

## **News story: New competition: Many Drones Make Light Work Phase 3**

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) is launching Phase 3 of the 'Many Drones Make Light Work' campaign.

Phase 1 of the 'Many Drones Make Light Work' campaign was launched in August 2016. This phase sought proof-of-concept demonstrations of new and emerging technologies, systems and techniques to enable militarily useful swarming Unmanned Air Systems (UAS).

Phase 2 was focused on further developing and proving the effectiveness of specific swarming technology aspects as well as swarming enablers.

Phase 3 of this campaign is seeking to further develop and integrate technologies with the objective of demonstrating a swarming UAS capability, through a flight evaluation.

Phase 3 is open to the wider community to seek a complete technology base to deliver an integrated capability. Technology in this area has been rapidly developing since the original Phase 1 call and reopening the challenge allows other organisations who have been developing capabilities related to swarming UAS to contribute. We actively encourage Phase 1 and Phase 2 participants to contribute to this call as well as new suppliers.

Total funding of up to £2.5 million is available in Phase 3 to fund 1 or 2 projects. Full details are available in the competition document.

The competition closes on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at midday.

Queries should be sent to [accelerator@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:accelerator@dstl.gov.uk).

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## **News story: DASA dial in event: many drones make light work competition**

DASA will be hosting a dial-in event on 31 October 2018, 10am to midday to provide a short briefing on the Many Drones Make Light Work Phase 3 competition followed by an open forum Q&A session.

Also available will be the opportunity to book a one to one telecon meeting with the competition team to discuss questions specific to your proposal.

Further information about the competition can be found in the Many Drones Make Light Work Phase 3 competition document, where you will find links to

register for the dial-in and one to one meetings.

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## [Press release: Dissolving seaweed sauce sachets among innovative schemes to cut down on harmful plastic waste](#)

Dissolving seaweed sauce sachets and technology inspired by a suckerfish to remove plastics from rivers are among 11 innovative projects to win the backing of a £4 million government fund to clean up the environment.

To showcase the ground-breaking research being led by UK scientists and innovators during Green GB Week, the Business Secretary Greg Clark today announced the winners of a competition to develop new products or processes to end the scourge of plastic waste.

Moving to a greener, cleaner economy which helps protect the environment is a key part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy.

Among the winners are Skipping Rocks Lab in London, whose state-of-the-art facility is working on a scheme which could make the sight of single-use condiment sachets on takeaway counters a thing of the past by replacing plastic packaging with seaweed. The material, which has successfully been used as an alternative to the plastic water bottle, biodegrades as fast as a piece of fruit and is cheaper than plastic.

Other successful companies to win government funding include:

- Ichthion: Filters out plastic clogging up the UK's waterways with a boat-mounted vacuum which mimics the way remora fish feed.
- Axion: Recycles plastics like car bumpers and motorcycle helmets, currently sent to landfill, and turns them into plastic pellets for moulding into new products such as bins or cables.
- Polymateria: Makes biodegradable plastic which lets you put packaging straight into the compost with your food waste.

Business and Energy Secretary, Greg Clark, said:

Companies are capitalising on the UK's world leading research base to develop products that tackle the global scourge of plastic waste while grasping the business opportunities found in the green economy.

When you combine Britain's leadership, innovation and determination it is an unbeatable combination – exactly what our Industrial Strategy and Green GB Week are supporting and encouraging.

Professor Duncan Wingham, Executive Chair, Natural Environment Research Council and PRIF lead for UKRI, said:

The Plastics Research Innovation Fund starts bringing the strength of UK Research and Innovation's entire portfolio, from environment to technology to business to behaviour and regulation, to bear on the pressing and very widely recognised problem of plastic waste.

The innovative businesses awarded funding today have stepped up and are bringing their creativity and entrepreneurialism to bear in finding real-world solutions to problem plastics, while at the same time aiming to create cleaner economic growth.

The Industrial Strategy has research and innovation at its heart and as part of this, the Government has committed to boost spending on research and development to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 to ensure the UK takes advantage of the economic opportunities from the move towards a cleaner, greener economy.

The competition is supported by the £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund which aims to build on the UK's global leadership in the fight against waste plastic, ensuring the UK reaps the economic benefits from the transition to a low carbon economy while leaving the environment in a better place for future generations. This announcement builds on the Government's world-leading Clean Growth Strategy which sets out more than £2.5 billion in low carbon innovation.

The announcement of the winners comes during the UK's first ever Green GB Week, calling on governments, businesses and communities to renew their efforts to confront climate change head on while seizing one of the greatest industrial opportunities of our time.

Just last week the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published a report stating that more rapid action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emission to avoid devastating risks of climate change to health and global prosperity. Government support to tackle plastic waste will help the UK realise the economic benefits of this global move to tackle climate change.

The UK has already taken great strides to tackle plastic pollution with thirteen billion plastic bags taken out of circulation through our 5p carrier bag charge and a ban on microbeads in care products.

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**[News story: CMA CGM Centaurus report](#)**

## **published**

MAIB's report on the heavy contact with the quay and two shore cranes by CMA CGM Centaurus during its arrival under pilotage at Jebel Ali, is now published. The accident in May 2017 resulted in the collapse of a shore crane and 10 injuries, including one serious injury, to shore personnel.

The report contains details of what happened, the subsequent actions taken and recommendation made: [read more](#).

### **Press enquiries**

Press enquiries during office hours  
01932 440015

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020 7944 4292

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## **Religious unbelief in the life of Professor Sir Fred Holliday**

Paul Merchant examines the state of 'religious unbelief' held by Professor Sir Fred Holliday [1935-2016], marine biologist, founding Chairman of Northumbrian Water, Vice-Chancellor and Warden of the University of Durham, and Director of Shell and of British Rail