

Bumper awards for Dstl's world-leading science

The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) Professor Dame Angela McLean has awarded the latest CSA Commendations at a special ceremony which took place at the MOD's headquarters, in London.

The awards recognise exceptional contributions made by individuals and teams working in science and engineering across defence.

While there were numerous awards across the MOD, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) was presented a significant number of awards for 2020 and 2021, with a special Organisational Award recognising hundreds of individuals across Dstl who had been involved in supporting the COVID-19 pandemic effort.

Colleagues provided support to defence, the health services, and partners across government who sought out Dstl's scientific expertise and advice to lead and help combat coronavirus and protect the health of UK citizens.

Dstl's Chief Executive Paul Hollinshead said:

I'm so proud that Dstl's support has been recognised in this way. Dstl's scientific excellence helped to maintain defence outputs, support the nation's health response and the government's decision-making, as well as increase the fundamental scientific understanding of the virus itself.

More than 350 scientists worked specifically on a wide variety of projects to support the fight against COVID-19, from home, on-site, or deployed into partner organisations across the UK.

MOD's CSA Professor Dame Angela McLean said:

I'm delighted to see Dstl so well represented at the CSA awards both this year and last year. I was particularly pleased that Dstl's many important contributions to the COVID response were recognised. It was my own personal experience that their work was essential.

There were a number of individual presentations including to Dstl's Sally Davies who received an award for her work in diversity and inclusion, and Dstl's Jim Maltby for his work in communicating science and engineering.

Sally's citation highlighted how she worked tirelessly with others to create a diverse and inclusive environment and remains determined to make change

happen, remaining professional and committed to the cause of acceptance for all.

Jim initiated and led the delivery of the Virtual Reality [Museum of the Future](#) and other tools, from having the bright idea in the first place, to working closely with industrial partners and games designers to make it a reality.

Dstl represents one of the most significant sources of science and engineering expertise in the UK. Our science and engineering community is a significant asset to MOD and provides vital contributions to UK defence and security in supporting operations, UK prosperity and developing affordable, winning-edge capability.

Find out more about [Dstl and our science and technology capabilities](#), as well as [opportunities to join our outstanding workforce](#).

[Get finance flowing for greater climate action – COP President](#)

- COP President Alok Sharma will attend World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings in Washington DC
- He will highlight the vital role of finance and energy transition partnerships in tackling climate change and delivery of commitments made at COP26
- While in the US, Mr Sharma will also speak to students and climate activists at Tufts University in Boston on the vital role of youth activists in global efforts to tackle climate change

Countries must get finance flowing for greater climate action to keep 1.5C in sight, COP26 President Alok Sharma will urge leaders at this week's World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings.

The COP26 President is in the United States for the Spring Meetings, a key moment for the development finance community and one of the pivotal events for the UK's COP Presidency finance work ahead of COP27 in Egypt.

To do this, Mr Sharma will argue the international community must move towards an energy secure and net zero future which avoids the worst impacts of climate change.

Russia's illegal and brutal invasion of Ukraine has added renewed urgency to the need for shared global action to phase out fossil fuels and accelerate the low carbon transition.

In meetings with finance ministers, including ministers from India, Indonesia and South Africa, Mr Sharma will outline the role developed countries have to play to urgently meet the \$100 billion previously pledged as well as doubling the finance for adaptation to enhance financial support from the effects of climate change for the most climate vulnerable countries.

Mr Sharma will meet leaders from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry to outline why a coherent approach is needed between governments, MDBs, and the private sector to avoid unnecessary disbursement delays and bureaucracy so finance can reach those that need it most quicker.

He will also promote the South Africa Just Energy Transition Partnership, announced at COP26, as an example of a new track to deliver climate and development finance globally, accelerating the energy transition in the highest emitting countries, expanding low carbon opportunities in emerging economies and protecting the vulnerable by reducing emissions.

Mr Sharma said:

The Russian President's illegal and brutal war has been a wake up call to the world, demonstrating to countries the vital importance of making the transition to homegrown green energy and embracing the economic opportunities it offers.

Across the world we see renewables creating good, green jobs and connecting people to reliable low cost power for the first time.

What we now need to do is support developing countries to make this transition. The South Africa Just Energy Transition partnership is a great example of this.

I am here in Washington DC to push further to see whether we can get further such deals announced by COP27. If we want to make the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C a reality, we have to get finance flowing and push developed countries, MDBs and private finance to deliver on their finance commitments.

Following the Spring meetings, Mr Sharma will travel to Boston to speak with students and climate leaders at The Fletcher School at Tufts University on the vital role youth and climate activists played in C026 and how the young leaders of tomorrow are vital in global efforts to tackle climate change.

- COP26 President Alok Sharma will speak to an audience of climate leaders, students, faculty, and the community at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, Boston in a conversation with Dean Rachel Kyte. This will be at 1200 Boston Time (1700 BST) on Saturday April 23, 2022 and

PM announces £1bn new commercial deals on landmark India visit

- PM welcomes more than 11,000 new jobs created through huge new UK-India trade and investment deals as he begins two-day visit
- PM will visit a new factory, university and cultural sites in Gujarat and announce new collaboration in AI and technology
- On Friday, he will travel to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Modi on economic, security and defence collaboration

Prime Minister Boris Johnson will announce a raft of commercial agreements and hail a new era in the UK and India's trade, investment and technology partnership, as he arrives in Gujarat today [Thursday] for the start of a two-day visit to India.

The Prime Minister will use his visit to India to boost our collaboration with one of the world's fastest growing economies, slashing trade barriers for UK businesses and driving jobs and growth at home.

UK and Indian businesses will confirm more than £1 billion in new investments and export deals today in areas from software engineering to health, creating almost 11,000 jobs across the UK. That includes:

- A new Switch Mobility electric bus R&D centre in the UK and the opening of their Asia Pacific Headquarters in Chennai, generating over 1000 jobs in the UK in India;
- Investment from leading Indian manufacturer Bharat Forge and electric truck maker Tevva Motors to expand to a new site in the south-east and create 500 new jobs;
- Indian software company Mastek investing £79mn to create 1600 jobs over the next three years all over the UK;
- Business consultancy FirstSource opening new offices in South Wales, the Midlands and cities in the North-East and North-West.
- Hertfordshire-based firm Smith & Nephew agreeing a major export deal to sell robotic surgical systems in India, and Northamptonshire business Scott Bader opening a new resins factory to supply top renewable energy companies in south-east Asia.

The Prime Minister will also welcome OneWeb signing a historic contract for satellite launches with New Space India Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation. OneWeb is an innovative UK-based satellite communications company, which the Government has invested in put the UK at the forefront of rapidly evolving space technologies. This agreement with India is a significant development for the company's

operations.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

As I arrive in India today, I see vast possibilities for what our two great nations can achieve together. From next-generation 5G telecoms and AI to new partnerships in health research and renewable energy – the UK and India are leading the world.

Our powerhouse partnership is delivering jobs, growth and opportunities for our people, and it will only go from strength-to-strength in the coming years.

The Prime Minister will visit a new factory being opened by a top British firm in Gujarat, as well as a biotechnology university working in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh.

The UK will confirm major new science and tech collaboration, including a Digital Health partnership and a joint investment fund for Indian deep-tech and AI start-ups, supported by the UK and Indian governments; new AI scholarships for Indian students jointly funded by the UK Government's Chevening programme and India's Adani Group; and a £6m investment from AI healthcare specialists Qure-ai to open a Centre of Excellence in the UK.

As he moves on to New Delhi on Friday, the Prime Minister will also use this week's visit to drive progress in negotiations on the landmark UK-India free trade agreement, which is expected to help double our trade and investment by 2030. Negotiating teams will hold their third round of formal talks in India next week.

Work is already progressing on cutting red tape for businesses following the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership launched by both Prime Ministers last year, and today our governments will announce new measures to make it easier to export UK-made medical devices to India. This will support UK jobs and create opportunities for British med-tech companies like Redcar-based Micropore Technologies to sell their lifesaving products in India, an import market worth £2.4bn.

UK to lead the way in climate and sustainability education

Secondary school students will be able to study the natural world through an exciting new GCSE in natural history to be introduced by September 2025.

It forms part of new plans announced by Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi

today (Thursday 21 April), detailing how the UK education sector is to become a world leader in climate change by 2030, as part of the launch of the government's flagship Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

The new Natural History qualification will enable young people to explore the world by learning about organisms and environments, environmental and sustainability issues, and gain a deeper knowledge of the natural world around them.

They will also develop the skills to help them carve a future career in the natural world if they wish to – for example observation, description, recording and analysis, through sustained and structured field study.

The government will also confirm its plans to accelerate the rollout of carbon literacy training to support at least one sustainability lead in every locally maintained nursery, school, college and university. The training will support settings to develop climate action plans that will bring together and drive activity to improve climate education, put in place measures to protect them against the effects of climate change, and increase climate resilience through adaptation initiatives.

The Education Secretary will also pledge greater support for teaching climate change at all levels and by 2023 there will be new requirements for further education teachers to build sustainability into their teaching.

Young people will also be able to bolster their environmental education gained in existing subjects, including changes to landscapes and urbanisation in geography, and habitats and ecosystems in science.

Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi said:

We are delivering a better, safer, greener world for future generations and education is one of our key weapons in the fight against climate change. The entrepreneurial, can-do spirit of this country makes me confident that we will win this fight.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that young people are already very committed to a more sustainable planet. We should be proud of this, and I want to do everything I can to encourage this passion so they can be agents of change in protecting our planet.

The new natural history GCSE will offer young people a chance to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of this amazing planet, its environment and how we can come together to conserve it.

The measures are expected to build on the government's pledge for every new school, and delivered under the department's school rebuilding programme, to be cleaner, greener and net-zero in operation.

The rollout of ultra-low carbon education buildings will also be accelerated,

and by 2025 at least four schools and one college will have been built via the Gen Zero Platform that the department demonstrated at COP26.

The strategy also details the development of additional measures first announced at COP26.

This includes the National Education Nature Park that will help children and young people to get more involved in the natural world. It will help the increase of biodiversity in the grounds of their nursery, school, or college by them taking small steps, such as installing bird feeders and 'bug hotels'. Teachers will be provided with free, high-quality climate education resources as part of the Nature Park hub.

Children and young people will also be able to undertake a new Climate Award in recognition for their work to improve their environment, with a prestigious national awards ceremony held every year. The Climate Leaders Award will help children and young people develop their skills and knowledge in biodiversity and sustainability and celebrate and recognise their work in developing their skills and knowledge.

More than 200 British businesses celebrated as Queen's Awards for Enterprise winners revealed

- 232 winners announced in The Queen's Awards for Enterprise – the UK's most prestigious business awards
- winners include World of Books, a West Sussex retailer selling over 12 million used books each year in over 175 countries, and 4 Mental Health, an organisation in Conwy providing mental health training courses across the globe
- Applications for the 2023 Queen's Awards for Enterprise will open on 1 May

The winners of the 2022 Queen's Awards for Enterprise have been announced today (Thursday 21 April), celebrating the achievements of UK businesses.

This year, 232 businesses representing every part of the United Kingdom and a range of sectors have been recognised by Her Majesty The Queen on her birthday as among the best in the country.

Awards have been won in the categories of:

- International Trade (141 winners)
- Innovation (51)
- Sustainable Development (31)

- Promoting Opportunity (9)

Small Business Minister Paul Scully said:

This country is renowned for its entrepreneurial achievements and there is no greater showcase for it than The Queen's Awards. It's vital we celebrate the success of our businesses and recognise the contributions they make to communities across the country.

I congratulate this year's winners for their hard work and commitment over the last year and I wish them every success for the future.

The winners

This year's winners include:

World of Books

World of Books is an online book retailer with a focus on technology and sustainability, based in West Sussex. It sells over 12 million used books per year to customers in over 175 countries, and 4,400 UK charity shops are supported through the purchase of surplus stock by World of Books Group. It also donates books to literacy programmes and recycles books and media that cannot be reused. The company has been awarded for both International Trade and Sustainable Development.

4 Mental Health

4 Mental Health provides mental health training courses and free self-help resources. Bite-sized modules are available for clinical and non-clinical audiences, with multiple delivery options including webinar conferences, direct-to-participant, train-the-trainer and e-learning. Overseas training significantly increased between 2018 to 2021, constituting 43% of their activity. 4 Mental Health is based in Conwy and has won an award for International Trade.

The Edinburgh Remakery

The Edinburgh Remakery is a social enterprise running workshops to teach sustainable reuse and repair skills, creating ways for businesses and members of the public to reuse second-hand electronics, reducing pollution and emissions. It is awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development.

Pearson Engineering

Pearson Engineering provides the Armed Forces with equipment to enhance the capability of its armoured vehicles, enabling them to overcome challenges on the battlefield, such as physical obstacles, minefields and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Overseas sales grew by 144% between 2018 to 2021

and top markets include South Korea, United States, United States Sponsored Forces, Norway and Canada.

Winners' awards are valid for 5 years. Winners are permitted to fly The Queen's Awards flag at their main office and use the emblem on their marketing materials. Winners are also given a Grant of Appointment (an official certificate) and a commemorative crystal trophy.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenants will be presenting the Awards to businesses locally throughout the year.

Eligible businesses are free to apply for one or more categories. The winners pass a robust assessment process, judged by senior officials in Whitehall and experts from industry, academia and the third sector. On that basis, the winners of The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are recommended by the Prime Minister to Her Majesty The Queen.

Applications for the 2023 Queen's Awards for Enterprise will open on 1 May 2022 and businesses are encouraged to apply.

Further information

The awards were created following the recommendation of a committee chaired by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in 1965. The first awards, originally known as The Queen's Awards to Industry, were made the following year.