

Chinese scientists develop new plow

Chinese metal scientists announced they had developed a plow using a new steel alloy.

Plow was initially used in China over 2,000 years ago, centuries earlier than in Europe. However, Chinese farmers nowadays would rather pay over the odds for imported plows because of their better quality and durability.

The situation may soon change, thanks to the new research.

Yan Desheng, of the Institute of Metal Research under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said the new metal was developed on the basis of boron steel, with micro-alloying elements and fine carbide added, so as to increase its hardness while keeping its high ductility.

The new material had been used to make over 1,000 farming tools, such as moldboard plows and rotary blades.

These tools have been used in farms in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Jiangsu for tests and evaluation since 2012, Yan told Xinhua earlier this week.

“The new material has at least doubled the durability of plows compared with the traditional home-made ones, at only half the price of imported ones,” he said.

The edge of the plow has a better ground-breaking angle and has helped reduce abrasion and fuel consumption, according to a technician with a Hulun Buir-based farm in Inner Mongolia, which has tried the tools.

Joint Statement by the European Commission and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on aviation security cooperation

Today, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, and European Commissioner for Transport, Violeta **Bulc**, hosted a delegation from the United States in Brussels, led by Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke, to discuss issues related to aviation security and safety.

At the meeting, both sides exchanged information on the serious evolving

threats to aviation security and approaches to confronting such threats. Participants provided insight into existing aviation security standards and detection capabilities as well as recent security enhancements on both sides of the Atlantic related to large electronic devices placed in checked baggage.

The United States and the European Union reaffirmed their commitment to continue working closely together on aviation security generally, including meeting next week in Washington D.C. to further assess shared risks and solutions for protecting airline passengers, whilst ensuring the smooth functioning of global air travel.

[Statements from Jeremy Corbyn, Carwyn Jones and Tom Watson on the death of Rhodri Morgan](#)

Jeremy

Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party,

commenting on the death of Rhodri Morgan, the former First Minister for Wales, said:

“Tonight

we’ve lost a good friend, a great man and, above all, a giant of the Welsh Labour movement.

“I saw

Rhodri just last month, campaigning in Cardiff North with Carwyn Jones.

“Rhodri

was an incredibly effective First Minister for Wales. He stood up for Wales, its

people’s future and its public services. So much was achieved in his nearly ten

years in the post, making a real success of devolution and laying the foundations for what the Welsh Government is accomplishing today.

“I first

met Rhodri in 1987 on his election to Parliament and we became good friends. Our thoughts are with his wife Julie and the rest of the family. They can be truly proud of Rhodri’s enormous achievements.”

Carwyn

Jones Labour’s First Minister of Wales, said:

“Wales

hasn't just lost a great politician, we've lost a real father figure. In very many ways Rhodri wasn't like other politicians, and that is why people warmed to him, trusted him and felt like they knew him so well. He was funny, clever, engaging on almost any topic and absolutely passionate about all things Welsh.

“I owe him a great deal, just as we all do in Welsh Labour. He did so much to fight for, and then establish devolution in the hearts and minds of the public

in our country. His bright confidence was infectious, and we can see so much of

Rhodri's can-do attitude in our modern Wales. That first decade of self-governance, and making distinct choices for Wales will forever be associated with his leadership.

“He will be hugely missed, and my thoughts are with Julie and all the family at this sad time.”

Tom

Watson, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, said:

“Rhodri

was one of the greats and I'm very sad to learn of his death.

“I was

with Rhodri and Julie on Thursday at a dinner in Cardiff for Labour MPs and he

was as irrepressible as ever, laughing and joking with friends and guests.

“He will

be remembered for his fierce intellect and his passion for the Welsh people, whom he served with distinction.

“He was a

gifted First Minister of Wales, a respected Labour leader and a fine man.

“The

Labour movement will miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with Julie and the family.”

[Tim Farron's 2017 General Election](#)

[manifesto speech](#)

A couple of weeks ago, in Kidlington near Oxford, I met a guy called Malcolm. I say met...he came up to me in the street and started shouting at me.

You might have seen it on the news. Or the internet.

In the end we actually got along. But he was angry with me for not getting behind Theresa May and backing Brexit. I think I calmed him down a bit when we spoke, but I don't think I changed his mind.

And that's fine. You see, when last year's referendum took place I campaigned harder than anyone else to remain. I believed passionately that our children would have a brighter future if Britain remained in the European Union.

[View our manifesto](#)

But we lost – and I accept that.

But that doesn't mean I have changed what I believe.

I believe that our children will have a brighter future if we are inside the European Union. That they will be safer and better off. That our economy will be stronger and our country will have more influence in the world.



”

**I want you to have your
choice over your future.**

Hope versus fear.

**A brighter future versus
a cold, mean-spirited one.**



TIM FARRON

But just because I believe that doesn't mean I think people who voted to leave are bad people. Of course they're not. We just disagree.

You see, I grew up in Preston in Lancashire. And most of the people in Preston voted to leave. There are parts of Lancashire where two-thirds of people voted to leave.

Friends of mine did. Members of my family did. They don't all admit that to my face, but I know they did.

Those people, they're my people. I like them. They're good people. Decent people.

And, as it happens, I liked Malcolm too. Once he stopped shouting at me.

But here's the difference between me and Theresa May – I want Malcolm, and

everyone in Preston, and every single one of you, to have your say over what comes next.

Nobody knows what Brexit will look like.

The choices Theresa May will make will affect your life and our country for decades – your job, your weekly shop, your environment, your safety, where you can travel to and where you can live.

And she's already making choices that will affect those things, including the most profound choice she could make – taking Britain out of the Single Market.

That decision alone is a time bomb under our economy. And when it blows up it is going to take our NHS and our schools down with it.

It is going to wreck our children's future for decades to come.

And it is a choice. Plain and simple. It wasn't inevitable.



”

**The more Liberal Democrat
MPs you elect, the brighter
the future for our children.**

TIM FARRON

There was nothing on the ballot paper last June that said we were choosing to pull out of the Single Market. There are other countries that are outside the EU but inside the Single Market – just look at Norway or Switzerland.

There was nothing on the ballot paper that said that people and families from Europe who have made this country their home would be left in limbo, not knowing if they can stay in the country they raise their kids in.

And there was definitely nothing on the ballot paper that said we would turn our allies into enemies. Yet here we are, with our government making accusations of our neighbours and even threatening war with Spain.

The choices Theresa May makes – and the compromises she negotiates with bureaucrats in Brussels – will affect our children’s future for decades to come.

My children, your children, Malcolm's grandchildren.

In June last year we voted for a departure, but we didn't vote for a destination.

So I want you to have your choice over your future.

Someone is going to have the final say over the Brexit deal.

It could be the politicians or it could be the people.

I believe it should be the people.

You should have the final say on whether Theresa May's Brexit deal is right for you and your family in a referendum.

And if you don't like that deal, you should have the choice to remain in the European Union.

Giving you the choice over your future is exactly what our manifesto is about.

I want you to imagine a brighter future.

Imagine a future where our children can grow up in a country where people are decent to each other.

Where we have good schools and hospitals.

Where we take the challenge of climate change seriously.

Where we give our teachers and nurses and soldiers the pay rise they deserve for the service they give our country.

Where we have an open, innovative economy.



”

Theresa May and
Nigel Farage's **cold,
mean-spirited Britain**
is not the Britain I love.

TIM FARRON

Where we treat the poorest and the most vulnerable with compassion.

Where we don't turn our back on desperate refugees.

That's the Britain I love. That's the Britain I want to lead.

But that's not the future Theresa May is offering you. If you want to know the most revealing thing that has been said during this election, look at Nigel Farage's Twitter.

He wrote: "Theresa May is using the exact words and phrases I've been using for twenty years."

Think about that for a minute. The 'exact words and phrases'.

The Prime Minister of our great country saying the same things that Nigel

Farage has been saying for twenty years.

And not just the words and phrases. The policies too, that's what UKIP MEP Patrick O'Flynn said this week.

Brexit never did just mean Brexit. For Nigel Farage, Brexit was always part of a package, a world view.

It's a world view that includes shunning climate change...

...that includes shrinking the state by starving our schools and our NHS of the funding they need.

...that includes turning our backs on some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, as Theresa May did when she shamefully closed the door to desperate child refugees.

That's Nigel Farage's world view. The same one that leads to Donald Trump banning Muslims and building a wall. The same one that Marine Le Pen tried to impose on the decent people of France.

Nigel Farage's vision for Britain is now Theresa May's. He has taken over the Conservative Party.

Anti-Europe. Anti-refugees. Slashing funding to schools and hospitals.

No wonder UKIP is standing down candidates and backing the Tories.

After all, who needs UKIP if the Government is doing what they want anyway.

Somebody has to stand up to them. Someone has to fight for the decent, compassionate Britain we love.

But it won't be Jeremy Corbyn.

On the biggest issue facing us all in a generation, when all this is at stake, Jeremy Corbyn's Labour hasn't shown up.

Jeremy Corbyn even ordered his MPs and Peers to vote with the Tories and UKIP.

Not against them. With them.

Before the vote on Article 50, he said he would order his party to vote in favour even if the Government made no concessions to them whatsoever.

So, surprise surprise, they didn't.

Jeremy Corbyn didn't have to do that. He could have voted with us to stay in the Single Market, or to give European citizens living here the right to stay. He chose not to.

Jeremy Corbyn has always been pro-Brexit – he campaigned against Europe for years – so we shouldn't be surprised. But we should be disappointed.

Labour are supposed to be the opposition, but they haven't opposed anything.

They are supposed to stand up for working people, but they haven't stood up for anyone.

They are supposed to care about our children's future, but they are letting the Conservatives wreck it.

They have lost the right to call themselves the opposition.

Labour has lost its purpose but we have found ours.



”

The Britain I love is
**generous and
compassionate,**
where we are decent
to each other.

TIM FARRON

The brighter future we want for all our children is at stake. Our economy is at stake. Our schools and hospitals are at stake.

This is about the future of the open, tolerant, united country we love.

I am here tonight to tell you that we won't roll over.

A few weeks ago in France, the two parties that had run the country for decades came third and fifth in the election.

Third and fifth.

The decent people of France decided that they did not want to just simply accept one of the two tired old parties. So they rejected them.

And when the two old parties had been eliminated, the decent people of France faced a stark choice: a liberal, pro-European candidate who believes in an open, tolerant and united France, and the leader of the National Front.

Hope versus fear. A brighter future versus a cold, mean-spirited one.

Nigel Farage pinned his colours to the mast. Just like when he backed Donald Trump in America, he backed the candidate who represented his world view – anti-Europe, anti-refugees.

He backed the National Front.

Well, the decent people of France chose hope over fear. And the National Front lost.

Don't let anyone tell you the only choice you have in this election is between Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn.

This election is about your choice and your future.

You can choose a brighter future where our children grow up in a country where people are decent to each other...

...where we have good schools and hospitals so that our children have a fair chance in life and our elderly are treated with dignity...

...where we have a clean environment and an innovative economy.

The more Liberal Democrat MPs you elect, the better the deal we will get on Europe.

The more Liberal Democrat MPs you elect, the more jobs and more money for the NHS and schools.

The more Liberal Democrat MPs you elect, the brighter the future for our children.

Theresa May and Nigel Farage's cold, mean-spirited Britain is not the Britain I love.

The Britain I love is generous and compassionate.

The Britain I love is one where we are decent to each other.

The Britain I love is open, tolerant and united.

If that is the Britain you love too then this is the moment to stand up.

This is your chance to change Britain's future.

I am here tonight because when my children are my age I want to be able to look them in the eye and tell them honestly that when the moment came to stand up for their future, I stood up.

I am determined that our children will grow up in a country where people are decent to each other.

I am here tonight because the Britain I love is not lost yet.

That's the country I want to lead.

[McDonnell challenges Hammond to a live TV debate on the economy](#)

The Shadow Chancellor today has challenged the Chancellor to a live TV debate on the economy before 8th June. In a video released online after Labour published their manifesto and full costings, **John McDonnell, said:**

"The Labour Party published its manifesto and we published the detailed costings of all our policy proposals and where the funding would come from to pay for those policies.

"We set the framework for the management of our economy for the future, managing the economy for the many not the few.

"Now we want to have a democratic debate in this election. Theresa May is hiding from a debate with Jeremy Corbyn on television, but you know in France they had that debate between the two main contenders for the presidency and it's part of our democratic system.

"So come on Mr Hammond, come and have a debate with me because I believe once

we've had that debate people will realise just what your government is all about.

"More austerity stifling our economy, failing to ensure that people in work are properly paid and undermining those people who can't work as a result of your benefit cuts.

"I'm challenging Philip Hammond to a debate on Tory cuts and on the economic strategy that Labour has set out for strong economy that benefits the many and not few.