

[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 is 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.

Published 26 September 2022

[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 to 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.

[Permit variation granted for South London waste facility](#)

Press release

Revised permit allows for increase in energy generation.



The Environment Agency has granted the application to vary the operational permit at Riverside Resource Recovery Facility, an energy-from-waste site in Belvedere, South London.

The new permit will:

- amend the energy generation limit from up to 72 megawatts to up to 80.5 megawatts
- increase the maximum amount of waste going through the system from 785,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 850,000 tpa
- increase the annual amounts of some raw materials used

Under the variation emission limit values for releases to air will be reduced. This is due to the current technology of combustion control, abatement and monitoring which can achieve, and accurately monitor, much lower levels of emissions. These changes together are called the Riverside

Optimisation Project, or ROP.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

We carried out a detailed and rigorous technical assessment of Riverside Resource Recovery Facility Limited's application to vary the environmental permit, to satisfy ourselves that the new permit provides the appropriate level of environmental protection and that emissions can be managed effectively.

We also carried out a thorough review of the application, taking into account all comments received as part of a consultation with the public and other regulatory authorities.

[See the complete permit]([DA17 6JY, Riverside Resource Recovery Limited: environmental permit issued – EPR/BK0825IU/V009 – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)).

Published 26 September 2022

[Ministry of Defence confirms the death of Sapper Connor Morrison](#)

Connor Morrison of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment died during a non-operational incident in Ipswich on 23rd July 2022.

Sapper Connor Morrison joined the British Army on the 3rd of January 2021 aged 19. He completed his basic training at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright before moving to 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment to commence his specialist Combat Engineer training.

Sapper Morrison was a professional soldier with much promise. Keen and enthusiastic, he worked hard to achieve his goals at every stage of his training and impressed his instructors with his knowledge and skills. More importantly, he was a loyal friend and a genuine team player. In typical Army fashion, those closest to Sapper Morrison knew him as "Tesco" or "Sainsburys" in cheeky reference to Morrisons the supermarket chain.

Sapper Morrison was quietly confident and sociable. He enjoyed chatting with friends whether it be whilst playing PlayStation or pool, on trips to Wetherspoons, or at the infamous Jackson Club Cafe in Gibraltar Barracks – so much so that he would invite his course mates to congregate in his room which was directly opposite the entrance to the cafe, so that they could all be first in the queue at opening time.

Sapper Morrison was an avid supporter of Scottish football with a great sense of humour. He would cheerfully join his friends in the pub to watch England games, but when they got overexcited about their teams' prospects, he enjoyed reminding them that England drew with Scotland in Euro 2020, and therefore that "England, can't even beat Scotland".

A selfless team player, Sapper Morrison put others above himself and generously volunteered to cover weekend duties when he was not returning home to Scotland, to enable others to travel home themselves. Similarly, when a colleague woke up late for parade and realised that their boots were soaking wet and muddy from the day before, Sapper Morrison generously gave them a pair of his boots for the day. This was much to the amusement of his troop as his friend wore a size 8 and Sapper Morrison was a size 12!

Sapper Morrison qualified as a Class 2 Combat Engineer on 4th of February 2022, earning his Corps of Royal Engineers stable belt. After gaining his driving licence, he began his specialist trade training at the Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration in Worthy Down, where he went on to qualify as a Class 2 Logistical Specialist.

Following this, having volunteered for service with Airborne Forces, Sapper Morrison reported for duty at 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, and donned the coveted maroon beret. He arrived at the Regiment alongside friends from his course and was re-united with others from training.

Sapper Morrison was clearly happy to be part of the Regiment after spending a long time on training courses. He was popular and well respected amongst his peers and had a positive influence on all those he worked with. Utterly committed, Sapper Morrison put himself forward for every task. His positive attitude kept himself and others going through good times and bad. Everyone enjoyed spending time with Connor whether working together, chatting about the day or just having a laugh.

Sapper Morrison was a truly selfless and kind-hearted professional soldier who made friends wherever he went. He proved himself to be a proud and loyal member of the Corps of Royal Engineers and will always be part of the Sapper family. Sapper Morrison will be sorely missed by the Regiment and all those he served alongside. We will remember him.