

## [News story: Lord Keen of Elie QC reappointed as Advocate General for Scotland](#)

Lord Keen of Elie QC has been reappointed as Advocate General for Scotland.

Commenting on his reappointment, Lord Keen said:

It is a great honour to be reappointed as the Advocate General for Scotland, and I look forward to continuing to advise the UK Government on all aspects of Scots law.

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## [News story: Future manufacturing and materials: apply for funding](#)

As a UK business you can apply for a share of £15 million to develop solutions to the challenges of future manufacturing and materials.

Up to £15 million will be made available by Innovate for UK businesses to work on innovative projects in the manufacturing and materials sector.

### **Creating a competitive advantage**

New manufacturing processes and materials can be a source of global competitive advantage. The UK already has a strong position. It is the ninth largest producer in the world with an output of \$247 billion. This competition aims to support manufacturing and materials as enablers of product innovation.

We are looking to fund projects that tackle identified technical and commercial challenges. These should lead to increased productivity, competitiveness and growth for UK small and medium-sized enterprises.

### **Focus areas**

Applications should focus on innovations in:

- manufacturing systems, technologies, processes or business models, such as new product introduction processes or remanufacture

- materials development, properties, integration or reuse. Materials could include nanomaterials, ceramics, metals and inter-metallics, polymers, composites, coatings, smart materials and joining of dissimilar materials

## **Competition information**

- the competition is open, and the deadline for registration is midday on 12 July 2017
  - project should range between £50,000 and £2 million and last between 6 months and 3 years
  - projects must be led by a business and involve at least one SME
  - projects longer than 12 months or with costs of more than £100,000 must involve 2 or more businesses
  - businesses could attract up to 70% of their total project costs, depending on their size
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## **[Press release: Labour Market Statistics](#)**

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland:

I welcome today's Labour Market Statistics, which demonstrate continued stability in the Northern Ireland economy.

The unemployment rate is down to 5.4 per cent, the lowest since the great crash in 2008 and those claiming unemployment related benefits has fallen again, with a drop of 52 per cent since the series peak in 2013.

Almost 10,000 new jobs were created in Northern Ireland over the year, meaning more people with the security of a job and a regular pay packet for themselves and their family.

Political stability is a fundamental basis for economic success and securing devolved institutions in Northern Ireland is vital to keep this momentum going as we continue to build an economy that works for everyone.

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## [News story: Enforcement Landscape](#) [Review: tender specification](#)

The IPO is inviting fresh bids for research into the effectiveness of the UK's enforcement framework.

The Intellectual Property framework provides a number of different protections and remedies for creators and rights holders. The IPO is commissioning research which aims to construct a snapshot of the current UK enforcement framework for each IP right. It is important for rights holders to have the necessary means to protect their IP and this is reflected in the commitment made in the [IPO's Enforcement Strategy](#)

We are now inviting fresh bids for this research into the effectiveness of the UK's enforcement framework. We have split the research into distinct parts:

- Part A will focus on developing evaluation criteria to assess the processes needed to enforce IP rights and the consequences of infringement.
- If taken forward Part B will focus on identifying recommendations for changing the enforcement framework.

We are inviting bids from stakeholders interested in undertaking Part A only at this stage. The decision to proceed with Part B of the research will be taken after the results from Part A have been considered.

An open meeting to discuss the research tender will be held at the IPO's London Office on 5th July at 2pm. Teleconference facilities will also be available. If you are interested in attending please contact [enforcement@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:enforcement@ipo.gov.uk) by close on 3rd July.

The deadline for receiving completed applications is 5pm on Wednesday 26th July. If you have any questions or to receive the tender document please contact [Robert.Mould@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Mould@ipo.gov.uk)

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# [News story: UK Space Conference 2017 is a huge success](#)

The three day event was titled 'inspire, enable, connect' and featured 28 sessions on subjects ranging from international growth and security, to launchers and Mars exploration.

More than 180 speakers took to the stage, including UK Space Agency CEO Graham Turnock, Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA) Jan Woerner and British ESA astronaut Tim Peake.

The conference included an exhibition hall, where a record 109 organisations took stands, and a parallel event of hands-on interactive exhibits and educational activities that welcomed 1,500 visitors.

See official pictures from the conference [on Flickr](#)

Graham Turnock, CEO of the UK Space Agency, said:

The UK Space Conference was a fantastically successful three days. I'm confident it will have sparked collaborations and partnerships that will strengthen our sector and our community. I'm sure we will all look back on the conference as one of the milestones on the road to a very bright future for space in the UK.

New for 2017 was a 'Space 101' programme, a series of informative sessions for newcomers to the sector intended to offer a chance to learn all the details needed to operate effectively.

There was also an opportunity for the young winners of the UK Space Agency's SatelLife Challenge competition to give presentations on their ideas, which looked at how satellite data could be used to improve life on Earth.

The overall winner, 13-year-old James Pearson, even got to meet his hero Tim Peake.

This years' Sir Arthur Clarke Awards for outstanding achievements in space activities were presented at a gala dinner. Kathie Bowden, the UK Space Agency's National Space Skills and Career Development Manager, was presented with the Individual Award for Education and Outreach in recognition of her work helping young people get their foot in the door of the space industry.

Kathie won the award for her work on SPIN (Space Placements In Industry), linking industries and organisations working within or alongside the space sector, with talented undergraduates to undertake a funded project or to work alongside industry colleagues for at least eight weeks.

The Agency's Chris Lee, Head of International Space Partnerships, was a

finalist for The Award for International Space Achievement while the CMIN 2016 Team made the shortlist for the team Award for Space Achievement – Industry or Project.

There was also a posthumous Special Lifetime Space Achievement award for British-born NASA astronaut, Piers Sellers, who died in December from pancreatic cancer.