

# News story: Electric car team racing in Mongol Rally arrive at UK Pavilion

Scottish adventurer Chris Ramsey from Aberdeenshire and his wife Julie, the first participants to enter the world-famous Mongol Rally in an electric vehicle, have arrived at the UK Pavilion at the International 'Future Energy' Astana Expo.

Their visit comes as the UK and Kazakhstan mark the 25th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations.

Whilst at the Expo, the couple will be guests of the UK Pavilion which is supported by the Department for International Trade and has the theme 'We are Energy', exploring new ways to harness the various sources of energy that surround us and secure a greener future.

To date, 355,557 people have visited the UK Pavilion which is showcasing the nation's world-leading expertise in new technologies across the energy sector as well as helping British businesses build contacts in Kazakhstan.

Chris will also speak at the UN's 'Options and Solutions for a Clean Energy Future' environment forum at the Expo and meet with Kazakh government officials to promote electric vehicles and charging technology.

Chris Ramsey, founder of Plug In Adventures, said:

After the 9000km drive from Goodwood to Astana in a 30kw Nissan LEAF, I am wholly committed to demonstrating the huge capability of electric vehicle technology and the positive impact this can have on our planet.

I am very much looking forward to being a part of the UK Pavilion, which comes as bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the UK reach their 25th year. I hope that my journey can help to promote sustainable trade opportunities between our two countries in the years to come.

International Trade Minister, Greg Hands said:

I have seen first-hand the hugely inspiring UK Pavilion at the Astana Expo, promoting our vision for future energy to more than 355,000 visitors from across the globe. As an international economic department, the Department for International Trade has been a key supporter of the Astana Expo in bringing together countries around the world to develop sustainable energy solutions.

Through his latest adventure, Chris and his team have helped to

showcase the UK's ongoing commitment to world-leading innovation and sustainable technology.

## Clean energy

In July this year, the government reaffirmed its commitment to clean energy innovation when it announced a £20 million investment to help develop electric vehicles capable of returning electricity to the grid.

The new investment will support vehicle-to-grid projects as part of the government's Industrial Strategy and create a smarter energy system, while increasing the numbers of electric cars on UK roads.

## Plug In Adventures

Chris is the founder of Plug In Adventures, a venture borne from a combined passion for adventure and electric vehicles. Comprising of a group of electric vehicle enthusiasts based in Scotland, its aim is to engage and champion the cars to the public.

Their participation in the Mongol Rally is not the first driving adventure for Plug In Adventures; in 2015 they drove from John O'Groats to Land's End and back again and in 2016 they completed the North Coast 500, a 516-mile route around the Scottish Highlands.

The pair is tackling the arduous 16,000km journey from Goodwood to Ulan-Ude, Siberia in a Nissan LEAF which is manufactured in the car maker's Sunderland Plant. Through participating in the rally alongside some 340 other petrol and diesel cars, Chris is hoping to raise awareness of the capabilities of electric vehicles and the important role they will increasingly play in reducing carbon emissions.

## More information

Pictures of Chris, his car and the UK Pavilion can be found on [dropbox](#).

The UK is participating at the Astana Expo which runs for 3 months, ending 10 September. The UK Pavilion shows the UK at its creative best and is sharing the UK's brilliant scientific and engineering expertise across the energy and mining industries.

The UK Pavilion at Astana promotes the UK as a business partner of choice and a hub of academic excellence.

115+ countries are participating with 5 million visitors expected to pass through the gates of the Expo

Astana Expo is a 'Specialised Expo'. Such Expos were established by the Bureau International des Expositions in 1988. They are global events dedicated to finding solutions to precise challenges of humanity, such as ocean protection (Expo Yeosu 2012) or the future of energy (Expo Astana

2017).

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## **Press release: Advisor appointed to boost local support for care leavers**

A new adviser to support young people as they leave the care system has been appointed as part of the government's drive to improve the lives of vulnerable children.

Mark Riddell MBE has been appointed as the National Implementation Adviser for care leavers, and will work closely with local authorities as they drive forward the new duties introduced through the Children & Social Work Act (2017).

The role includes helping councils to develop a stronger local offer of support for care leavers, offering Personal Adviser services for all care leavers up to age 25 and delivering on their special responsibilities as a 'corporate parent' – principles set out in the Act.

He will have a particular focus on supporting those councils that have had their leaving care services rated as inadequate or requiring improvement by Ofsted.

Robert Goodwill, Minister for Children and Families, said:

Young people leaving care are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and we are determined that they should get the high quality support they need to help them make the transition into adulthood.

I am delighted that Mark has taken up this post and look forward to working closely with him as we continue our drive to improve the experiences and outcomes of care leavers across the country.

Mark Riddell MBE said:

I am delighted to be offered the post and am passionate about improving support for care leavers. Young people leaving care face many challenges as they prepare for independence, and crucial to making that transition successful is the support from their 'corporate parents', the local authority.

I look forward to the challenge of working with these councils as they bring in the positive changes introduced by the Children & Social Work Act.

Mr Riddell brings with him a wealth of experience working with care leavers. Prior to accepting this position he was the leaving care manager in Trafford, the first local authority judged by Ofsted to have Outstanding care leaver services.

He also acted as an informal adviser to the Department for Education on the development of the care leaver strategy, which sets out the additional support provided by local and central government to help care leavers succeed.

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## **Press release: Minister for Asia concerned about arrest of Kem Sokha in Cambodia**

I am greatly concerned by the recent series of actions by the Cambodian authorities which culminated in the arrest of the opposition leader Kem Sokha early yesterday morning.

Together with harsh restrictions on independent broadcasters, the enforced closure of the National Democratic Institute and, from today, of the Cambodia Daily newspaper, these measures imperil multi-party democracy and free debate.

I urge the Cambodian government to take immediate steps to restore prospects for a free and fair national election in 2018 and to build on the encouraging progress we saw at Cambodia's nationwide commune elections just three months ago.

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## **News story: Update on the Culture Secretary's consideration of the proposed merger between 21st Century Fox Inc. and Sky Plc.**

Following the advice received from Ofcom on 25 August 2017, the Secretary of State sought clarification from Ofcom on some aspects of the advice. We have, today, received Ofcom's response and the Secretary of State will now

carefully consider the advice before making her decision on referral on the basis of all the evidence before her, as soon as is reasonably practicable. The Secretary of State's requests to Ofcom will be published in due course, and Ofcom intends to publish its advice at the same time.

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## [News story: Defence Minister announces successful first firings of Sea Ceptor missiles to protect new aircraft carriers](#)

The Minister visited defence company MBDA's site in Filton, near Bristol, meeting with local graduates, apprentices and other employees working on the Sea Ceptor system.

The new air missile defence system can intercept and destroy enemy missiles travelling at supersonic speeds and will form part of the protection for the nation's new aircraft carriers. The first firings were conducted from Type 23 frigate HMS Argyll whilst off the coast of Scotland.

### **Minister for Defence Procurement Harriett Baldwin said:**

Sea Ceptor will protect our interests against threats both known and unknown. It will launch from the Royal Navy's new Type 26 frigates as they keep our nuclear deterrent submarines and the UK's two new aircraft carriers safe on operations around the globe.

Sea Ceptor supports 600 UK jobs and is yet another example of how our rising defence budget is being spent on cutting-edge kit to help our Armed Forces meet future threats.

The Royal Navy Type 23 frigate HMS Argyll, which fired the Sea Ceptor missiles earlier this Summer.

Sea Ceptor, which uses MBDA's next-generation Common Anti-air Modular Missile (CAMM), is being fitted to replace the Sea Wolf weapon system on the Type 23 frigates. The air defence system will also be used on the new Type 26 frigates and Land Ceptor, which will replace Rapier for the British Army.

Using innovations in radar and datalink technology that will guide these potent missiles with pinpoint accuracy, Sea Ceptor will provide the Royal Navy with an improved shield against airborne threats such as the new generation of supersonic anti-ship missiles, fast jets, helicopters and

unmanned aerial vehicles.

**Commander Toby Shaughnessy, the Commanding Officer of HMS Argyll, said:**

This is an exciting upgrade in capability and a great opportunity for HMS Argyll to demonstrate what the missile system can do to protect our ships from future threats.

Sea Ceptor is an impressive and innovative system, demonstrating that the Royal Navy is at the cutting edge of technology and working hard to keep Britain safe. I am immensely proud of my ship's company and the work they put in to make this test firing possible.

HMS Argyll will conduct further firing trials of the Sea Ceptor system before she deploys to Japan next year. Alongside providing robust self-defence, importantly Sea Ceptor defends escort vessels within a maritime task group, such as for the new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers.

One of the Sea Ceptor missiles fired by HMS Argyll earlier this Summer. MBDA Copyright.

The system uses a new UK-developed missile capable of reaching speeds of up to Mach 3 and will have the ability to deal with multiple targets simultaneously, protecting an area of around 500 square miles (1,300 square kilometres) over land or sea.

As part of MBDA's CAMM programme, Sea Ceptor supports around 600 MBDA jobs and its supply chain in key locations across the UK such as Stevenage, Filton and Bolton.

**Tony Douglas, Chief Executive Officer for the MOD's procurement organisation Defence Equipment and Support, which is based at MOD Abbey Wood in Bristol, said:**

The firings are an important step forward in proving the significant improvements over previous air defence systems and further evidence of our commitment to provide the very best equipment to our armed forces.

The Defence Minister also visited Airbus' plant in Filton, near Bristol, which is the heart of the design and manufacture of some of the world's most technologically advanced aircraft. The Minister met with some of Airbus' 6000 local employees, including engineers working on research and technology for future aircraft projects.

The news comes after the Defence Minister confirmed a [£100m contract to fit](#)

[the Sea Ceptor system to the Type 26 frigates](#) last year. Earlier this year Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon also announced a [£539 million investment in new missiles systems](#).