

# [News story: The Maritime Enterprise Innovation and Research Conference 2018](#)

The Maritime, Enterprise, Innovation and Research (MEIR) unit are looking for key technologies that will significantly improve the ability for unmanned/autonomous systems to operate in the underwater environment, by expanding their use and employ-ability for military and commercial use. Proposals will be welcomed through the [DASA Open Call for Innovation](#).

The MEIR challenges will be briefed in detail at the MEIR Conference at the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow) on 24 January 2018. MEIR members, which include the Royal Navy and MOD subject matter experts, will be on hand at this event to discuss the technical detail behind the challenges. Representatives from the DASA team will be present to discuss how the Open Call will support this.

There are 2 specific challenges for which the Royal Navy seeks innovative technologies to resolve, by:

- Providing, or contributing towards, low power, high accuracy navigation for unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV).

This challenge is based on the fact that current UUV navigation systems tend to rely on relatively high power inertial systems. A low power solution would enable greater endurance or increased capability, and utility could be increased through expanding the ability to navigate without input from other traditional autonomous navigation sensors (for example, GPS).

- Allowing longer duration operations from autonomous systems.

This challenge is based on expanding system range and endurance through advanced energy management and generation, energy scavenging and storage, and the use of low power systems.

MEIR aims to bring together Users, SMEs, Tier1 Industry partners, DASA and Defence Innovation funding to develop a clear exploitation path to solve/assist solving complex maritime problems in the underwater environment through creativity and collaboration.

If you are interested in registering for this event, please get in touch directly with the University of Strathclyde on [corporate-events@strath.ac.uk](mailto:corporate-events@strath.ac.uk)

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# [News story: Civil news: next steps in 2018 civil contracts tender process](#)

We are contacting organisations from 4 January 2018 with updates and guidance on next steps about their bids for 2018 civil contracts work.

This follows the closure of tenders for Civil Legal Advice (CLA) and face to face contracts on 10 November 2017.

We will be advising organisations that:

- bid for a face to face contract but whose application failed to reach the minimum threshold to be given further consideration
- have been successful in bidding for face to face contracts in the Housing & Debt category
- have been shortlisted for a CLA contract

Notifications for the remaining categories will follow in due course.

## **How will these announcements be made?**

We will formally write to each affected organisation using the e-Tendering system, advising them of the status of their tenders, in the week beginning 2 January 2018.

We anticipate that all notifications will have been sent out by Wednesday 10 January 2018.

Applicants bidding for face to face housing and debt contracts who have not been notified by 10 January should contact us through the e-Tendering message board.

## **What about notifications for other categories?**

We will notify applicants who have bid for other face to face categories of law in March 2018.

## **When will new contracts begin?**

Services under new face to face and CLA contracts will begin on 1 September 2018. Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) contracts will follow on 1 October 2018.

## **How long will the contracts last?**

Each contract will initially run until 31 August 2021, with an option for the Legal Aid Agency to extend for up to a further 2 years.

## **What will happen next?**

We will continue to consider tenders in line with the process set out in the Information for Applicants (IFA).

## **Provider enquiries**

Update concerning announcement published on GOV.UK Legal Aid Civil Tender 2018 page:

[Civil 2018 contracts tender](#)

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## **News story: New Falklands Chief Justice appointed**

On instructions from the Secretary of State, His Excellency the Governor has formally appointed Mr James Lewis QC as the Honourable the Chief Justice of the Falkland Islands.

Mr Lewis was officially sworn in by the Governor at a ceremony held at Government House on Thursday 4 January.

Governor of the Falkland Islands, Nigel Phillips CBE commented:

“I am delighted to be able to welcome James as the new Chief Justice for the Falkland Islands.

“James and his wife have a longstanding interest and connection with the Islands, a huge breadth of experience in the judiciary and working with other Overseas Territories. I know James will receive a warm welcome from the community.”

A specialist in both civil and criminal cases, Mr Lewis was called to the bar in 1987 after serving for a number of years with Her Majesty’s Armed Forces. He was appointed a Queen’s Counsel in 2002.

Mr Lewis commented:

“I am very much looking forward to taking up the appointment of Chief Justice and getting to know the Falkland Islands.

“My interest in the Falkland Islands was first sparked whilst on standby for the Falklands war as a young second lieutenant in 1982. Subsequently my wife visited the Falkland Islands in 1983 as a journalist and guest of the 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards. Indeed, at home we display a framed copy of the front page of the Penguin News published on the day victory was declared

(presented to my wife by the then editor of the paper).

“My interest in the region has been further inspired by my recent expedition to the Antarctic this year when I visited both Scott’s and Shackleton’s huts, islands in the Ross sea, and the New Zealand subantarctic islands.”

Mr Lewis and his wife, have another connection to the Islands: “My wife’s former secondary school teacher, who became a family friend, was the late Geoff Moir DFC, who taught at Fox Bay West and was very involved with the Falkland Islands Association.”

Mr Lewis takes over from Simon Bryan QC, the previous Chief Justice who has recently been appointed as a High Court Judge.

Governor Phillips said:

“On behalf of the whole community I would like to thank Simon for his support over the last few years and wish him and his family well for the future.”

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## [News story: GC organises workshop on allergen detection for public analysts](#)

Detection of allergen in some foods is complex, requiring multiple technical approaches

### **About the workshop**

This workshop is building on previous joint Knowledge Transfer events, and it is the first in a new series of government-funded events. The workshop will focus on providing advice, guidance and best practice on the application of a range of complementary analytical techniques for the detection of allergens in spices. The aim of the workshop is to provide participants with an analytical roadmap for detecting allergens.

The workshop will include presentations by Dr Chun-Han Chan from the FSA’s Allergen team and Greg Corbishley from BART ingredients who will offer an industry perspective. There will also be opportunities for round-table discussions. There is further information about the programme, location and times in the attached flyer.

The workshop is free for public analysts. Please book your place early by contacting: [training@lgcgroup.com](mailto:training@lgcgroup.com)

## About the organisers

Defra, FSA and FSS working in collaboration with the Government Chemist (funded by BEIS), have agreed a framework for the provision of knowledge transfer on food standards and food safety analysis to public analysts and industry laboratories for three years (2017 – 2020). This workshop will be the first KT event to be delivered in this jointly funded programme.

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## [Press release: Government to help commercial and community radio to go digital](#)

There are currently around 400 commercial and community radio stations that are limited to broadcasting to small geographic areas on analogue (FM/MW) frequencies under outdated regulations. The new approach means these stations will be able to reach a wider audience to the areas they serve on digital radio.

Over 60 per cent of households now own a digital radio and the changes are designed to encourage a widespread rollout of small radio networks, within county areas, on a Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) platform.

Digital Minister Matt Hancock said:

Local radio is much loved and vitally important as a source of objective and in touch local news. As more power is devolved locally, and as local newspapers struggle, local radio's role in the community is becoming more and more critical. So we are working hard with stations and listeners to make sure the rules are up to date, and give local radio the chance to use new digital technology to reach audiences, new and longstanding, old and young. Today's publication marks another step forward in that work. I'm very grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to make this progress.

Ford Ennals, Chief Executive Officer at Digital Radio UK said:

We welcome publication of the DCMS consultation on small-scale DAB which is an important enabling technology that can help hundreds of local commercial and community stations broadcast on DAB for the first time. This consultation is particularly important as there is much work still to be done to fully consider the best use of the limited spectrum available and how small-scale can work most

efficiently alongside existing local and national DAB multiplexes to help maximise the benefits to listeners.

The Government will now consult on the best approach for a licensing process that is appropriate for small scale DAB radio multiplexes, with the aim of having a new licensing arrangements in place by the end of the year. [The consultation](#) will run for 8 weeks, and closes on the 28 February 2018.

Ash Elford, Digital Development Manager, Angel Radio, who runs the small-scale multiplex in Portsmouth, said:

After over two years of successfully broadcasting local DAB services to Portsmouth, it is good to see a process for the full-time licencing of many more local multiplexes for cities and towns starting to take shape. We hope that the successes we have achieved so far with technical innovations and broadcasting smaller commercial, niche and community services can be replicated across the UK as soon as possible.

David Duffy, Director, Niocast Digital, who run Manchester's small-scale DAB multiplex, said:

Niocast welcomes the small-scale DAB consultation as an important next step in the development of digital radio across the UK.

Dean Kavanagh of Switch Radio and Multiplex Manager, BrumDAB SSDAB in Birmingham, said:

We welcome the news of the upcoming DCMS Small Scale DAB consultation. As we have seen already, this additional layer of DAB has brought with it significant benefits for listeners – unlocking a world of new and exciting programming that otherwise would not have had a home. This consultation represents the first steps towards providing this exciting platform for all.

## Notes to Editors

1. DAB radio services are broadcast as multiplexes. A radio multiplex consists of a number of DAB radio stations bundled together to be transmitted digitally on a single frequency in a given geographic area. This makes it a more efficient way of transmitting sound signals compared to analogue radio, where stations are broadcast on individual frequencies.
2. Stations currently need a DSP (Digital Sound Programme) licences to broadcast on a digital radio multiplex. The government is consulting on a new type of DSP license – a C-DSP – for community radio stations. C-

DSP licence holders would benefit from being able to access the Community Radio Fund and other social/third sector funding (just as existing analogue community radio station licence holders are able to do so) and the reserved capacity for community radio stations on small scale radio multiplexes.

3. There has been a steady and consistent increase in the take up of digital radio over the past 10 years and digital's share of all radio listening currently sits at 48.8% and 61.1% of households own a DAB radio set (RAJAR Q3 2017).
4. Ofcom's International Communications Market Report 2017 indicates that digital radio listening is higher in the UK than in the other 16 comparator countries.
5. The Broadcasting (Radio Multiplex Services) Act 2017 gives the Secretary of State a power to modify (through secondary legislation) the various procedures, provisions and conditions that are attached to the award of radio multiplex licences in Part 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
6. DCMS provided funding for a two-year (2014-16) programme of work by Ofcom, building on previous technical development testing in Brighton, to examine the practical viability of a new approach to DAB transmission, known as small scale DAB.
7. As part of the programme DCMS provided funding for Ofcom to conduct 10 technical trials of small scale DAB in cities and towns across the UK. The trials were designed to test the viability of small scale DAB technology and have involved more than 100 small radio stations broadcasting on terrestrial DAB for the first time, including some new services. These 10 trials were initially licensed by Ofcom for 9 months. The trial licences were subsequently extended up to 2 years after a request by DCMS.