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Scotland's food and drink sector is vitally important to our economy – the industry is worth £14.4 billion and supports 119,000 jobs across the country.

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[News story: UK and Norway defence ministers plan sub-hunting co-operation](#)

Defence Minister Guto Bebb hosted Secretary Tone Skogen, State Secretary in Norway's Ministry of Defence, on her visit aboard a US Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft – equipment which both the UK and Norway will soon own themselves.

The allies ramped up discussions around how the nations will work together and might deploy their submarine-hunting aircraft fleet in the future. Areas of co-operation could range from maintenance to training and operations, which would not only cut costs but also boost operational power in the North Atlantic, a key area of submarine activity.

The aircraft took off from RAF Lossiemouth, which will be the future home of the UK's fleet. Investing £3 billion in the capability over the next decade, the UK is buying nine of the Boeing-built aircraft, whilst Norway are getting five.

Their key role for the UK will be to protect the country's submarine-based nuclear deterrent and its two new aircraft carriers – the Poseidons deploy sonobuoys to help them detect submarines, and can fire anti-ship missiles and launch torpedoes to destroy submarines.

Defence Minister Guto Bebb said:

These sub-hunters will take to the skies from RAF Lossiemouth and help us combat a range of intensifying threats, not least increasing submarine activity in the North Atlantic. We're investing £3bn in our own capability, but working alongside Norway

takes this to a higher level. Not only could we cut costs by sharing training, spares and repair facilities, but we can patrol the seas together, meaning we've got more eyes and ears on any potential aggressors.

Norway's Secretary Tone Skogen said:

Norway and the UK are natural partners given our shared values, as well as our history and geography. We can even further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation related to high-end capabilities such as the F-35 fighter and the P-8 maritime patrol aircraft.

In my discussions with Guto Bebb, Minister for Defence Procurement, I find a like-minded ally. The UK and Norway continue to stand together in training and exercises in the North Atlantic and the Northern region, as well as operationalisation of the Joint Expeditionary Force.

The nine P-8A Poseidons will be based at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland. Last month, Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson cut the first turf on a £132m facility for the new fleet. The new facility will be completed in 2020, to coincide with initial operating capability of the Poseidon aircraft being available in the UK.

Built by Elgin-based Robertson Northern, it will comprise a tactical operations centre, an operational conversion unit, squadron accommodation, training and simulation facilities and a three-bay aircraft hangar.

At the peak of construction, the project will support 200 local jobs. When the fleet is fully operational, some 470 additional service personnel will be based at RAF Lossiemouth, taking the total number of people employed there to 2,200. Further roles are also expected when the training and support services are established at the new facility.

[Company fined after a scaffolder was injured in fall from height.](#)

A scaffolding company has been sentenced today for safety breaches after a worker fell approximately four metres while working on a fragile surface.

Hull Crown Court heard how in May 2013 Acorn Scaffolding (Yorkshire) Ltd were carrying out the erection of scaffolding on a barn at Lockington Grange Farm Driffield.

The injured worker fell four metres through a fragile roof light on an asbestos cement sheet roof sustaining several injuries including the dislocation and fracture of his right wrist, crushed nerves in his left wrist, broken nose and sprains to his shoulder and ankle.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Acorn did not identify that workers were working on a fragile roof so they failed to put in place any measures to prevent falls through the fragile surfaces.

Acorn Scaffolding (Yorkshire) Ltd of Moxon Way, Moor Lane Trading Estate, Sherburn in Elmet pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £33,333.33 and ordered to pay £14,638.40 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jayne Towey commented: "Working on a fragile roof carries a risk of a person falling through it. This is a known risk within the industry and this accident could have been prevented.

"Such measures would include ensuring that suitable guard rails are erected to prevent a person accessing the fragile roof area'

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. It aims to reduce work-related death, injury and ill health. It does so through research, information and advice, promoting training; new or revised regulations and codes of practice, and working with local authority partners by inspection, investigation and enforcement. www.hse.gov.uk
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

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