, increase open innovation and promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation on science and innovation to achieve common prosperity with the rest of the world and build a community of shared future for mankind.

The UK and China have both prioritised research and development to boost economic growth. To continue the UK's global leadership in research and innovation, the government has committed an additional £2.3 billion as part of the Industrial Strategy. The impact of China's research is also increasing, with citation impact rising by more than 20% in recent years, and UK-China co-authored papers are more than twice as impactful as the world average.

The strategy also sets the framework for future cooperation to jointly tackle global challenges and drive economic growth over the next 10 years covering co-operation across the spectrum, from research through to the commercialisation of new technologies. It outlines priority areas for collaboration in a variety of areas, including life sciences, food security, renewable energy and environmental technologies. It also outlines new cooperation mechanisms, including an annual Flagship Challenge Programme which will focus on agricultural technologies in 2018.

The agreement details shared principles for intellectual property in UK-China research and innovation collaborations, supporting projects in adhering to international best practice. The UK and China are committed to promoting effective protection of IP rights, which in turn support innovation and trade in both countries.

The launch of the strategy took place at the UK-China Science and Innovation Forum at the Royal Society, alongside the UK-China People to People Dialogue.

Notes to editors

UK China Research and Innovation Partnership Fund (Newton Fund)

The UK-China Research and Innovation Partnership Fund, part of the UK's

Newton Fund, brings together the best of UK and Chinese expertise to tackle and build capacity to respond to global challenges. Highlights include projects on understanding climate risk and supporting climate smart decision making, tackling antimicrobial resistance, innovative technology to support agriculture, and programmes to develop researcher skills and knowledge.

The Newton Fund is part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA) commitment, administered in the UK by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

UK-China High Level People to People Dialogue (P2P)

The P2P is one of the UK's 3 major Ministerial dialogues with China, along with the Economic and Financial Dialogue, and Strategic Dialogue. It covers 10 policy strands:

- education
- science
- health
- tourism
- sport
- culture and creative industries
- youth
- regional cooperation
- social equity
- women's equality

The P2P is chaired by Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt on the UK side and Vice-Premier Madame Liu Yandong on the Chinese side.

Industrial Strategy

Business Secretary Greg Clark last week (27 November 2017) launched the government's ambitious [Industrial Strategy white paper](#), setting out a long-term vision for how Britain can build on its economic strengths, address its productivity performance, embrace technological change and boost the earning power of people across the UK.

Documents

[News story: Foreign Secretary attends NATO Foreign Ministers summit](#)

The Foreign Secretary stressed NATO's invaluable role in combatting international terrorism as he arrived at the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting

in Brussels today (6 December).

Speaking to media ahead of the meeting, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

We'll be talking about promoting the security and integrity of Georgia in the face of the challenge from Russia and the territorial aggression from Russia.

We're also looking at what NATO can do to tackle terrorism, particularly in the Southern region.

[News story: Communications boost for business](#)

Communication initiative increases intellectual property awareness and encourages customers to protect their rights.

The IPO has started a communication effort directed towards small and medium-sized business enterprises (SME). The aim is to help business customers understand the financial impact of IP protection.

Intellectual property (IP) is especially important for new business start-ups. These may be unaware of their rights or the financial risks to their products and brands.

There are simple and positive actions IPO are asking you to take, to make sure you secure your work. We strongly recommend you join our social media support and register for [exclusive business updates](#) by email.

Our IPO website also has more information on things that will help your own business strategy:

- view our easy access video series
- linking up to our benefits and IP for business tools
- sign up for an IPO masterclass or for an IPO event near you
- detailed information and specialist guidance

[News story: New tax consultation timetable published today](#)

The updated guidance sets out how the consultation process will work when there is just one fiscal event each year – an Autumn Budget.

Updated [guidance on the new tax consultation timetable](#), published today (6 December 2017), will give businesses and tax professionals greater clarity by setting out how the consultation process will work when there is just one fiscal event each year – an Autumn Budget.

This new guidance sets out how the timetable will allow for more opportunities for the government to consult with stakeholders at early stages of policy making, including by launching consultations at the Spring Statement. The plans it sets out mean that businesses and tax professionals will have more time to consider and adapt to upcoming changes ahead of the tax year in which they will take effect. And they will give Parliament more time to scrutinise draft legislation ahead of the introduction of the Finance Bill.

Mel Stride, Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Paymaster General said:

Open and collaborative consultation ensures any policy changes are well targeted and that the likely impacts are better understood. That is why we are giving taxpayers and professionals in the field more time to adapt to new rules and to give us their views on the design of tax policy.

In November 2016, Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond announced the move to a single Autumn Budget, which means businesses and individuals should face less frequent changes to the tax system. This builds on the progress made on tax policy development since [Tax Policy Making: A New Approach](#) was published in 2010, which committed to creating a more predictable, stable and simple tax regime.

[News story: DVLA opening hours:](#)

Christmas and New Year 2017

Opening times for DVLA's contact centre over Christmas and the New Year.

Customers will be able to use our [online services](#) throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Friday 22 December	8am to midday (drivers premium line will be open until 4pm)
Saturday 23 December	8am to 2pm
Christmas Eve	closed
Christmas Day	closed
Boxing Day	closed
Wednesday 27 December	8am to 5.30pm
Thursday 28 December	8am to 5.30pm
Friday 29 December	8am to 5.30pm
Saturday 30 December	8am to 2pm
New Year's Eve	closed
New Year's Day	closed
Tuesday 2 January	8am to 7pm