[News story: Tackling disease with healthcare innovations: apply for funding]

Businesses can apply for a share of up to £12 million to develop or test innovative ways of diagnosing, preventing and treating disease.

There is up to £12 million to support projects that are developing or testing out new healthcare products, technologies or processes.

This funding is available through the Biomedical Catalyst, a partnership between Innovate UK and the Medical Research Council that supports innovative opportunities in the life sciences.

Quicker, more effective healthcare

Projects in the Biomedical Catalyst could:

- help to prevent or manage chronic conditions
- lead to better detection or diagnosis of disease
- that treat disease or offer potential cures

In this funding round there are 2 competitions.

Late-stage projects

Up to £8 million is available for late-stage projects that test a well-developed concept and demonstrate its suitability in a relevant environment.

A late-stage project can include:

- initial human proof-of-concept studies
- demonstration of clinical utility and effectiveness
- demonstration of safety and efficacy. This includes phase I and II clinical trials
- developing production mechanisms
- prototyping
- market testing
- intellectual property protection

Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for applications is 7 February 2018
- projects must be led by a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME), working alone or with other SMEs or research organisations
- we expect projects to range in size from £200,000 to £4 million and to

last between 1 and 3 years
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs

Primer awards

A further £4 million is available in primer awards. This is for projects that carry out technical evaluations through to proofs of concept in a model system.

A primer project could include:

- experimental evaluation done at laboratory scale
- initial demonstration using in vitro and in vivo models. It does not include human clinical trials such as safety or efficacy
- exploring potential production mechanisms
- early-stage prototyping
- product development planning
- intellectual property protection

Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for applications is 7 February 2018
- projects must be led by an SME, working alone or with other SMEs or research organisations
- we expect projects to range in size from £200,000 to £1.5 million and to last between 1 and 2 years
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs

News story: Vice Chair appointment to the Judicial Appointments Commission

Lady Justice Rafferty has been appointed as a new senior judicial commissioner and Vice Chair to the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) from 14 November and will run until 26 July 2020.

JAC is an independent body that selects candidates for judicial office in courts and tribunals in England and Wales, and for some tribunals with UK-wide jurisdiction. Candidates are selected on merit, through fair and open competition.

JAC Commissioners are appointed by Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.

Appointments and re-appointments to JAC are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. These appointments have been made in line with the

Commissioner's Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies.

Biography

Dame Anne Judith Rafferty was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1973, and became Queen's Counsel in 1990. She was appointed a Recorder in 1991, a Deputy High Court Judge in 1996, and was made a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 1998. She was appointed to the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) in 2000 and was a Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit between 2003 and 2006. In July 2014, she was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Judicial College on 1 July 2014. On 1 August 2014, for a three-year term, Dame Anne and was appointed a Lady Justice of Appeal in 2011.

News story: UK space launch programme receives £50 million boost in Government's Industrial Strategy

Business Secretary Greg Clark announced the plans today (Monday 27 November) as he launched the Government's ambitious Industrial Strategy. This sets out a long-term vision for how Britain can build on its economic strengths, address its productivity performance, embrace technological change and support businesses and workers.

The £50 million programme, which builds on the £99 million already invested in the National Satellite Test Facility at Harwell, will help UK spaceports access a global market for launching small satellites worth £10 billion over 10 years, and offer low gravity flights to advance cutting-edge science.

UK Space Agency Chief Executive, Graham Turnock, said:

"The ambition of our LaunchUK programme is for a home-grown market for spaceflight which will give businesses across the country access to exciting new opportunities.

"This £50 million boost from the Industrial Strategy will help the UK Space Agency continue working with the industry to develop new technologies, infrastructure and services, to establish the UK as a world leading destination for space launch."

The UK Space Agency is working with industry to grow the UK's share of the global space market from 6.5% to 10% by 2030. To achieve this, companies must be able to pursue new commercial opportunities from the UK, which offers an excellent location for space launch, with a world-leading small satellite industry, access to in-demand orbits, and reputation for regulatory excellence.

The Department for Transport, Civil Aviation Authority and UK Space Agency are working together to legislate to enable a comprehensive regulatory environment for these activities with the Space Industry Bill currently going through Parliament. Several sites in England, Wales and Scotland have so far come forward with spaceport plans. A series of LaunchUK roadshows are currently touring the country to explore how the market can develop, what opportunities it offers for new supply chains, and how the benefits can be delivered across the country.

The Government has also provided further guidance today for sectors such as space, which are developing sector deal proposals, and intends to announce negotiations for new deals in the New Year.

Speech: Liam Fox celebrates UK – New Zealand trading relationship

Tena koutou, Tena koutou, Tena koutou katoa
[Maori Meaning: Greetings, greetings, greetings to you all]

There you have it, Maori with a Scottish accident.

It is a pleasure to be back again in New Zealand, and to visit your country for the first time in my new capacity as Secretary of State for International Trade.

I was last here in 2011, when I came as Secretary of State for Defence. At that time, I was here to strengthen the defence and security links between our nations. Today, I am here to strengthen the economic and trade ties between us and boost our partnership and to commit to an open, rules based system for international trade.

I am delighted to be the first UK cabinet minister, and as I understand it, the first senior minister from any Commonwealth country, to visit New Zealand since your election.

I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Arden and Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters – not least for being here – on coming together to form a coalition government and David Parker on his appointment as Minister for Trade and Export Growth, among his other many roles – in some countries he would be a one man cabinet.

Before I get too far into the speech, I would also like to thank Phil Wood of the British New Zealand Business Association for hosting this event today.

The BNZBA are celebrating their centenary this year, and for all that time they have worked tirelessly to develop and promote bilateral trade, investment and goodwill between New Zealand and Britain.

It is a pleasure to be hosted by an organisation that is committed to the UK-New Zealand relationship as my own Department is – and been around a bit longer.

As I'm sure all of you will be aware, I have arrived in New Zealand at an exciting moment in the UK's economic and political history.

When my Department for International Trade was created by the Prime Minister last year, it was the first time in more than 4 decades that the world's fifth-largest economy had had a dedicated trade department, with a seat at the cabinet table.

Last year's referendum result has brought the UK's trading future into sharp focus. Soon, we will be able to shape our own, independent trade policy, and determine our own economic destiny.

My department has faced a steep learning curve. I would like to pay tribute to New Zealand's own Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their invaluable support and assistance to my department.

Not only did they share best practice and strategy, but they brought decades of experience to help DIT achieve immediate success.

It was an act of friendship that will not be forgotten.

Britain's trading future will, of course, rest partially upon the future relationship that we negotiate with the European Union.

The Prime Minister has been clear on what that relationship should entail. We are seeking an ambitious and comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU, but we must also be free to negotiate our own agreements with friends and partners across the world.

Throughout the EU process, our watchwords will be transparency, stability and continuity.

We want businesses operating in the UK to face minimal disruption, and to ensure that their trade in Europe and elsewhere goes unhindered.

This may involve a transition period while our new relationship is implemented. Our future relationship will be based upon shared values, cooperation, and mutual prosperity.

That is why I am confident that an agreement will be reached. It is essential the we ensure agreement on economic principals rather than political for the benefit of all our citizens.

The question then arises – what kind of trading nation does Britain want to be? If this power of economic self-determination is being repatriated, how do we intend to use them?

Some of you will read what the nay sayers continue to write. Despite what some commentators would have you believe, the UK will continue to be a successful and prosperous economic power after we leave the European Union.

Since the referendum FDI is at a record high and unemployment is down.

This should not surprise anyone, after all, our intrinsic strengths, from the English language, to our legal system to our universities and advanced research capabilities, will continue to make us one of the most competitive places on earth to do business.

Quite simply, Britain’s ambition is to be the global champion of free trade, using our economic and diplomatic influence to remove barriers to trade and liberalise international commerce.

A large part of this will involve leading by example – ensuring that our own bilateral and multilateral trade is a frictionless as possible.

This will begin with the replication, as far as possible, of our current trading schedules as we take our independent seat on the WTO – in Geneva, maintaining current tariff levels with a view to seeking further liberalisation in future.

On the day we leave the EU, we will also continue trading on our current terms with the nations with which we already have trade agreements under the EU, rolling over those favourable agreements intact.

After all, the UK has no desire to erect barriers to trade and investment where none currently exist – quite the reverse!

We have already organised trade working groups with countries around the world, including New Zealand, to remove non-tariff barriers and liberalise trade in the short-term.

Some of these will develop over time into full FTA negotiations, though it is worth pointing out that FTAs are not the only tools we have available to promote more open and more liberal trade.

And, as I have publically said many times, my 3 top priorities for future free trade agreements are New Zealand, Australia, and the United States.

New Zealand, of course, is a natural trading partner for the United Kingdom.

A shared history has developed over time into unshakable friendship.

Its foundation, of course, is the personal links that exist between our 2 countries. There are, for example, over 250,000 British passport holders currently living here – some 5% of the population.

There are, in turn, around 50% more Kiwis working in the UK than there were 20 years ago.

This closeness is reflected in the success of our economic relationship. In 2015 to 2016, UK exports to New Zealand increased by more than 27%. This makes New Zealand our fastest-growing export market. The BNZNA must feel very vindicated!

Our export success has been driven largely by an increase in sales of vehicles, both personal cars and public transport.

British bus manufacturer Alexander Dennis has, for example, secured more than £50 million worth of orders this year from across New Zealand.

And UK defence companies are natural partners in helping NZ meet its modern defence needs with offshore patrol, future frigate and air transport capabilities.

Britain is, in turn, New Zealand’s largest export market in the European Union. New Zealand exports more to the UK than to Germany, France and Italy combined.

Our investment relationship is also a remarkable success story. Britain is the second-largest overseas investor in New Zealand, holding some 20% of total FDI. According to the New Zealand government, the UK’s investments in this country amounts to around $76 billion NZD.

Of course, all of us here today know that we cannot rest on our laurels. There remains a vast amount of untapped potential between our economies and for us to do in partnership to achieve globally.

Already, UK companies are contributing their experience and expertise to major development projects across New Zealand, from Auckland’s city rail link, to redevelopment of the city’s airport and ambitious urban regeneration projects.

British companies will help to build New Zealand’s future.

And, in turn, New Zealand will have a major role in the future of the UK.

For you have charted a path that we seek to follow. Britain’s accession to the EEC was an economic shock to this country, as barriers to trade were erected around your primary export market.

When Britain joined the European Community, New Zealand reacted not by turning inwards, but by transforming yourself into one of the world’s great free-trading nations.

The remarkable economic success of the last 3 decades owes much to the ambition and vision of your communities, your businesses and your governments. Britain could learn much from this approach.

Let me tell you, the All Blacks might be rightly feared and respected on the rugby pitch, but their dominance pales in comparison to the respect afforded to your trade negotiators in the corridors of the WTO in Geneva.

In fact, they are so good that I even hired one myself, when Crawford Falconer joined DIT as Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser a few months ago.

The UK hopes to replicate at least some of your success. Not only is your FTA with Australia rightly hailed as the global gold-standard, but New Zealand is the only country to successfully conclude FTAs with China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Once, the United Kingdom too was synonymous with free trade. Now, we must regain that confidence and seize the opportunity to reshape global trade in the future.

As we begin this process, New Zealand has already proved itself a firm and steadfast friend.

Few countries on earth enjoy such a close relationship, not only historically, but in our values, our people, and our defence and security. It is as sound a base as there can be for a confident future partnership.

There may be challenges ahead – there always have been – but if we remain dedicated to our free trading principles, then I believe that we can build a brighter, more prosperous future, for Britain, New Zealand, and the world.

Politics is binary, you are either shape by the world around you, or you shape the world around you. I choose that together we do the shaping.

Thank you.

Press release: Insolvency Service investigation leads to another binary options company being shut down

Metro Options Limited (Metro Options) was wound up by the Manchester District Registry on 13 November 2017.

The compant traded from the website www.metrooptions.com between July 2015 to December 2016, after which time the company was abandoned, with the website not being accessible thereafter.

The website and company sales representatives offered members of the public the opportunity to conduct binary options trading, which is a form of fixed-odds betting on movements in financial markets. The website made various investment return claims, none of which were founded, including:

- profits of £400 per £500 trade were achievable
- the company would match customer deposits and that a bonus scheme

existed
- trading insurances of between 50% and 100% would be provided
- the company had more than 600 retail clients
- the company was awaiting a licence renewal from the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission
- the company operated a one-off refund policy for losses incurred in a 90 day period

Those customers who contacted the police, via Action Fraud, complained that they were unable to obtain any refunds of deposits or supposed investment returns, and that the company effectively ceased to communicate with them after requests for refunds or investment returns were made. Those parties reported losses of £350,000. Customers had been requested to pay their monies into at least eight known bank accounts, none of those which were company bank accounts.

Metro Options also falsely claimed to have had an established trading presence at its Canary Wharf registered office, at 5 Harbour Exchange Square, London, E14 9GE. In fact the company had never had any registered office presence at that location, a matter that HH Judge Bird found to be a serious deficiency in its own right during the winding up hearing.

The initial director of the company, Kyle Snoxell, who resigned as a director on the same day as his appointment (on 29 June 2015) informed investigators that although he was involved in the setting up of the company, he decided at that time that upfront costs and problems encountered with an unnamed Bulgarian based company who were to provide technology and support services, were a barrier to continue with the company. A Miklos Attila was appointed company director on the day Mr Snoxell resigned. Mr Attila could not be traced by the investigators.

Cheryl Lambert, a Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

> The Insolvency Service will take action against companies that make unfounded and misleading statements in order to induce members of the public to invest money.

Notes to Editors

Metro Options Limited (Company number 09661759) was incorporated on 29 June 2015. Its registered office is at 5 Harbour Exchange Square, London, E14 9GE, a multi occupancy building. The building services operator for 5 Harbour Exchange have no record of that company or any of its officers having had any presence at that location.

The petition to wind up the company was presented in the Manchester District Registry on 15 September 2017, under the provisions of section 124A of the Insolvency Act 1986 following confidential enquiries by Company Investigations under section 447 of the Companies Act 1985, as amended.

All enquiries concerning the affairs of the company should be made to: The

Official Receiver, Public Interest Unit, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London, SW1P 2HT. Telephone: 0207 637 1110, Email: piu.or@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk.

Company Investigations, part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Further information about live company investigations is available.

The Insolvency Service administers the insolvency regime, investigating all compulsory liquidations and individual insolvencies (bankruptcies) through the Official Receiver to establish why they became insolvent. It may also use powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK. In addition, the agency authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, deals with disqualification of directors in corporate failures, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is available.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: