

100% of specialist nuclear vessel recycled in a first for UK fleet

Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS), which operated Oceanic Pintail, set Dales Marine Services the challenge of ensuring 98% of the world-class cargo vessel was reused.

Applying a number of innovative techniques, the Scottish firm exceeded expectations, and recycled every part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority-owned (NDA) Oceanic Pintail, by:

- Separating different oils from water, and using the soil as furnace fuel
- Converting insulation into electrical energy
- Crushing concrete and tiles to create material used in the construction industry

Reusing 100% of a nuclear vessel is a UK first, and supports both the NDA group and Government's carbon net-zero ambitions.

Peter Buchan, NTS's Shipping Director, said:

NTS takes its environmental responsibilities seriously, so we're delighted that 100% of Oceanic Pintail has been recycled.

We set our contractors, Dales Marine, an incredibly ambitious recycling target. They took that challenge and set the standard for others to follow when it comes to decommissioning vessels.

It's a fantastic achievement, especially considering the work was completed in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, so a lot of thanks must go to everyone who has played a role in ensuring this project has been a huge success.

Oceanic Pintail served the UK with distinction and this is a fitting end to its life.

While David Peattie, Group Chief Executive of the NDA, also praised the environmental success. He said:

The NDA group is committed to supporting Government goals to be carbon net-zero by 2050. This fantastic achievement in recycling 100% of Oceanic Pintail, supports our ambitions to reduce our carbon impact.

Boasting a perfect safety record, the Japanese-constructed Oceanic Pintail first set sail 33 years ago.

Since its maiden voyage, Oceanic Pintail has served customers from across the world with bespoke solutions to all specialist nuclear transport challenges, until its final journey to Dales Marine's Leith dock in November 2020.

[New capital raising review to boost UK companies and markets](#)

- UK Secondary Capital Raising Review launches with Mark Austin appointed as independent chair
- Expert group will make recommendations for improving capital raising process for UK listed companies
- Review advances key recommendation from Lord Hill's UK Listings Review

The UK Secondary Capital Raising Review will be chaired by senior Freshfields lawyer Mark Austin and will examine whether rule changes and better use of technology could make capital raising more efficient for companies already listed on UK markets.

The launch of the Review is the latest step in the Government's response to Lord Hill's UK Listings Review, which was set up to make the UK an even more attractive destination for IPOs and optimise the capital raising process for large and small companies.

The Chancellor Rishi Sunak said:

Our plans to boost UK markets go beyond attracting the world's most successful companies to list here. We want to make sure companies who already tap our world-leading capital markets can raise finance efficiently and include their current shareholders in the process. I am pleased that Mark has agreed to spearhead this effort and take forward this important recommendation from Lord Hill's UK Listing Review.

Mark Austin said:

Improving the efficiency of secondary capital raisings by listed companies is an important element of making the UK an even more attractive place for businesses to list. I am delighted to accept the Chancellor's request for me to lead the Review. I am keen to

receive views from a broad range of interested parties, which is why we are launching the Review with the Call for Evidence.

The UK's capital markets were a lifeline for many companies through the pandemic, with £30bn of new equity raised in 2020 to shore up businesses, protect jobs and seize opportunities to grow.

However, most of these businesses chose to raise funds through private placings with a small group of institutions, which can be completed faster and at a lower cost, but exclude existing shareholders and dilute their stakes in the company.

The UK Listing Review found companies are deterred from using other mechanisms like rights issues, which preserve the interests of existing investors in the company, because they involve greater costs, time and uncertainty, and require the publication of a prospectus.

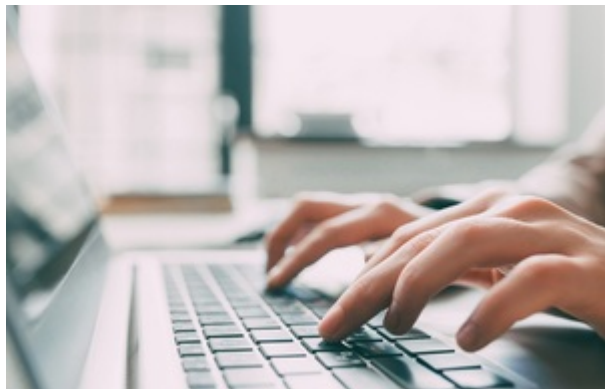
The expert group led by Mark Austin will review these regulatory barriers and open up the choices for listed companies seeking to raise capital, including by looking at the overall duration of the process, considering whether new technology can be used to speed up the information flow to shareholders and help them exercise their rights, and assessing other fundraising mechanisms that are used in international markets.

The Review's work will be carried out in consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Government and the FCA, buy-side and sell-side firms, listed companies, and legal and academic experts. It launches today, with a Call for Evidence which will run until 16 November, and will report to the Government in Spring 2022.

Further information

- More details about the UK Secondary Capital Raising Review, including the Terms of Reference and Call for Evidence, are available [here](#)
 - Mark Austin is a partner at the international law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. He is chair of the FCA's Listing Authority Advisory Panel and was a member of the advisory panel for Lord Hill's UK Listing Review
 - The UK Listings Review can be found [here](#)
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Access to justice improved with HMCTS national digital support service



A large part of improving and modernising access to justice involves moving HMCTS services online. But we know that a small number of people find it difficult to access online services. People's needs vary; they may need support across the end-to-end journey for HMCTS services, or they may need help to complete an online form.

After running a competitive tender process, [We are Digital](#) has been selected to manage a new national service, delivering support across England, Wales (including support in Welsh) and Scotland (for tribunals only). This will begin in October.

Support will be delivered face to face through community and advice centres, such as Citizens' Advice and law centres. It will also be available over the phone or via online software, such as Skype. In parallel, staff at our Courts and Tribunals Service Centres continue to deliver lighter-touch digital support over the telephone.

Important learning from a successful pilot scheme informed the new national support service. Run by [Good Things Foundation](#), the pilot supported a total of 1,221 people, establishing what our users need to support them with accessing our online services. Support was delivered through a small network of community and advice centres, helping us understand what a larger national support service would look like. On average, people who used the service rated it as 9.5 out of 10. One person who benefited said: "Absolutely amazing. They've taken the pressure off."

We're investing over £10m across the life of the contract to rollout this important service. During the first six months, the service will be designed and tested, ramping up to a full national service being in place by spring 2022.

Mike Brazier, Head of Digital Inclusion, said:

This is a great service that will help people access the justice services they need and I'm really proud of the work the team have

done. We are grateful to Good Things Foundation for their work on piloting our digital support service and look forward to working with We are Digital to continue our commitment to supporting people who need assistance to use our online services.

Read the [full end of pilot report from Good Things Foundation](#).

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Last updated 19 October 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 19 October 2021

Added translation

2. 12 October 2021

First published.

[Student Loans Company pays Maintenance Loan support to a record number of students](#)

News story

Chris Larmer, SLC Executive Director, Operations provides an update on Maintenance Loan payments



This week SLC has completed the majority of first term Maintenance Loan payments to new and returning students. So far this year we have advanced £2.8bn* of funding and we will continue to make payments to students who are starting courses in the coming weeks.

SLC exists to enable students to invest in their futures through higher and further education by providing access to trusted, transparent, flexible and accessible student finance services. We are delighted that this year we look set to support more students than ever before – processing and paying a record number of student finance applications.

Although the majority of students will now have received their first payment, not all of them will get their full entitlement straight away. Eligible applicants who applied late (after the deadlines) will be awarded the minimum Maintenance Loan amount first followed by a top-up payment if they are entitled to more funding. To help speed up the process, students are advised to check their online accounts and send any evidence they have been asked for straight away. [Students can find out more about how to get their first student finance payment if they have applied late online.](#)

Our telephone lines remain busy and we continue to urge students to seek answers to their payment questions [online](#) first, where they will find information to help with their query. I would like to thank applicants for their patience to date and remind them that they can view their payment status anytime via their online account – watch our film to find out more.

[Payment video](#)

I also recommend that they check out our [online payment guide](#) which covers the most common payment questions.

As well as making Maintenance Loan payments to the remainder of students, this month will also see us make Tuition Fee payments to universities and colleges on their behalf. This is a critical part of our work, and key to our vision of enabling student opportunity.

Students can stay up to date with all the latest student finance information by following Student Finance England on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

*Please note these are provisional figures. Full year figures are published in our Student Support for Higher Education statistical release which will be published on 25 November.

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[Dstl: our role in cyber defence](#)

[Paul Kealey](#) leads over 700 world-leading scientists at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) who create cutting edge science for the UK's defence and homeland security capability.

The [2021 Integrated Review \(IR\)](#) saw huge investment in the cyber and space

security areas, and Paul explains how Dstl will ensure the money is used to its full potential to protect the nation.

The value of government money is taken extremely seriously, and means that we make sure it is used in the most cost effective manner and with maximum benefit.

We use the funding to make sure the military has the capability it needs now and in the future to keep the UK safe.

We also look at the government's agenda of levelling up, making sure we look at how investments across the whole United Kingdom are delivered and making sure that we develop industry, export products and jobs for the whole of the nation.

The importance of research in Space and Cyber

We are facing many challenges in cyber and space where the UK is constantly being challenged in the cyber domain. It is not optional and we need to be ahead of the cyber curve to protect the UK's commerce and finance, the multi-systems used in defence and security.

Similarly, in space, it is crucial we take part in space research, not just for a 'safer spaces sake', but it is a key enabler where it is used for timing the planks of the communication, earth monitoring (civil or military) and for navigation, so having a safe and secure set of space capabilities pedals the whole of the UK economy.

Threats to the UK's cyber infrastructure

It's a continuing problem for all parts of the industry and defence, from banks to hospitals and even your home computer, but it is actually the [National Cyber Security Centre](#) that lead on the providing the security on the national infrastructure.

Dstl's role in defence ensures that our military equipment, and our military systems have that equal world-class level of security and are safeguarded ahead of any planned and potential threats.

How we use data

We use data in a number of ways: firstly to support military commanders to help them make better decisions, for example data can

help see what's on the other side of the mountain and what's going on in the battlefield.

Data is used to understand what another Army or adversary are doing, so Dstl experts will develop algorithms that can help provide intelligence, giving personnel the information they need and at pace wherever they are.

We also develop data to ensure even better decisions are made in investment and where defence should invest its money, which capability area is a priority. Dstl supports across government, advising them what they should be investing in.

Keeping ahead of the threat

Intelligence is gathered as part of a cross-government effort, for example the UK's [Defence Intelligence](#) organisation will lead on the intelligence signal.

Dstl works under the [Chief Scientific Advisor \(CSA\) Dame Angela McLean](#) where we follow her science and technology strategy, and this looks at generation after next technologies that don't just look ahead, but can predict and plan for the likelihood of future attacks.

We are making computers and algorithms of the future, not just to be in front, but actually jump ahead. We are making future computers and future algorithms that will ensure we are secure and without risk of vulnerabilities, in essence, we are jumping ahead of what technology currently offers.

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