

[News story: Minister attends UK's largest interactive skills event to inspire next generation](#)

Thousands of young people came together today (Thursday 15 November) to try their hand at different skills and to hear career tips from top business leaders and young professionals at WorldSkills UK LIVE in Birmingham.

Working with the Government's Year of Engineering campaign, Facebook, Rolls Royce and Raspberry Pi created an exhibition space at the event for visitors to meet with real engineers and see the technological solutions which engineers have already developed for the challenges of the future.

Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Anne Milton met with apprentices and trainees, employers and staff from schools and colleges across the country, as well as Skills Champions – former winners of WorldSkills competitions.

She also met with Mayor of West Midlands Combined Authority Andy Street to discuss the recently announced West Midlands Skills Deal. This deal will boost digital and technical skills, job opportunities and productivity across the region – supporting more young people and adults into work as well as upskilling and retraining local people of all ages.

Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Anne Milton said:

It's fantastic to be in Birmingham at WorldSkills UK Live! WorldSkills UK Live gives thousands of young people a chance to improve their skills and show off their amazing potential. The passion from all the organisers and those attending is palpable. The future of technical skills in our country is clearly in safe and very able hands!

WorldSkills UK LIVE is the UK's largest skills, training and careers event. The event is built around the WorldSkills National Skill Competition Finals where scores of young apprentices and trainees battle it out in their skill to win medals and the chance to represent the UK in international competitions.

[Press release: £5 billion of energy](#)

investment projects announced as the Board of Trade meets in Wales

The President of the Board of Trade, Liam Fox, announces the launch of the UK's first Energy Investment Portfolio, worth an estimated £5 billion.

Press release: £5 billion of energy investment projects announced as the Board of Trade meets in Wales

Around £5 billion of energy and infrastructure projects across the UK will be promoted to global investors as part of a new portfolio of opportunities, the International Trade Secretary announced today (15 November) at the Board of Trade in Swansea.

The eleven new projects in the Energy Investment Portfolio will not only create jobs in the energy sector, but will reduce energy costs for hard-working British families and have widespread benefits for the environment.

The opportunities are across the UK, including:

- up to £1 billion of anticipated investment in to the City Leap Programme in Bristol
- £65 million of opportunity in the Mishergas Waste to Fuel Plant, also in Bristol
- £60 million of potential investment to the Carlton Forest Waste to Energy Plant in Nottinghamshire
- around £480 million for new CoGen Waste to Energy Plants in Birmingham, Cardiff and North Lanarkshire.
- around £40 million of investment for a Reliagen integrated electric vehicle and battery storage facility in West London
- two projects worth an estimated total of £135 million in Wales
- two projects worth a projected £1 billion in Scotland, including Aberdeen Hydrogen
- almost £3 billion for UK-wide projects including Gridserve's Electric Vehicle Forecourt Network and Pivot Power's battery storage and electric vehicle charging project

The Energy Investment Portfolio is the latest offer for international investors, following the launch of seven new investment projects in October, worth £2 billion.

International Trade Secretary and President of the Board of Trade, The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP said:

The Energy Investment Portfolio will deliver growth in new innovative sectors, encouraging creativity, creating jobs and driving prosperity across the UK.

My international economic department has established relationships with the world's most influential investors to ensure that the UK continues to be the top destination in Europe for Foreign Direct Investment – and today's announcement is further proof that there is huge demand for UK projects from investors.

Minister for Investment, Graham Stuart MP said:

With £5 billion of new projects, the Energy Investment Portfolio is great news for communities up and down the country – as well as creating jobs and prosperity, these projects will reduce bills and deliver huge benefits for the environment.

The government's commitment to clean growth and innovation provides huge investment opportunities in the UK's energy sector, which already employs 181,000 people and generates the most offshore wind power in the world. The department has a global network of HMTCs and experts across more than 100 countries who are promoting the UK and attracting the backing needed to make these projects a reality.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) will promote these opportunities to investors in 108 countries through its global network of HMTCs and in-country experts.

The UK is Europe's top destination for foreign direct investment, and recent data released by UNCTAD showed the UK had the second highest level of investment globally in the first six months of this year. [Read Liam Fox's response to this announcement.](#)

It also has one of the world's top five most innovative economies according to the Global Innovation Index, as well as four of the world's top ten universities.

The UK's energy sector is also well-complemented by a burgeoning advanced manufacturing sector which has over 100,000 companies, and more venture capital investment than other country in Europe.

ENGLAND

- Carlton Forest Waste to Energy Plant, Worksop Nottinghamshire (£60m):
With a capital requirement of £60 million, this project provides an

opportunity for investment in the development and operation of a waste to energy plant with diverse revenue streams and strong investment returns. The developers will consider a variety of investor involvement to include combined debt and equity or co-investment. The Project will be owned and operated under a special purpose vehicle to be set-up by the developers.

- Bristol City Leap programme (£1bn): Bristol City Council is seeking investment and development partners for a low carbon energy infrastructure programme of between £800 million and £1 billion. The Council is open to a variety of investor involvement to include equity partners, co-investment or development funding. This is an early stage opportunity to shape the programme and offers the potential for a long-term relationship with this public sector partner.
- CoGen Waste to Energy plant, Birmingham (£190m): CoGen is offering an opportunity for investment into the development of a £190 million waste to energy facility in Birmingham. Using proven technology, the project benefits from a long-term contracted revenue stream and strong investment returns. CoGen will consider a variety of investor involvement to include equity investment, blended debt and equity, or co-investment. This project forms part of a strong development pipeline of waste to energy projects being developed by CoGen, leading to potential wider funding opportunities.
- Mishergas Waste to Fuel plant, Avonmouth, Bristol (£65m): Mishergas is offering an opportunity for investment into the development of a £65 million waste to fuel facility. The project benefits from multiple revenue streams and strong investment returns. The developers will consider a variety of investor involvement to include equity investment, blended debt and equity, co-investment or development funding. The Project will be owned and operated under a special purpose vehicle to be set-up by the developers.
- Reliagen integrated electric vehicle and battery storage facility, West London (£40m): With a capital requirement of £40 million, this project provides an opportunity for investment in the development and operation of an integrated electric vehicle charging and battery storage facility. Reliagen is developing a pipeline of similar sites around London and other cities of the UK, where opportunities exist to integrate commercial scale electric vehicle charging hubs with battery storage facilities connected to the electricity grid. As a result, Reliagen is open to discuss wider development capital investment, as well as outright purchase of this project's development rights.
- Green Hedge Battery Storage portfolio disposal – UK wide (£50m): Green Hedge Energy is offering a £50 million portfolio of development rights in five battery storage facilities at various locations across the UK. A

variety of investor involvement is possible, including equity partners and co-investment. The individual facilities provide an investor with the flexibility to maximise returns by creating multiple parallel income streams. Opportunities also exist to acquire development rights of individual battery storage facilities within the portfolio.

- Gridserve Electric Vehicle Forecourt Network – UK Wide (£1bn): With a total capital requirement of up to £1 billion, this project provides an opportunity for investment in the development and operation of a national network of electric vehicle forecourts. The project has the potential to generate diverse and parallel revenue streams from a range of sources, delivering strong investment returns. GRIDSERVE will consider a variety of investment involvement to include equity, combined debt and equity, co-investment, and development funding. The project's capital funding will be phased over the development cycle.
- Pivot Power, Integrated battery storage and electric vehicle charging project – UK wide (£1.6bn): With a total capital requirement of up to £1.6 billion, this project provides an opportunity for investment in the development of a national network of integrated grid-scale battery storage and electric vehicle charging facilities. The Pivot Power will consider a variety of investor involvement to include equity partners, co-investment or development funding. The project's capital funding will be phased over the development cycle offering the opportunity to partner with a market-leading project.

WALES

- CoGen Waste to Energy plant, Cardiff, Wales (£100m): CoGen is offering an opportunity for investment into the development of a £100 million waste to energy facility in Cardiff, Wales. Using proven technology, the project benefits from a long-term contracted revenue stream and strong investment returns. CoGen will consider a variety of investor involvement to include equity investment, blended debt and equity, or co-investment. This project forms part of a strong development pipeline of waste to energy projects being developed by CoGen, leading to potential wider funding opportunities.
- Morlais Marine Energy Infrastructure project, North West Wales (£35m): Menter Môn is offering an opportunity for investment into the development of a £35 million marine energy infrastructure facility. The project benefits from stable revenue streams and strong investment returns. The developers will consider a variety of investor involvement to include equity partners, co-investment or development funding. The project offers investment opportunities into a market-enabling project.

SCOTLAND

- Aberdeen Hydrogen Infrastructure development programme, Aberdeen and North East Scotland (£850m): Aberdeen City Council is seeking investment and development partners for a £850 million hydrogen infrastructure development programme comprising a strategically co-ordinated range of subsidiary projects. The Council is open to a variety of investor involvement to include debt and equity partners, co-investment, and development funding. This is an early stage opportunity to shape the programme and offers the potential for a long-term relationship with this public sector partner.
- CoGen Waste to Energy plant, North Lanarkshire, Scotland (£190m): CoGen is offering an opportunity for investment into the development of a £190 million waste to energy facility in North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Using proven technology, the project benefits from a long-term contracted revenue stream and strong investment returns. CoGen will consider a variety of investor involvement to include equity investment, blended debt and equity, or co-investment. This project forms part of a strong development pipeline of waste to energy projects being developed by CoGen, leading to potential wider funding opportunities.

[Press release: UK response to Saudi Arabia announcement of charges following the death of Jamal Khashoggi](#)



A Foreign Office spokesperson said:

The UK has been clear that we need to see accountability for the horrific murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi. As the Foreign Secretary reiterated to His Majesty King Salman, Crown Prince Bin

Salman and other senior figures in the Saudi government this week, we expect Saudi Arabia to take action to ensure such violations of international and national laws cannot happen again.

The beginning of a judicial process should be a step towards accountability but we are watching closely and expect the continuing investigation to proceed in line with internationally recognised legal standards. It is the longstanding position of the UK Government to oppose capital sentences in all circumstances and countries.

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Press release: UK response to Saudi Arabia announcement of charges following the death of Jamal Khashoggi

Saudi Arabia announced today (15th November) that 11 people have been charged with the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.