

News story: Who will be the rising star of 2018?

The new rising star category showcases apprentices who have made impressive progress in their career to date, demonstrating the potential, through their apprenticeship, to take a career path to the very top of their chosen profession.

During September the awards judging panels chose nine regional winners, who are now going head to head to be crowned the national winner. All finalists were nominated by their employer and some of their achievements include these individuals having a positive impact on many tangible business measures including profit, guest satisfaction and running campaigns. Other reasons for being nominated include apprentices exceeding employer's expectations and adding value by acquiring new skills and qualifications and also volunteering to upskill new apprentices by sharing their own experiences, to give them the best possible start to their apprenticeship.

The nine national rising star finalists are:

West Midlands

Sam Brown, Hidden Economy Compliance officer from HM Revenues and Customs

North West

Joseph Buck, Duty Manager from Mitchells and Butlers

East of England

Aleksandra Burzec, Support Coordinator from Home Group

South West

Henry Crosby, Plumbing & Heating Engineer from S W & L

North East

Jenny Jones, Software Developer Apprentice from HM Revenues and Customs

London

Thomas Mynott, Associate Developer from Transport for London

East Midlands

Shivram Radia, Senior Surveyor from Edward Cooper Young Chartered Surveyors

Yorkshire and the Humber

Hannah Turner, Internship and Junior Development Programme Lead from Home Office Digital, Data and Technology

South East

Aimee Wilkinson, Assistant Project Manager from BAE Systems

Keith Smith, Director, Apprenticeships, ESFA said:

The National Apprenticeship Awards recognise excellence in businesses that grow their own talent with apprenticeships, and apprentices who have made, and keep making, a significant contribution to their workplaces. All of the rising star national finalists are testament to the brilliance of apprentices and the opportunity apprenticeships bring to the lives of individuals.

These nine national finalists represent success across our regions and are all outstanding individuals. I am sure that for each of them, their futures are bright and further success in their career beckons.

Please do vote; we need the apprenticeship community to get behind these 9 outstanding apprentices to ensure they get the recognition they deserve.

Find out more about each of the apprentices by watching this short film.

[Rising star finalists](#)

Voting couldn't be easier. Opening today, 3 October at 10am and closing at 5pm on 17 October, [vote](#) for your rising star of 2018.

[News story: Britain and Australia enter into space agreement](#)

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed at the International Astronautical Congress in Bremen, Germany, provides a framework for collaborative activities and the exchange of information, technology and personnel between both nations.

Sam Gyimah, UK Science Minister said:

When Brits first heard about Australia we thought it was the final frontier, but now we can boldly go even further together through this special space partnership benefitting science, jobs and growth the world over.

This agreement is a great example of the importance of international collaboration and how, through our modern Industrial Strategy, we are working with our growing space sector to ensure it continues to thrive.

Computer generated image of NovaSAR. Credit: SSTL.

Hon Karen Andrews MP, Australian Minister for Industry, Science and Technology said:

Forging international partnerships is vital to building Australia's space industry and ensuring our businesses can compete on the world stage,

These agreements with counterpart space agencies in Canada and the United Kingdom will increase opportunities to work together and share information, technology and personnel between our nations.

They represent a significant step in Australia's journey with fellow spacefaring nations, and will help to grow the capability and competitiveness of our domestic space sector.

The agreement was signed between the UK Space Agency and the Australian Space Agency, which was established on 1 July 2018. With 10,000 people already working in its space sector, Australia has strong capabilities in areas such as satellite data applications and the tracking of space debris, as well as an established network of ground stations to support communications and other space technologies.

Dr Megan Clark AC, Head of the Australian Space Agency, said:

UK and Australia are both committed to growing their space industries and we welcome new cooperation between UK and Australia in space including CSIRO's partnership with Surrey Satellite on the NovaSar earth observation satellite and Airbus and UK Ministry of Defence on the Zephyr.

The UK and Australia have a deep history and friendship that includes long-term partnership in space science. During the Space Race from the 1950s, the first British Skylark and Black Arrow rockets were launched from Woomera in Southern Australia.

This MoU builds on cooperation in space between the two countries in the

areas of space science, technology and applications, space policy, law and regulation and human capital development.

Joint work continues to this day with the launch last week of the Surrey Satellite NovaSAR, which uses radar to view the Earth through cloud cover. The satellite will share 10% of its data with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia.

The International Astronautical Congress is an annual meeting of global space agencies and industry which is organised by the International Astronautical Federation, of which the UK Space Agency is a voting member. The UK Space Agency CEO Graham Turnock will address the conference (3 October) about the UK's plans to thrive in the commercial space age over the next decade by developing national launch capabilities and supporting the growth of satellite applications, while continuing to play a leading role as a founding member of the European Space Agency.

Notice: Paul Rackham Limited: application made to abstract water

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
 - which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
 - when you need to comment by
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News story: Home Secretary announces plans for citizenship reforms

The Home Secretary proposed a series of reforms to British citizenship today (Tuesday 2 October). The reforms include tougher English language requirements for people applying for British citizenship and proposals to reform the Life in the UK test to give greater prominence to the British values and principles expected of those wishing to call the UK their permanent home.

A public consultation will be brought forward on the Life in the UK test, which is the test an individual is required to take as part of their application for British citizenship or settlement in the UK, and accompanying handbook. The proposals would ensure that the test is more relevant to daily life and culture in the UK.

In addition, the level of language proficiency expected for adults seeking to naturalise as British citizens will be raised.

He also outlined that powers to deprive individuals of their British citizenship will be applied to individuals convicted of the most serious criminal offences, where it is in the public interest.

[News story: Home Secretary announces new measures to tackle serious violence](#)

The Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, has today (October 2) set out a range of innovative new measures to address violent crime in the UK.

This builds on the ambitious programme of work outlined in the [Serious Violence Strategy](#), published in April, which brings together a range of partners across different sectors to form a multi-agency response.

The new package of announcements to be taken forward by the government includes the following.

Consultation on new legal duty to underpin a ‘public health’ approach to tackling serious violence

This would mean police officers, education partners, local authority and health care professionals will have a new legal duty to take action and prevent violent crime. This statutory duty would make serious violence a top priority for all key partners, ensuring that all agencies are working together to prevent young people being caught in the criminal cycle.

New £200 million youth endowment fund

This will be delivered over 10 years and will build the evidence for early intervention. The fund, which is aimed at 10 to 14 year olds, will focus on those most at risk of youth violence including those displaying signs such as truancy, aggression and involvement in anti-social behaviour in order to steer them away from becoming serious offenders.

Independent review of drug misuse

This will ensure law enforcement agencies and policy are targeting and preventing the drug-related causes of violent crime effectively. Drugs have been identified as a major driver of serious violence and this review will look at recreational drug use, as well as considering use by the small number of users who cause the most harm to themselves and their communities.

Tackling the root causes of serious violence, and in particular, preventing young people getting involved in criminality is right at the heart of the [Serious Violence Strategy](#).