

[PM meeting with Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo: 5 April 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo.



The Prime Minister met the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, at Downing Street today.

He welcomed the strength and depth of the partnership between the UK and Ghana, stretching across defence, trade and cultural ties.

Recognising the growing security threats in West Africa, the Prime Minister and President Akufo-Addo committed to strengthen our defence and security partnership, including in intelligence sharing and naval capabilities.

The leaders were united in condemnation of Russia's hostile invasion and attempted subjugation of Ukraine, agreeing on the importance of continued support to the Ukrainian people and diplomatic and economic pressure on the Kremlin.

They looked forward to further strengthening the cooperation between our two countries, and to meeting again in person at the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

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[Half a million pounds of research](#)

funding set to boost understanding of veteran needs

Press release

The government has allocated £500,000 in grants to charities and research institutions for specialist support research and digital training for veterans.



More than £500,000 in grants for research projects into the experiences of veterans has been distributed to charities today, supporting specialist studies and digital training for ex-armed forces personnel.

The research projects will look at the experiences of female veterans, veterans from ethnic minorities and non UK ex-service personnel, and provide vital insight to ensure the UK Government is able to tailor support for these groups.

A grant has also been made to TechVets, a charity that supports service leavers and veterans into digital, technology and cybersecurity roles. The money will allow more veterans to benefit from specialist training and secure roles in the digital industry. This will place significantly more veterans across the UK into careers in cyber and technology.

Minister for the Cabinet Office The Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP said:

In the latest Veterans' Strategy Action Plan, we committed to ensuring that our veterans can continue to enhance their careers throughout their working lives.

Our latest grant package to TechVets will provide bespoke training to former members of the armed forces interested in cyber roles, which builds on the training they receive while serving.

The grants form part of wider work within the Office for Veterans' Affairs, to ensure that all veterans receive equal access to dedicated support

services. Undertaking new qualitative research to understand where female veterans seek support and identifying potential barriers to accessing that support was committed to in the latest Veterans' Strategy Action Plan.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty said:

In order to provide dedicated services to all who have bravely served the United Kingdom, we first must understand their experiences.

These grants will provide the government with vital information to shape bespoke services for veterans, and ensure that all our veterans receive equal access to high quality support services.

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[AUKUS Leaders' Level Statement: 5 April 2022](#)

Press release

Statement from the leaders of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) partnership.



Today, the leaders of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) partnership – Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, and President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. of the United States – assessed progress under AUKUS.

We reaffirmed our commitment to AUKUS and to a free and open Indo-Pacific. In light of Russia's unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful invasion of Ukraine, we reiterated our unwavering commitment to an international system that respects human rights, the rule of law, and the peaceful resolution of

disputes free from coercion.

We are pleased with the progress in our trilateral programme for Australia to establish a conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability. We are fully committed to establishing a robust approach to sharing naval propulsion technology with Australia that strengthens the global non-proliferation regime.

We also committed today to commence new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities, as well as to expand information sharing and to deepen cooperation on defence innovation. These initiatives will add to our existing efforts to deepen cooperation on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities. As our work progresses on these and other critical defence and security capabilities, we will seek opportunities to engage allies and close partners.

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[Delivering Great Britain's energy security](#)

Hello. Thank you to my friend, colleague and senior fellow Chris Skidmore for inviting me today.

Chris and I once co-authored a little-known book together, 'Britannia Unchained'.

While this was drafted in a completely different era – before Brexit, net zero targets and COVID-19 – and the role of the state has invariably changed since...

...there is one lesson that is still true today: the need to unleash the power of competition, innovation, and private enterprise within a free market economy.

From offshore wind to battery technology, the private sector has developed and deployed incredible technology that will change our lives for the better.

The way to decarbonise isn't through a planned economy, but through the British way: science, innovation powered on by free enterprise.

We understand the power of our treasured free-market economy to leverage private capital and unleash Britain's unique entrepreneurial spirit to grow new industries.

This is how we will deliver net zero by 2050 – working in partnership with business, science, and academia.

However, there is a more immediate issue the international community is grappling with.

In light of rising global energy prices, provoked by surging demand after COVID-19 as well as Russia's criminal invasion of Ukraine, there is a renewed focus by national governments on energy security – and clean energy independence.

The wholesale price of gas on the European market has increased by 500% in recent months – so much so that almost every renewable technology is now cheaper.

If it isn't clear enough already: net zero is the solution to the global gas crisis, not the cause.

Expensive gas is the problem. Cheap, clean, homegrown energy is the solution.

Transforming our energy system is no longer just about hitting net zero targets and tackling climate change – as important as they are – it is also about national security.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine has focused the minds of the international community on the urgent need to diversify away from Russian oil and gas and generate more power domestically.

And even those countries that are not physically dependent on Russian hydrocarbons – like the United Kingdom – we are still vulnerable to prices that are dictated by global markets heavily influenced by Russia – ratcheting up costs for UK consumers.

For as long as we depend on oil and gas – wherever it is from – we are all vulnerable to Putin's malign influence on global markets.

To diminish Putin's malign influence, we not only need to phase out Russian fossil fuels, but also look to domestic sources of energy too.

And with gas prices at record highs, and the price of renewable energy plummeting, we need to accelerate our transition away from expensive gas.

This week, the UK government will set out a new Energy Security Strategy to supercharge cheap renewables and new nuclear, while continuing support our North Sea oil and gas industry.

While international events give a new sense of urgency, the energy transition was already a priority for the UK.

We're not reinventing the wheel here.

The UK has always known that we need to decarbonise and generate more cheap, clean power at home to reduce our exposure to global gas markets we are

unable to control.

We were the first major economy to legislate for net zero – a commitment Chris signed.

We've also cut CO2 emissions further and faster than any other G7 country – and expanded renewable energy generation by 500% this decade.

Thanks to our competitive – soon to be annual – renewable energy auctions, the price of supporting offshore wind has plummeted by 70%, while production has rocketed.

We are going to replicate this success in other areas...like solar, tidal and hydrogen – the new super-fuel of tomorrow.

Importantly, however, we also need a reliable source of low carbon baseload when the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow.

That has to be nuclear energy.

Most of Britain's nuclear fleet will be decommissioned this decade. We need to replace what we're losing and go further – from large-scale plants to Small Modular Reactors.

In this week's Energy Security Strategy, we'll reverse 30 years of drift and take the big decisions to generate more nuclear power.

However, the transition to clean, homegrown energy can't happen overnight. It remains the case that there will continue to be an ongoing demand for oil and gas over the coming decades while we transition to clean energy.

So in the meantime, we want to maximise domestic production in the North Sea production to protect jobs and reduce reliance on imports.

The Industrial Revolution began here in the UK before spreading to the US and the rest of the world.

We're on the cusp of another revolution...a green one. The countries that develop the tech of tomorrow will lead future global markets for decades to come.

If the West doesn't lead this global race, we will become even more exposed to forces we cannot control.

We would import even more energy and technology from other countries, and be vulnerable to their excessive price fluctuations.

Old industries that haven't innovated will disappear, jobs will be lost and the burden on the taxpayer will become excruciating.

We need to work together to lead this race for clean energy independence for our citizens.

So whether you're in Cambridge, Massachusetts or Cambridge, England...the

question of how we meet our growing energy needs is a matter of great importance.

This transition will only be a success if bright people like yourselves take an interest in these issues.

So, thank you for listening today.

[UK to host world-leading Nato Defence Innovation Headquarters](#)

The United Kingdom, in partnership with Estonia, will host the European HQ of a programme for NATO allies to accelerate, test, evaluate and validate new technologies that address critical defence challenges and contribute to Alliance deterrence.

Announced today by the NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) will see transatlantic cooperation on critical technologies and help NATO work more closely with industry and academia.

The UK's accelerator will be twinned with a new accelerator in Tallinn, Estonia to encourage the sharing of expertise, explore the use of virtual sites to trial vehicles, including autonomous ones, and test cyber innovations.

As hosts, the UK and Estonia will:

- Support start-up companies with funding, guidance and business expertise through twinned accelerator networks.
- Offer the use of 'deep tech' test centres to assess technological solutions to military problems, utilising the Defence BattleLab.
- Work with NATO to develop a virtual marketplace to connect start-ups with trusted investors, as well as a rapid acquisition service to connect products to buyers at pace.

UK Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace said:

The UK and Estonia are two of the most innovative countries in NATO and our hosting of DIANA will harness that innovation for the

benefit of all Allies tackling future military threats.

The UK has a vibrant tech community, combining the academia, financiers, and high-tech start-ups that make it an ideal place to develop the next generation of military technologies.

Estonia was the natural partner for the UK given its international leadership in cyber, autonomy and AI, and our close partnership forged through the Enhanced Forward Presence.

Ranked in the world's top ten innovative universities, Imperial College London will bring together academia, industry and government by hosting the headquarters of DIANA and a DIANA Accelerator at the Innovation Hub (IHUB) in the White City Innovation District, in a space shared with the UK's Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA), Major Defence Contractors and The US Directors of Defence's Tri-Service Office.

Supported by DASA, the UK and Estonia DIANA HQ is expected to be operational from July 2022. DIANA is essential to delivering the NATO 2030 vision and ensuring that the Alliance develops the military capabilities needed to deter and defend against existing and future threats.

Estonian Defence Minister, Kalle Laanet.

The goal of DIANA is to support deep technologies companies that contribute to defence. It will bring together talented innovators with new technologies end-users in the area of defence. We are very glad to see that the good cooperation we have with the UK will expand even further and also encompass our universities and private sector more,

Cooperation between the UK and Estonia is working well on every level because we have a common understanding of defence policy. Good relations with Allies is a cornerstone of Estonian defence policy, and a successful start to this programme for us is a sign that this cornerstone is strong.

Co- Director, Institute for Security Science and Technology, Imperial College London, Professor Deeph Chana, said:

As one of the top STEM-B universities in the world, in one of the most diverse cities, Imperial College London is uniquely placed to power a progressive, responsible and holistic dual-use security and defence technology innovation program by hosting DIANA. Coordinated through our Institute for Security Science and Technology and Business School we're committed to working on disruptive research and innovation to reduce insecurity and to deal with global threats and challenges.

DIANA will support all seven of the key emerging and disruptive technologies that NATO has identified as priorities: artificial intelligence, big-data processing, quantum-enabled technologies, autonomy, biotechnology, hypersonics and space.