

UK agrees two deals with major gulf trading partner Qatar

The UK enhanced its relationship with our third largest Gulf trading partner, announcing two significant agreements to boost trade and investment.

UK trade minister Ranil Jayawardena met Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani in London today [24 August] to agree the new partnerships at the third UK-Qatar Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).

It comes after the launch of negotiations on a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in June. An agreement with the GCC is an opportunity to grow an overall trade relationship worth £32.4 billion in 2020, breaking down barriers to trade and supporting jobs across the whole of the UK.

Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena, said:

Qatar is an important trade and investment partner for Britain. I believe we should nurture and maximise the strength of our relationship to make our economies more resilient and prosperous.

We are committed to taking steps to further deepen the trade and investment relationship we share with Qatar, and today's JETCO signals our ambition through two significant agreements.

The two new MOUs include a new agreement between Department for International Trade (DIT) and Qatar's Investment Promotion Agency, to help British businesses such as to enter the Qatari market. The collaboration will provide information to companies on strategic investment opportunities and provide guidance on market entry options.

On top of this, DIT also opened the UK export market to Qatar for the supply of vitamins and supplements, enabling Holland & Barrett to export these products to the country.

Nick Parker, Director of International Development, Holland & Barrett said:

Holland and Barrett's mission is to make health and wellness a way of life for everyone and through our two franchise stores in Qatar we have been able to serve our customers there since 2015, however until now our franchise partner has been unable to offer our own range of vitamins and supplements.

During the JETCO, UK Export Finance (UKEF) signed a memorandum with Qatar Development Bank to boost efforts between the UK and Qatari companies by sharing expertise on export finance, insurance products and cooperation on projects which involve both UK and Qatari goods and services.

The meeting of Ministers concluded with the signing of a Joint Statement outlining commitments to tackling market access issues on both sides and growing trade in a range of priority sectors, including healthcare and life sciences, education, and food and drink.

The next meeting of the JETCO will be organised by the State of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and will be held in Doha in 2023.

[Collaboration Event: Novel Amphibious Craft](#)

News story

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) are to host a collaboration event in October to aid the acceleration of partnerships across industry



- An event to accelerate partnerships across Industry
- In advance of a new themed competition, Novel Amphibious Craft, launching in October 2022
- Meet subject matter experts in this field

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) will host a collaboration event in advance of a new themed competition launch, Novel Amphibious Craft. This competition launches in October 2022, and will fund promising technologies to help develop a Commando Insertion Craft (CIC) fit to combat the threats of the 21st Century.

To create a platform that can transport personnel and light vehicles across great distances, in challenging conditions, whilst evading detection from

coastal sensors is a significant challenge. It demands collaboration between experts in many disciplines, including those outside the defence sector.

This event looks to accelerate partnerships, by bringing together prospective innovators across industry. There will also be an opportunity to connect with subject matter experts from the competition team.

Why should you attend?

Attending the collaboration event will allow you to:

- understand the requirements of front line operators
- form new collaborative relationships with innovators that have complimentary knowledge
- meet the experts from DASA and the Royal Marines Commando Force

Who should attend?

There are multiple complex engineering requirements for this competition and we expect that a proportion of the proposals will be collaborative efforts between multiple suppliers. This event targets innovators interested in networking and/or establishing collaborations before submitting a proposal to the competition.

Register

Register your interest in attending via this [Eventbrite page](#). Registration will close at midday on Friday 23 September 2022.

Background

The CIC will be the medium lift craft to deliver Royal Marine Commando teams and their equipment from specialist ships to foreign and hostile coastal access points without being detected.

Royal Marine Commando teams will be expected to operate independently and as part of a larger group, and will complement the force's network of sensors and command and control capabilities. The craft must be able to travel ranges of 300 nautical miles (threshold) at speeds of no less than 25 knots in sea state 2.

The Novel Amphibious Craft competition is seeking innovative technologies that could help to develop a novel landing craft that can:

- travel at sustained high speed over a long range
- provide the ability to deliver personnel and light vehicles to a coastal access point with limited/ no impact on operational speed/capability
- relaunch from the coastal access point
- consider Signature Management across all spectrums to reduce probability of detection (for example thermal, radar, visual, acoustic)

This competition is expected to launch in late October 2022, with funding being provided to proposals that successfully pass DASA's assessment and moderation panels.

Important information

- please note that the event will be an open public event held at OFFICIAL; the appropriateness of discussions should be considered by attendees
- while we encourage collaboration, we wish to stress that it is the sole responsibility of each attendee to consider and manage appropriately any disclosure of their proprietary information to any other attendee or party, given the public nature of the event
- there will be a limited hybrid component to this event via Microsoft Teams
- photographic identification will be required at entry

Further event details will be sent upon confirmation of your place to attend.

Published 24 August 2022

[Harry Rich reappointed as Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists](#)

News story

Minister of State, Lord True, has reappointed Harry Rich as the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists.



Lord True, Minister of State, has reappointed Harry Rich as the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists. His new term will commence from 22 September 2022 for a term of no more than three years on a fixed term contract with the possibility of further reappointment.

Harry Rich is Chair of the Intellectual Property Office, Chair of the Valuation Tribunal Service, non-executive director of the Press Recognition Panel, governor of the Glasgow School of Art, an Executive Coach and business advisor. He is Companion of the Chartered Management Institute and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is also a qualified but non-practising solicitor.

The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists is an independent, statutory office established by the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014. The Registrar is responsible for keeping and publishing a register of consultant lobbyists. The Registrar has a duty to monitor compliance with the requirement to register and a power to undertake enforcement action in instances of non-compliance.

The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists. Further information on the lobbying register can be found on the [website of the Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists](#).

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[Ann Phillips appointed as Charity Commission Legal Board Member](#)

News story

The Secretary of State has appointed Ann Phillips for a 3 year term commencing 1 September 2022.



Ann Phillips is a solicitor with over 30 years' experience advising on charity law and practice.

She is a Consultant with Stone King LLP. Before becoming a Consultant in

2020, she was a Partner of Stone King LLP for nearly 20 years and chaired the firm for 6 years, from 2014 to 2020.

Ann was Chair of the Charity Law Association from 2011 to 2014 and prior to that served on the Association's Executive Committee for several years, contributing to its work on developments in charity law and related matters.

She has held a number of charity trusteeships and other voluntary roles.

Remuneration and Governance Code

Charity Commission board members are offered remuneration of £350 per day for approximately 24 days per year. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Ann Phillips has declared no significant political activity.

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[Armed Forces Minister meets UK troops in Estonia](#)

News story

James Heapey spoke with soldiers from the Royal Welsh and 2nd Battalion, the Rifles and met Estonia's newly appointed Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur



Armed Forces Minister James Heapey with Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey has met UK soldiers protecting NATO's borders during a visit to Estonia, including his old battalion, 2 Rifles.

The minister travelled to Tapa, where more than 1,600 British personnel are based, watching troops train and speaking with servicemen and women.

He also met with Estonia's newly appointed Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur to discuss our joint work to support Ukraine and uphold European security.

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey said:

Every day our friends here in Estonia live with the threat of a belligerent Russia on the other side of their border.

Bilaterally and through NATO, the UK will stand firm with Estonia and I'm proud of the way our troops here stand ready to fight whenever, wherever they are needed.

More than 800 troops from 1st Battalion, the Royal Welsh currently lead a NATO enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) battlegroup in Estonia. The UK also has a second battlegroup of over 800 from 2nd Battalion, the Rifles in the country after deploying them in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[Defence Secretary Ben Wallace announced in June](#) that the lethality of these deployments would be enhanced with advanced capabilities including helicopters and artillery systems, as part of an increased UK contribution to NATO. Meanwhile, the UK's existing HQ in Tallinn will be expanded. Led by a Brigadier, it will support the rapid deployment of high readiness forces at the brigade level.

The UK will also support Estonia with training and logistics, the development of its first divisional-level HQ, as well as developing new ways of fighting through their joint hosting of the [Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic](#) European HQ, and supporting innovative dual use start-ups through the NATO Innovation Fund.

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