

Funding boost for protection systems for the British Army

Press release

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) confirms new investment that will increase scalable protection options for the UK's armoured land vehicles



New investment will exploit and build on the MIPS standard to demonstrate a modular, flexible Active Protection System

Funded by the British Army, the investment of £15 million over three years will enable Dstl to deliver the follow-on phase of the successful Icarus Technology Demonstrator Programme ([TDP](#)). The Icarus TDP, through Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) funding, developed and demonstrated the Modular Integrated Protection System (MIPS) Open Architecture Standard (the MIPS standard) to Technology Readiness Level 5 (TRL 5).

This new investment will exploit and build on the MIPS standard to demonstrate a modular, flexible Active Protection System (APS) at high maturity (TRL 7).

The next stage of MIPS will enable the UK to continue to develop future capabilities, with advances through to 2040 to include:

- Improved sensors – multi-spectral devices are combined with increasingly sophisticated fast signal processing
- Improved information processing – including data fusion and artificial intelligence (AI)
- Improved effectors – current counter-munition and directed energy technology projects deliver precise effects to defeat a wider range of threats
- Improved high-speed directors – compact and affordable energy storage and motor drive technologies
- Improvements in electronic infrastructure component technologies –

exploiting safety and security features being developed elsewhere for industrial robotic and autonomous systems

Minister for Defence Procurement, Alec Shelbrooke said:

“Our Armed Forces keep us safe around the clock and it’s incumbent upon us to do all we can to protect them and adapt to future threats.

“The war in Ukraine has highlighted the importance of well protected armoured vehicles. We are supporting the Army to modernise and remain at the forefront of cutting-edge capabilities.

“This is an important step forward in researching the latest technology to improve protection for armoured vehicles, helping them prevent and repel attacks from the ground and air.”

Advanced APS is a critical enabler to achieving operational advantage and is a key function to enable survivability of the Army’s fleet of vehicles. MIPS provides a modular framework to exploit high maturity APS components and/or systems into a sovereign-designed solution that can be procured at pace, be supported through life, and be effectively integrated into mission systems.

The new activity will:

- Exploit previous CSA investment of £10 million into MIPS development
- Be an essential step towards developing an enduring approach for vehicle protection Research and Development (R&D)
- Boost UK industry by securing UK industrial capability in APS. It promotes Land APS activity with Industry as part of the Land Industrial Strategy
- Seek to build a UK industrial partnership in MIPS that increases exploitation opportunities and enables Army to benefit from the delivered capability options
- Work with a range of industry partners, including the UKACIA group (the UK APS Community of Interest and Action).

Dstl’s Active Protection expert Tom Newbery said:

“This is such an exciting opportunity for Dstl and Industry to work together to deliver a step change in vehicle survivability by taking MIPS to the next level of maturity. MIPS has the potential to open up a range of capability options for Army, improving vehicle survivability against the most challenging threats now and in the future.”

Published 21 September 2022

SLC delivers more than £1bn in student Maintenance Loan payments

The last two weeks have been unprecedented for many people across the country following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Throughout the period of national mourning, we have continued our essential work, ensuring Maintenance Loan payments are being made to students as they start university or college. We have paid £1bn of Maintenance Loan funding to students since the beginning of September*, with payments continuing over the coming weeks as the academic year gets underway.

We were scheduled to make our largest payment of the first term on Monday (19 September). However, due to the Bank Holiday and the historic events taking place, we brought this forward, making more than 300,000 payments, to the value of £655m, last Friday (16 September). In some cases, students had yet to enrol or their confirmation of attendance had not been received from their university or college, so haven't yet received their funding. Further payments will be made today and over the coming weeks as we receive information from the education providers.

We remain on track to increase the number of students we have processed and ready to pay by term start – enabling them to invest in their futures through access to higher and further education.

It will come as no surprise that September remains our busiest time and this is reflected in the high demand for our contact services, with lots of customers wanting to speak to us. To help students get quick access to the information they need, we have added a 'common questions' area to their online accounts. Students are advised to check here for answers to their questions first, instead of contacting us, to avoid having to wait to speak to an advisor.

We understand that many students will be looking forward to starting the new term and will be keen to know what stage their payment is at. The good news is that they can also check this easily via their online accounts. This is by far the fastest way for students to get an update on their payment's progress – Watch our short film below to find out more.

[payment status film](#)

Similarly, students can use their accounts to update details, such as their bank account information or term time address or to submit any outstanding evidence they have been asked for.

In addition, we have made a wide range of information available [online](#) that students can access at any time to help them with their questions about payment or student finance more generally.

As we get closer to term start, there may still be students who are only

applying now and may have questions about when they will get their funding. The message to eligible students in this position is not to worry! While it can take six to eight weeks to process an application, our team will do their best to make sure they have some funding in place as soon as possible, by awarding the minimum Maintenance Loan first, followed by a top-up payment if they are entitled to more funding. [Find out more about applying late online.](#)

Throughout the rest of the month, we will make the remainder of Maintenance Loan payments to students before switching our attention to paying Tuition Fees to Higher Education Providers on their behalf.

To those who are starting university or college over the next couple of weeks, I'd like to wish you the best of luck from the team here at SLC and we look forward to supporting you as you progress through your studies.

*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 24 November.

August 2022 Transaction Data

News story

This data provides information about the number and types of applications that HM Land Registry completed in August 2022.



Image credit: NicoElNino/Shutterstock.com

Please note this data shows what HM Land Registry has been able to process during the time period covered and is not necessarily a reflection of market activity.

In August:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,926,510 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 445,874

HM Land Registry completed 1,926,517 applications in August compared with 1,894,807 in July and 1,659,680 last August 2021, of which:

- 363,448 were applications for register updates compared with 370,643 in July
- 1,025,643 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 993,000 in July
- 249,582 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 240,387 in July
- 18,238 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 17,425 in July

Applications by region and country

Region/country	June applications	July applications	August applications
South East	433,271	444,212	445,874
Greater London	328,559	341,840	347,679
North West	210,768	217,498	229,211
South West	180,421	188,241	188,943
West Midlands	154,776	160,208	160,791
Yorkshire and the Humber	144,885	149,387	151,191
East Midlands	133,895	137,248	137,921
North	90,354	91,801	94,197
East Anglia	79,765	79,497	81,525
Isles of Scilly	36	48	38
Wales	82,294	84,723	89,027
England and Wales (not assigned)	94	104	120
Total	1,839,118	1,894,807	1,926,517

Top 5 local authority areas

August 2022 applications

Top 5 local authority areas August applications

Birmingham	27,221
City of Westminster	22,644
Leeds	22,013
Buckinghamshire	20,379
Cornwall	20,236

July 2022 applications

Top 5 local authority areas July applications

Birmingham	26,853
Leeds	22,345
City of Westminster	21,690
Cornwall	21,380
Buckinghamshire	19,376

Top 5 customers

August 2022 applications

Top 5 customers	August applications
Infotrack Limited	146,535
Enact	47,435
O'Neill Patient	30,317
Optima Legal Services	26,980
TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	22,154

July 2022 applications

Top 5 customers	July applications
Infotrack Limited	144,859
Enact	50,228
O'Neill Patient	30,896
Optima Legal Services	27,872
TM Group (UK) Ltd (Search Choice)	22,853

[Access the full dataset on our Use land and property data service.](#)

Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month.
The September data will be published at 11am on Friday 21 October 2022.

Published 21 September 2022

[PM meeting with President Gitanas](#)

Nauseda: 20 September 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Liz Truss met the President of Lithuania, Gitanas Nauseda, at the UN General Assembly in New York.



The Prime Minister met the President of Lithuania, Gitanas Nauseda, at the UN General Assembly in New York today.

The leaders agreed on the value of the UK-Lithuania defence relationship and welcomed our close cooperation through NATO and the Joint Expeditionary Force.

They underscored the importance of likeminded countries working together to counter malign threats, increase our energy independence and end economic coercion by authoritarian states.

The Prime Minister stressed the UK's support for Lithuania in its ongoing trade dispute with China.

The Prime Minister and President Nauseda welcomed the recent news of gains by the Ukrainian Armed Forces. These demonstrate, once again, that Ukraine's counter-offensive can succeed with proper international – economic and military – support.

Published 21 September 2022

Regulator of Social Housing to

introduce tenant satisfaction measures from 1 April 2023

Press release

The new TSMs will enable tenants to scrutinise their landlord's performance and give landlords insight about where they can improve



Today (21 September 2022) the Regulator of Social Housing published the outcome of its consultation on tenant satisfaction measures. As a result, from 1 April 2023 all registered providers of social housing will need to collect and publish a range of comparable information on areas such as repairs, safety checks and complaints.

The new TSMs will enable tenants to scrutinise their landlord's performance, give landlords insight about where they can improve, and provide a source of intelligence to RSH about whether landlords are meeting regulatory standards. They are part of the regulator's wider programme of work to develop proactive consumer regulation of the social housing sector, following the introduction of draft legislation in Parliament earlier this year.

The TSM consultation received over 1,000 responses, including around 600 from social housing tenants. The majority of respondents across the sector supported the TSM proposals and considered that the measures would provide rounded information about landlord performance in the sector. RSH has refined the TSMs following feedback to improve some of the measures and increase the transparency they will provide about landlords' performance.

Alongside its decisions RSH has published the technical requirements providers will need to follow on the management information and tenant perception surveys. These requirements aim to strike a balance between ensuring consistency between providers and allowing flexibility to maximise tenant participation in surveys and ensure the measures are deliverable across the wide range of social housing providers.

The new requirements apply to both housing associations and local authorities and will come into force through the new Tenant Satisfaction Measures

Standard. All registered providers will need to collect TSM data. Landlords with more than 1,000 homes will have to submit their data to RSH every year. In response to consultation feedback, RSH will carry out a voluntary data submission pilot with smaller providers.

Fiona MacGregor, Chief Executive of RSH, said:

The launch of TSMs is an important step in the move to proactive consumer regulation. The new measures will provide a valuable source of data to help ensure social housing landlords provide safe homes of a decent standard and a quality service to tenants.

Local authorities and housing associations now need to make sure they have the systems and processes in place to start collecting data from April 2023.

Notes to editors

1. The complete suite of Tenant Satisfaction Measures documents published as an outcome to the consultation is available on the [TSM consultation page](#).
2. The Tenant Satisfaction Measures consultation was launched on 9 December 2021 and closed on 3 March 2022.
3. The Regulator of Social Housing promotes a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants.

Published 21 September 2022