

# Our next big construction site, the Replacement Analytical Project

News story

One of our largest and most important infrastructure projects reaches its next phase.



The project team at the new construction village on the Sellafield site.

Construction work has started on the Replacement Analytical Project (RAP) at Sellafield – which will be the new home for laboratories that analyse materials from across the Sellafield site.

This is the first stage of significant site works at the National Nuclear Laboratory's Central Laboratory facility on the Sellafield site.

A new construction village has been put in place outside of the facility to support the incoming project teams that will work on this major infrastructure project.

RAP's head of project Alan Bladon said:

Hundreds of people work on both the engineering design and construction of this major project and to see physical site works begin is something they can be very proud of. It takes a huge collaborative effort to deliver infrastructure projects of this scale and years of complex planning to get to this point.

This is a critical project to ensure the continued safe and compliant delivery of Sellafield's purpose and for construction works to commence gives great confidence in the successful delivery of the project over the next eight years.

The project is being delivered by the Programme Project Partners (PPP) at

Sellafield and will equip the facility with the modern tools and laboratories to analyse samples of materials from across the site. It's doing this by adapting and building on the existing capability.

The PPP infrastructure delivery model was mobilised in 2019 with the purpose of transforming major project delivery at the Sellafield nuclear site.

Over the next 6 months, parts of the central laboratory will be stripped out completely to make way for the first step towards installation of a new Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) analytical services laboratory, this will be one of three new capabilities to be put in place.

The project will see completed installation of new laboratories and state of the art equipment by 2029.

### **Programme and Project Partners**

The partnership brings together:

- KBR
- Jacobs
- Morgan Sindall Infrastructure
- Doosan
- Sellafield Ltd and a wider supply chain

And will deliver a 20-year pipeline of major infrastructure projects, each of these projects play a vital role in ensuring Sellafield can safely empty ponds and silos, manage the waste and store it safely for decades to come.

Published 26 September 2022

---

## **UN Human Rights Council 51: UK statement for the Item 4 General Debate**

Thank you, Mr President,

The former High Commissioner's report found that possible crimes against humanity have taken place in Xinjiang, China. It found evidence that Muslim women are being forcibly sterilised. That Uyghurs are not allowed to practice their religion or speak their own language. That people are being detained and tortured—merely because they belong to a minority group. We cannot ignore such severe and systematic breaches of human rights. This Council must not, cannot, stay silent.

We have oft spoken in this Chamber of Putin's flouting of international law through his military aggression against Ukraine.

The sham referendums currently being held in Ukraine can have neither legal effect nor legitimacy. Russia can't change the borders of another sovereign state. It's a clear breach of the UN Charter.

We have also repeatedly heard the harrowing reports of Russia's violations of human rights in Ukraine, including of those subjected to Russia's so-called filtration operations. Aggression overseas is accompanied by repression at home as those brave Russians who dare to speak out against Putin's war are detained in their thousands.

Mr President,

The death of Mahsa Amini in Iran, following her arrest, has shocked the world. We call on Iran to carry out independent, transparent investigations into her death and the excessive violence used against subsequent protests.

In Ethiopia it is crucial that the truce is reinstated and that peace talks begin to avoid a repeat of the atrocities including extrajudicial killings and sexual violence seen earlier in this conflict.

Finally, ahead of COP 27 – we urge Egypt to ensure that independent civil society, human rights defenders, and the media can operate freely. The success of the conference – as we saw in Glasgow – depends on vibrant civil society participation.

Thank you

---

## **DASA is searching over the horizon for generation-after-next beyond line of sight communication technologies**

News story

This new Innovation Focus Area seeks novel beyond line of sight (BLOS) communication technologies



- DASA has launched an Innovation Focus Area called Beyond Line of Sight Communications
- Funding provided by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)
- Funding available for Generation-After-Next (GAN) proposals, which explore and develop new / novel beyond line of sight (BLOS) communications technologies

The [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) (DASA) is pleased to launch an Innovation Focus Area (IFA) called [Beyond Line of Sight Communications](#). This IFA seeks innovations that will help contribute to the development of Generation-After-Next beyond line of sight communication options.

This IFA is run on behalf of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

Do you have an innovation which could help develop Generation-After-Next beyond line of sight communication options?

[Read the full IFA and submit your proposal.](#)

## **The need for novel and efficient beyond line of sight communications**

Defence relies heavily on the mature BLOS communication technologies, such as military High Frequency (HF), troposcatter or satellite communications. However, to maintain robust communications in highly disruptive, congested and contested environments, it is vital that military communications change conventional assumptions about BLOS capability.

It is crucial to build a pipeline of future BLOS technologies and have a diverse repertoire of communication approaches to overcome any potential threat and ensure that if one form of communications is denied, there are alternatives available.

This IFA seeks GAN proposals that explore and develop new / novel BLOS communication options, and alternatives to traditional methods of military that may provide advantage in highly disruptive threat environments. For example:

- BLOS system development
- approaches to understand the "Channel"

- signal processing for new approaches to BLOS communications
- waveforms
- solution hardware development

## Submit a proposal

Do you have a solution or novel approach that may help Dstl understand what lies ahead for GAN BLOS technologies?

[Read the full competition document to learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

Published 26 September 2022

---

## Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (Amendment) Regulations 2022 compliance

News story

Providers should be compliant with new smoke and carbon monoxide regulations from 1 October or have plans in place to ensure compliance.



The [Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#) apply to all registered providers of social housing.

We expect providers to be compliant with the regulations when they come into force on 1 October 2022, or to have plans in place to ensure their compliance in a prompt and timely way that mitigates any risk to tenants.

Any provider with concerns about their ability to achieve compliance in a timely manner should self-refer to RSH.

## Chancellor's Growth Plan means tax cuts for a million in Wales

- Chancellor unveils bold new growth plan, backing business and improving living standards for everyone in the UK.
- Corporation tax rise cancelled, keeping it at 19% as government sets sights on 2.5% trend rate of growth.
- Basic rate of income tax cut to 19% in April 2023 – one year earlier than planned – with 31 million people getting on average £170 more per year and 1.2 million people in Wales to get National Insurance cut worth £235.
- Welsh Government receives around £70 million as a result of tax cuts elsewhere in the UK.

On Friday 23rd September the Chancellor unveiled his Growth Plan to release the huge potential in the UK economy, tackling inflation and delivering higher productivity and wages.

Kwasi Kwarteng set out a bold plan backing business and putting them on a path of economic growth. The basic rate of income tax in Wales will be cut to 19% from April 2023, worth an average of £170 and 1.2 million workers in Wales will see a cut in their National Insurance worth an average of £235 a year.

Cuts to Stamp Duty in England and Northern Ireland will also see the Welsh Government receive around £70 million over the three-year 2021 Spending Review period.

Boosting economic growth will enable stable funding for public services, higher wages and greater opportunities for the whole UK.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kwasi Kwarteng, said:

Economic growth isn't some academic term with no connection to the real world. It means more jobs, higher pay and more money to fund public services. This will not happen overnight but the tax cuts and reforms I've announced today – the biggest package in generations – send a clear signal that growth is our priority.

We want businesses across Wales to keep more of their own money to invest, innovate, and grow. Our income tax and national insurance cuts will mean hundreds of pounds a year more in the pockets of over a million workers in Wales.

And our Energy Bill Relief Scheme is protecting thousands of businesses across Wales from rising energy costs with discounts of wholesale gas and electricity prices.

Our Growth Plan sets the whole United Kingdom on the path for growth, building on the fiscal strength of our Union and releasing the enormous potential of this country.

Secretary of State for Wales, Robert Buckland said:

Today's bold measures put economic growth at the heart of our plans for Wales and the UK.

The UK Government has already committed to protect Welsh households and businesses from rising prices through the Energy Bill Relief Scheme. But a healthy, growing economy is the best long-term solution to the enormous financial pressures facing the entire country.

By driving investment, cutting taxes, and backing business, the UK Government will get more people into well-paid jobs, allow workers to keep more of their hard earned money and get the Welsh economy growing again.

Setting out the first steps towards growth today, Kwasi Kwarteng revealed major tax reforms to allow businesses to keep more of their own money, encouraging investment, boosting productivity and creating jobs. New measures include cancelling the planned rise in corporation tax, keeping it the lowest in the G20 at 19%, and reversing the 1.25% rise in National Insurance contributions, a change which will save 920,000 UK businesses almost £10,000 on average next year and 1.2 million people in Wales an average of £235 a year.

The Chancellor also set out plans to tackle the biggest drag on growth – the high cost of energy driven by Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine which has driven up inflation. To tackle this the government's Energy Price Guarantee will save the typical household £1,000 a year on their energy bill and halve the cost of business energy bills, reducing peak inflation by about 5 percentage points.

It was also confirmed that the UK Government will look to work with the Welsh Government and local authorities to set up Investment Zones in specific sites across the UK. Each Investment Zone will offer generous, targeted and time limited tax cuts for businesses and liberalised planning rules to release more land for housing and commercial development. These will be hubs for growth, encouraging investment in new shopping centres, restaurants, apartments and offices, and creating thriving new communities.

Revealing further tax reforms, Kwasi Kwarteng outlined sector specific support for pubs and hospitality, freezing alcohol duty for another year.

Reforms to modernise alcohol duties will also be taken forward. The new measures backing business come on top of the government's Energy Bill Relief Scheme for businesses to cap costs per unit, which will protect them from soaring energy costs this winter by providing a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices.

The Chancellor also reiterated the important principle of people keeping more of what they earn, incentivising work and enterprise. He announced a 1p cut to the basic rate of income tax one year earlier than planned. From April 2023, the basic rate of income tax will be cut to 19% and will mean over 31 million people will be better off by an average of £170 per year. Alongside cutting the basic rate of income tax, the Chancellor also abolished the additional rate of tax, taking effect from April 2023. In its place will be a single higher rate of income tax of 40%. The move is designed to attract the best and the brightest to the UK workforce, helping businesses innovate and grow.

The Chancellor also announced more relief for businesses by making the Annual Investment Allowance £1 million permanent, rather than letting it return to £200,000 in March 2023. This will mean businesses can deduct 100% of the cost of qualifying plant and machinery in the first year.

New measures were also announced to help people on low incomes secure more and better paid work. Universal Credit claimants who are earn less than the equivalent of 15 hours a week at National Living Wage will be required to meet regularly with their Work Coach and take active steps to increase their earnings or face having their benefits reduced. This change is expected to bring in an additional 120,000 people into the more intensive work search regime.

Jobseekers over the age of 50 will also be given extra time with job centre work coaches, to help them return to the jobs market. Rising economic inactivity in the over 50s is contributing to shortages in the jobs market, driving up inflation and limiting growth. Returning to pre-pandemic activity rates in the over 50s could boost the level of GDP by 0.5-1 percentage points.

Over the three-year Spending Review 2021 period, the Welsh Government is expected to receive around £70 million of additional funding as a result of the changes to Stamp Duty Land Tax.