

Cumbrian businesses join forces to drive 'heartbeat of the local economy'

Two Workington-based companies, McMenon Engineering Services and TIS Cumbria, have formed a collaborative partnership – the North West Energy Coast Alliance.

Forming the partnership has helped them win a long-term contract on the Programme and Project Partners' fabrication and manufactured equipment framework which is a key programme of work at the Sellafield site.

The alliance was announced as one of the Programme and Project Partners goods/services agreement framework suppliers. The contract will allow the alliance to tender for fabrication and machining work.

McMenon Engineering Services from Workington, West Cumbria has a 75-year engineering and manufacturing heritage with exports to over 50 countries and were looking to diversify into the nuclear and renewables industries.

And what better way to do that, than by collaborating with an already trusted supply chain partner in TIS Cumbria, who has more than 25 years of experience in the nuclear sector.

Duncan Elliott, Programme and Project Partners managing director, said:

It's great to see two local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) uniting in this way and I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in the joint-venture, welcome to the team.

The Programme and Project Partners approach is all about collaboration, innovation, transformation and harnessing opportunities, and that's exactly what we're seeing with the partnership between McMenon Engineering Services and TIS Cumbria.

We look forward to working with them to deliver our major nuclear decommissioning projects alongside all of our supply chain partners.

The fabrication and manufactured equipment package was the first goods/services agreement to be awarded by the Programme and Projects Partnership as part of a major framework spanning the next 18 years.

McMenon Engineering Services chief executive officer, Anand Puthran said:

SMEs are the heartbeat of the local economy and joining the two together to allow us to compete with the bigger firms seemed a natural progression.

We are two independent SMEs based in the West Cumbrian community and we want the community to benefit from our success in terms of opportunities, skills, engagement and employment.

With a drive to push some of their success back into the West Cumbrian community, the alliance already employs a high percentage of skilled staff from the area. And they believe that the success of winning the Programme and Project Partners contract is a stepping stone to allow them to invest further, with apprenticeships high on the agenda, alongside bringing skilled local people back into employment.

They have a strong focus on using the West Cumbrian supply chain to help maintain and build their spend profile within the county.

Supporting education establishments across the area is another key responsibility the companies fulfil, aiming to raise awareness of science, technology, engineering and maths topics in West Cumbrian schools and colleges.

Joint owners of TIS Cumbria Tony O'Pray and John Bragg said:

The commitment of the alliance between TIS Cumbria and McMenon Engineering Services over many years has matured, enabling our two West Cumbrian SMEs to sit equally beside our prime suppliers in the UK.

We would like to thank the Programme and Project Partners project team for their confidence in recognising the capabilities of our West Cumbrian alliance and we hope this success will be reflected out into the local community.

Luke Richardson, head of social impact for Programme and Project Partners added:

A core aspect of our strategy is the impact we can have in West Cumbria. This story showcases a fantastic example that local businesses can win work with us but more so, the power and benefit of local SMEs collaborating.

[Corrections to the designs register](#)

under section 21

News story

A small proportion of registered designs have an error in their dates. We will soon start updating our register to show the correct dates.



We have become aware that, since the introduction of our digital service for designs in September 2016, we have recorded the incorrect filing date for most:

- design applications (without a priority claim) received on a Saturday afternoon after 1pm, Sunday or bank holiday; and
- design applications (with a priority claim) received on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday

The vast majority of designs are unaffected because they were not received at these times. However, according to designs legislation these times were outside of our hours of business. This means that most applications received at these times are legally considered to have been filed on the next working day. Their registration and renewal dates, which are calculated from the filing dates, are also legally considered to be a similar number of days later than had been recorded.

We intend to update all affected designs so that our register shows the legally correct dates. Before making these changes we will write to the owners of affected designs (or their representative) to let them know of our planned corrections. We aim to write to all affected customers within 12 weeks of this notice.

Opportunity to object

To make these corrections we will use the process set out at section 21 of the Registered Designs Act 1949. Under this process, owners of registered designs, and others who have an interest, may request a hearing if they do not think the register should be corrected. We will offer this opportunity when we write to the owners of affected designs (or their representative).

If you have an interest in a registered design that you think might be affected and are not its owner, then you must contact us by **13 April 2022** if you object to the corrections being made and would like a hearing. A hearing is a formal process where you would be given the opportunity to explain your case to a senior official known as a Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer is trained to be impartial and to look at all sides of the argument before coming to a decision.

When the corrections will be made

We will start making these corrections soon after the above deadline. We expect this process will take several weeks and will update this notice once we have finished. The corrected dates will be visible on our [Find a registered design service](#).

Please note that we have updated our [opening times](#) so that we are now open at more times.

We are very sorry for recording the incorrect dates on these designs and any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact us: designs.managers@ipo.gov.uk.

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UN Human Rights Council 49: UK statement for the Item 3 General Debate

The UK has condemned Russia's unprovoked and barbaric invasion of Ukraine in the strongest terms.

Abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law are escalating dramatically. Russian air strikes and artillery have been used indiscriminately, damaging civilian infrastructure, and leaving hundreds dead. As my Prime Minister has said, "There are few things more depraved than targeting the vulnerable and defenceless". The UK is one of 41 countries that have referred Russian atrocities in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court. Those committing war crimes will be held to account.

Russia is matching its aggression abroad by drastically escalating repression at home. Since the invasion began, Russian authorities have arrested nearly 15,000 anti-war protestors. New legislation criminalises the dissemination of information about the Russian armed forces that the authorities deem to be

'fake'. Those found guilty could face 15 years in prison. Furthermore, the independent radio station Echo Moskvyy has been shut down.

This new wave of repression is only the latest chapter in a long-standing campaign designed to silence dissenting voices, to curtail freedom of expression and to erode other rights and freedoms in Russia.

Russian civil society organisations have been threatened and harassed. Two of Russia's oldest NGOs, International Memorial and Memorial Human Rights Centre have been closed. The absence of these organisations will be sorely felt by people throughout Russian society whose rights and freedoms are increasingly under attack.

Political opponents face equally grave threats. Opposition figure Alexey Navalny remains arbitrarily detained on the basis of politically motivated charges, and in contravention of a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights. He must be released immediately.

Religious minorities and LGBT+ persons face repression across the country. In Chechnya, there are ongoing reports of arrest, torture and extrajudicial killing of LGBT individuals.

We call on Russia, a member of this Council, to live up to its responsibilities and to fulfil its international human rights obligations. If Russia continues to disregard the rights of those in and those beyond its border, this Council must respond.

Thank you.

United States and United Kingdom to host joint UK/ US Dialogues on the Future of Atlantic Trade in Baltimore, Maryland

News story

The US Trade Representative and UK Trade Secretary will host joint trade dialogues this spring.



WASHINGTON – United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai and United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan will host joint UK/US Dialogues on the Future of Atlantic Trade in Baltimore, Maryland on March 21 and 22, 2022 and in the UK later this Spring.

Following on from President Biden and Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s announcement last year of a new ‘Atlantic Charter’, the UK/US Dialogues on the Future of Atlantic Trade will explore how the United States and United Kingdom can collaborate to advance mutual international trade priorities rooted in our shared values, while promoting innovation and inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses on both sides of the Atlantic. The trade ministers will use these events as they further deepen our important US-UK bilateral trade relationship and address our shared challenges and opportunities through discussions over the following months.

“I am pleased to welcome Secretary Trevelyan to Baltimore later this month as we begin an open-minded and deep discussion on how we can advance smarter and more strategic trade between our two countries,” Ambassador Tai said. “The United Kingdom is one of our oldest and most trusted allies, and our partnership is rooted in shared values and priorities. These Dialogues will provide an opportunity to engage our stakeholders to help inform how an inclusive trade policy can promote equitable economic growth and prosperity for our two countries.”

“I am excited to join Ambassador Tai in Baltimore to kick-start these important conversations on the future of UK-US trade,” Secretary of State Trevelyan said. “I look forward to welcoming Ambassador Tai to the UK later this Spring, where we will continue our discussions on how the UK and US work can use trade intelligently in the modern global economy. Trade is central to the UK’s Levelling Up Agenda and how we will deepen UK-US trade links in a way that benefits communities across the United Kingdom.”

The UK/US Dialogues on the Future of Atlantic Trade will also feature a diverse group of national and local stakeholders to advance these important talks on how to use trade policy to build a more modern, fair and responsible global economy. Additional details on the Dialogues will come at a later date.

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UK & US launch transatlantic dialogues to boost £200bn trade relationship

- Joint events in US and UK this spring to deepen our thriving bilateral trading relationship
- Trade Secretary and her US counterpart will be joined by senior attendees from government, civil society and business to set strategic direction of UK-US partnership
- Major step in our broader UK-US trade strategy to support levelling-up agenda and build back better post-pandemic

The UK and US today announce a new series of transatlantic dialogues aimed at deepening trade and investment ties and boosting our already-thriving £200bn relationship.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan and United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai will be among those gathering at the Joint UK/US Dialogues on the Future of Atlantic Trade.

The first dialogue will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, on 21-22 March with the second to take place in the UK later in spring. They will form a platform for further conversations between the two sides.

The events will bring together government ministers, senior officials, trade unions, businesses and civil society from both sides to discuss ways the UK and US can work together to deepen our trading relationship.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

The US is our biggest trading partner. Our thriving relationship already delivers so much for our economies, businesses and people. Now, more than ever, we recognise the power of deepening trade ties with like-minded allies around the world.

This new UK-US dialogue is a symbol of our ambition to work even closer with businesses and workers to promote innovation, inclusive economic growth and support jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

These events are a huge opportunity to make it even easier, quicker and more cost-effective to do trans-Atlantic trade, but also to tackle the most pressing challenges we face like congested supply chains and climate change.

The dialogues will encourage closer collaboration on shared values such as our respective 'Build Back Better' agendas, as well as explore ways to drive more modern, innovative approaches to international trade with our biggest

trading partner in areas such as digital, green trade and supporting SMEs.

The Joint UK/UK Dialogues form one part of DIT's broader approach to trading with the US. The UK has already begun a major initiative to identify measures that can lift barriers at a state level – for example, through discussions on recognising each other's professional qualifications.

All of this builds on the work we've done such as removing restrictions on high-quality Welsh lamb and Scottish beef and reaching an understanding on the longstanding Airbus-Boeing dispute to remove 25% tariffs on Scotch whisky, while launching talks to end the Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium produced in Yorkshire, Wales and across the UK.

British Ambassador to the United States Dame Karen Pierce said:

In every state I visit I'm struck by the depth and dynamism of our trade and investment relationship, as well as local support for a UK-US Free Trade Agreement.

Across the length and breadth of America and the UK, our partnerships create countless jobs and make us each other's biggest investor.

I look forward to supporting the Joint UK/US Dialogues and working with our closest ally as we each build back better from the pandemic.