

News story: Working together with the United Nations

The United Nations, headquartered in New York, is an organisation of 193 member states; founded in 1945. There are currently 14 UN Peacekeeping Missions ongoing, with 124 countries contributing personnel in support of these missions.

Recent reports have highlighted the UN's lack of standardisation of training for personnel of the Troop Contributing Countries. One main area that needed urgent attention was the standardisation of medical care. Several work strands are on-going to address standardisation along the whole patient care pathway; the UN Buddy First Aid Course (BFAC) is the first building block. The BFAC will become the first aid course required to be completed by every soldier, from every country, contributing to UN Peacekeeping missions. In the UK parlance this is the equivalent of Army MATT3 training.

The UK's involvement began in 2017 following a visit to the Medical Services Division of the UN HQ by the then Surgeon General. Realising the similarities between the BFAC and the UK MATT3, as can be seen in the table below; and understanding the training development resources available within the Defence Medical Services, an offer was made to the UN to support their development of the UN BFAC.

UK MATT 3	UN BFAC
C Catastrophic Bleeding	M Massive Bleeding
A Airway	A Airway
B Breathing	R Respiration
C Circulation	C Circulation
D Disability	H Heat/Cold Injuries
E Exposure	

Over the last 18 months the Defence Medical Services have supported the UN in developing the BFAC concept into a reality. The original course content was agreed with UN Mine Action Awareness and Israeli military medical personnel. Japan and Israel pledged money and the UK provided course development expertise to turn the initial course into a polished product.

The BFAC Pilot Course took place in Entebbe, Uganda in February 2018, delivering BFAC training to 24 students representing 15 UN Member states. The UK sent 2 observers to this training event.

The Directing Staff and Students of the UN BFAC Master Trainer Course, Galway, Ireland. MOD Crown Copyright.

Following this Pilot Course, the Graphics department supporting training design and delivery for Defence Medical Services Education and Training Courses based in Lichfield, Staffordshire, set to work creating course

documentation. The style and simplicity of the design work ensured courses could be delivered in multiple languages and in multiple environments.

The next challenge was how to cascade training out to 124 nations. Again, the UK already has a great model for such training in the form of the Defence Train the Trainer Course. UK personnel, with experience in delivering training to trainers, helped to develop the UN BFAC Master Trainer Course. This course would see a cohort of multi-national students trained in one location who would then return to their own country to train trainers.

The UK has significant interest in seeing this cascade training commence as delivery of medical training is a significant part of the output of short term training teams deployed worldwide. Many NATO countries do similar work supporting partner nations. The introduction of a global standardised course, very similar in nature to UK training, would ensure that Troop Contributing Countries are taught one course, rather than differing national courses, which often results in duplication and confusion.

Captain Boateng (Ghana) as the casualty with WO Prakash (India). MOD Crown Copyright.

In December 2018, the UN piloted the UN BFAC Master Trainer course at The United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC) which is the United Nations Peacekeeping office based in Brindisi, Italy. Ideally students would turn up already familiar with the BFAC content and the Master Trainer Course would focus on Instructional Techniques. However, in these early days, the BFAC is required to be taught at the start to ensure all students have this basic knowledge. The UK instructors have led with the delivery of the Instructional Techniques part of the course:

- roles and responsibilities
- student engagement
- planning and preparing a lesson
- lesson structure
- skills analysis
- delivering training
- selection and use of training aids
- confirmation of learning

Following instruction, the students were then required to teach back lessons and scenarios based upon the BFAC syllabus. Rigorous assessments were conducted to ensure that the appropriate standard had been met by the students. Those students who passed were awarded one of the 4 qualifications:

- certified as a UN Master Trainer and able to train trainers
- certified as a Trainer to deliver UN BFAC to students
- successfully passed the UN Buddy First Aid Course (not certified to deliver training)
- certificate of Participation for attending the UNBFAC Master Trainer Course (not certified to deliver training)

Overall, the UN BFAC Master Trainer Pilot Course was deemed successful; 22

students attended the course and 15 nations were represented. The concept of the cascade training was tested and over 70% of students attending achieved trainer status; with 50% being accredited as UN BFAC Master Trainers.

Lt Col Kawano (Japan), SSgt Slane (UK) and Sergeant James (UK) plan assessment groups. MOD Crown Copyright.

The follow up course took place in Renmore Barracks in Galway, Ireland, from the 10 to 16 March 2019. The course comprised of 18 students with 13 nations represented. This time the UK supported the delivery with 2 directing staff and with 2 UK students attending. 3 students who had been successful in Brindisi were invited to instruct on this course along with returning staff from the UK, Israel, Japan and the UN Mine Action Service who were all present on the December pilot course and provided continuity.

Press release: DIT leads hundreds of global investors to London Tech Week

The Secretary of State for International Trade, Dr Liam Fox MP, will lead major delegations to London Tech Week this week from countries as far afield as Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, the UAE and the US to showcase Britain's innovative tech firms and drive investment into the UK at Europe's largest tech summit. Investors are expected to descend upon the capital city, representing billions of pounds of investment into the UK.

Global tech firms including Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Facebook will join major international delegations led by the Department for International Trade (DIT) including over 300 delegates from China to participate in Europe's largest technology gathering. They will join UK firms showcasing British innovation in smart cities technology, artificial intelligence (AI) and fintech, in an effort to attract more international investment and commercial partnerships with global firms.

Delegates expected include businesses and government representatives from 5 cities and provinces including Beijing, Shanghai, Shandong, Shanxi and Guizhou. 90 representatives are expected to attend from Australia, including 30 Australian tech start-ups, alongside over 80 delegates from Latin America and 40 delegates from North America including, Denver, Austin, Colorado and Toronto which includes senior representatives from their Boards of Trade. Some of the businesses coming as part of the delegation include LG Innotek and Chunghwa Telecoms.

The Prime Minister announced in her speech today (Monday 10 June) that the International Trade Secretary will also be responsible for leading four new regional trade missions, each focused on the Government's Industrial Strategy

Grand Challenges. The first four of these will take place this year and act as a catalyst for sustained international engagement on issues of trade, cutting edge research and the future of public policy with international partners around the world. The missions will be supported by the department's international network.

Speaking at the start of London Tech Week, the Secretary of State for International Trade, Dr Liam Fox MP said:

The UK is a global hub for tech businesses and remains one of the world's top destinations for tech investment and foreign investment globally.

London Tech Week is a brilliant opportunity to fly the flag for British tech on a global stage, and I'm proud to be leading such a strong delegation of international investors to showcase Britain's cutting-edge innovation in sectors like AI and drive investment into our world leading industry.

The success of the UK's tech industry will be critical to our economic prosperity now and for years to come, so I am committed to supporting this sector, as we move towards leaving the EU.

The Department is seeking to strengthen the UK's position as the leading destination for tech investment in the EU and firmly establish 'Silicon UK'. London currently ranks as the number one destination for tech and venture capital investment in Europe, attracting £6.3 billion in venture capital investment in 2018, more than any other European country. Forbes' 2018 report also named the UK the best place to do business in the world.

During Tech Week, DIT will be partnering with a number of organisations including London & Partners, PwC and EY on events including deep dive sessions on 'scaling up' in the UK, speed dating events for small businesses with venture capital investors and networking receptions for businesses looking to set up operations in the UK.

DIT will also welcome some of the world's biggest technology companies to Lancaster House on Tuesday (11 June) for speeches on and discussion of the future of the sector. They will be joined by international tech entrepreneurs looking to set up their businesses in the UK and UK firms looking to expand overseas.

[News story: Innovate UK releases](#)

2019-2020 Delivery Plan

Innovate UK has today published its Delivery Plan for 2019-2020, alongside the other Councils within UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The Innovate UK plan is framed by 5 strategic goals:

- deliver measurable economic and societal impact across the UK
- support and invest in innovative businesses and entrepreneurs with the potential and ambition to grow
- maximise the commercial impact of world-class knowledge developed in UK industries and its research base
- identify, support and grow transforming and emerging industries through innovation
- build a coherent, supportive environment incentivising R&D investment and enabling people and businesses to innovate

Call to innovate

As the UK's innovation agency, Innovate UK has succeeded in investing over £2.2 billion more than 11,000 projects over the last 12 years. These have created as much as £16 billion in gross value added to the UK economy and 70,000 jobs.

Innovate UK is supporting the government's [Industrial Strategy](#) commitment to increase R&D spending to 2.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) through the [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#) in further partnerships between businesses, researchers and government.

Dr Ian Campbell, Interim Executive Chair of Innovate UK, said:

To achieve the Government's Industrial Strategy commitment to increase R&D spending to 2.4% of GDP by 2027, our new strategy takes more of an investment-driven approach to innovation.

It focuses much more closely on creating the conditions for private investment in R&D, on creating an enabling environment by championing and assisting industry to innovate, on nurturing the sectors and technologies that will transform the UK, and on encouraging innovation in all businesses with the potential to grow and scale, right across the country.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, Innovate UK will adopt new investment-focused approaches to financially support universities, the public sector and especially businesses, which account for two-thirds of all UK research and development (R&D).

Following the successful rollout of [Innovation Loans](#) and the Investment

Accelerator, the Delivery Plan includes further work on new innovation finance options to boost the impact of government funding.

9 Delivery Plans across UKRI

Building on the [Strategic Prospectus](#), published in May 2018, the UKRI 2019-2020 Delivery Plans detail how the Government's target of 2.4% of GDP spend on research and innovation by 2027 will be guided by 6 themes:

- business environment, with a focus on delivering projects with social, cultural and economic impact
- places, supporting growth across the UK
- ideas, developing disruptive and ground-breaking projects
- people, investing in the skills and environment for innovation to thrive
- infrastructure, ensuring access and investment in world-leading research
- international, meeting global challenges and forming international partnerships

Professor Sir Mark Walport, UKRI Chief Executive, said:

The delivery plans announced today are the blueprints for UKRI's ambition to deliver the future of research and innovation. They outline how we will address the major global and societal challenges of our time, catalyse collaboration and contribute to meeting the government's ambitious 2.4% target.

Sir Mark will be discussing the delivery plans at a UKRI evening event at the University of Leeds today, as well as profile UKRI's first year of operation.

[Press release: UK-USA special relationship helps drive British exports to record heights](#)

- UK exports of goods and services in the 12 months to April 2019 increased by 4.0% to £645.8 billion.
- Goods exports increased by 4.7% to £356.6 billion.
- Goods exports to the USA increased by 11.9% to £57.6 billion, helping to drive up British exports.

- Total trade between the UK and USA in 2018 worth £190.5 billion.

Demand from the US was the strongest driver of UK export growth in the 12 months to April 2019, new Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures showed today (10 June) as UK exports reached a record high of £645.8 billion.

In yet another sign of the special relationship following the US State Visit last week, goods exports to the USA were worth £57.6 billion, over £20 billion more than Germany, our second largest single export market for goods.

Overall, British goods exports to the world over the past year increased by £16 billion. The US was by far the largest contributor of any single country to this increase, with British exports to our closest trading partner increasing by £6.1 billion and, therefore, accounting for over a third of the total increase in value of British goods exports (38.4%).

In terms of both goods and services, in 2018, the USA was by far the UK's biggest export market. The UK was the USA's largest European export market.

The unique economic relationship between the USA and UK is not just evident in our trading relationship, but also by the levels of investment in each other's economies. Both nations are the largest investors in each other's economies with mutual investment totalling around £609 billion. Furthermore, everyday 1 million Americans work for British companies in America, whilst 1 million Britons do the same for American companies in the UK.

Secretary of State for International Trade, Dr Liam Fox, said:

Last week's state visit reinforced the shared values between the UK and US, but also reminded us of the truly unique economic relationship which helps our businesses to prosper.

Today's record-breaking figures putting total UK exports at over £645 billion demonstrates the resilience of our economy, despite the increasingly uncertain global economic environment.

I encourage exporters right across the country to use today's statistics as evidence that despite global headwinds, the most prosperous countries in the world are demanding British goods at unprecedented levels.

The Department for International Trade is a dedicated international economic department, helping British business succeed abroad, as never before.

[News story: Thermo Fisher/Roper abandon deal](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has therefore today confirmed that it is cancelling its phase 2 merger investigation. The CMA was consulting on its provisional findings and possible remedies and preparing to publish its final report.

Thermo Fisher supplies, among other things, high-tech electron microscopes used for scientific research. Gatan produces highly-specialised “peripherals” or add-ons, such as filters and cameras, which are used in the operation of microscopes by customers including UK universities and research institutions.

The CMA launched a [phase 2 inquiry](#) on 7 January 2019 after initial competition concerns led to the proposed merger being referred to a group of independent CMA panel members for an in-depth investigation.

In its [provisional findings](#), issued in April 2019, the group found that the proposed deal may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in relevant markets in the UK as it is likely to enhance Thermo Fisher’s already strong market position, and lead to higher prices or lower quality for customers using electron microscopes.

Additionally, it said the merger may leave insufficient competition in the markets for certain peripherals, as Gatan is currently one of only a small number of competitors in the supply of these instruments.