

£3m to fund new wave of Artificial Intelligence for the military

The second phase of funded proposals has been announced for the [Defence and Security Accelerator \(DASA\)](#) Intelligent Ship competition to revolutionise military decision-making, mission planning and automation.

Phase 2 of [Intelligent Ship](#), run by DASA on behalf of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), sought novel technologies for use by the military in 2030 and beyond.

Nine innovative projects have been funded, sharing £3m.

With a focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), the projects will support the evaluation and demonstration of a range of human-machine teams and their integration with an evaluation environment. Phase 2 will develop AI for wider application across defence platforms.

Julia Tagg, Dstl Project Technical Authority said:

The Intelligent Ship project aims to demonstrate ways of bringing together multiple AI applications to make collective decisions, with and without human operator judgement.

We hope that the use of AI in the future will lead to timely, more informed and trusted decision-making and planning, within complex operating and data environments. With applications for the Royal Navy and more broadly across defence, we are very excited to see what these Phase 2 projects might bring.

Rachel Solomons, DASA Delivery Manager said:

DASA is focussed on finding innovation to benefit the defence and security of the UK.

Artificial Intelligence and human-machine teaming are such innovations, and by taking this competition to Phase 2 we hope to help find solutions that could make a real difference to future decision making in defence.

The companies awarded funding for Phase 2 are:

- CGI IT UK Ltd
- Decision Lab
- DIEM Analytics
- Frazer Nash Consultancy

- Montvieux Ltd
- Nottingham Trent University
- Rolls Royce
- SeeByte Ltd

Examples of proposals funded include an intelligent system for vessel power and propulsion machinery control to support the decision-making of the engineering crew, and an innovative mission AI prototype Agent for Decision-Making to support decision making during pre-mission preparation, mission execution and post mission analysis.

[Phase one contracts](#) were announced last year.

UK signs agreement with ICES demonstrating commitment to international marine science collaboration

The government has set out its commitment to international marine and fisheries science by signing an agreement which will ensure continued partnership with the International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

ICES is a network of nearly 6,000 scientists from over 700 marine institutes in 20 member countries. The [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) came into effect on 1 January and sets out how the UK will work with ICES as an independent coastal State. It outlines how UK scientists will contribute to ICES and the advice ICES will provide to the UK on conservation, protection, the sustainable use of the marine environment and sustainable fisheries.

The partnership will assist the UK in meeting its international and domestic commitments to achieving a sustainable marine environment, support vital ecosystems and improve fish stocks which will in turn also benefit our aquaculture and fishing industries.

The UK has a long-running history with ICES as a founding member at its inception in 1902, before becoming a formal contracting party during the ICES Convention of 1964. Throughout our historic collaboration with ICES, UK scientists across Cefas, Marine Scotland Science, AFBI and ICES partner nations, have been key contributors to the development of a greater understanding of marine ecosystems and continue to do so to meet our vision of achieving a clean, healthy and sustainable marine environment.

Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis said:

Now that we are an independent coastal State, we are moving forward with a strong vision as world leaders in marine and fisheries science. UK scientists are key contributors to ICES, and we will continue to play a leading role.

We are committed to achieving a clean and healthy marine environment as well as promoting global efforts to protect and enhance marine ecosystems internationally. We must all work together to ensure our seas and oceans are sustainably managed for future generations.

Carl O'Brien CBE, Chief Fisheries Science Adviser at Cefas, said:

Science is strengthened through collaboration, and the signing of the MoU provides a basis for continued collaboration between UK scientists across our Devolved Administrations and our peers in ICES with its 20 member nations; embracing the rest of Europe and more widely. We will continue to work together to research and understand the challenges our oceans face and how we can meet them.

The working partnerships between Cefas and other organisations have been developed over more than a century and I look forward to the innovative scientific findings they bring in our efforts towards a sustainable marine environment, for human activity and healthy ecosystems; as well as to the continued sharing of marine data. This information and advice will support the UK in meeting its international and domestic obligations in sustainability.

The MoU outlines the advice and information ICES will provide to the UK on conservation, protection, the sustainable use of the marine environment, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as well as marine data. This information and advice will assist the UK in meeting its international and domestic commitments to achieve a sustainable marine environment, support vital ecosystems and improve fish stocks which will in turn also benefit our aquaculture and fishing industries.

ICES will also provide annual advice on fishing opportunities as well as analysis of the status of our marine ecosystems so that we can manage our fisheries in a way that balances the needs of both our fishermen and our vibrant marine life.

[Ofsted publishes short guide to what works well in remote education](#)

Last week, the government published new guidance that strengthened expectations for the provision of remote education while schools and colleges remain closed to most pupils. Today, Ofsted has published some [useful advice](#) for leaders and teachers, aimed at helping them develop their remote education offer.

The advice has been written by the head of Ofsted's research team, Professor Daniel Muijs, and draws on [findings from Ofsted's interim visits](#), as well as wider sources. It sets out some common myths about remote education and counters them with evidence-based pointers. The guide has been designed to help schools and colleges deal with some of the difficulties and challenges they face under current circumstances.

The guide sets out that the remote education curriculum should be aligned to the classroom curriculum as much as possible, and carefully sequenced to ensure pupils obtain the building blocks they need to move on to the next step. It suggests that whether learning is delivered through worksheets, textbooks, or via an online platform, it is a good idea to keep resources simple and straightforward to use. And feedback and assessment are still as important remotely as they are in the classroom.

From 18 January, Ofsted will resume [monitoring inspections of schools](#) judged to be inadequate at their previous inspection, as well as some schools graded 'requires improvement'. Monitoring inspections look at the progress a school is making and encourage improvement. Unlike full inspections, they do not result in a grade.

Inspectors will look at how well schools are educating pupils in the current circumstances – which for most pupils means being educated remotely. Unlike during the first lockdown last year, the government has set a clear expectation that schools must provide remote education, so pupils can continue to learn away from the classroom.

Inspections will be carried out in line with the [operational note published in December](#). A new framework for inspecting remote education is not required, as inspectors will be looking at it as part of the overall quality of education.

Inspectors will consider the school's remote learning provision, to give reassurance to parents. They will also consider any complaints made by parents about remote education, to help resolve issues and make sure children are being well-served. If parents feel their child's school is not providing suitable remote education, they should first raise their concerns with the teacher or headteacher. If issues are not resolved, they can report the matter to Ofsted.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, said:

Children and learners have lost a lot of education over the past year and there are understandable concerns, not least from parents, about how well children will learn during this lockdown.

So I'm pleased there are now clear requirements for remote education – something I have called for throughout the pandemic. Teachers, Heads and other school staff are working incredibly hard to keep education going and I hope they find our short guide useful.

It's important in these challenging times that we return to our work in a constructive way. So we won't be grading schools this term, but our inspections will consider how well children are being served, in order to provide reassurance to parents.

Monitoring inspections will be carried out in a proportionate way and appropriate to current restrictions. Inspectors will adhere to the required social distancing measures and other public health guidance. Ofsted is also arranging for inspectors to be tested for coronavirus before face-to-face visits.

[Community engagement on Tenbury Wells flood risk management scheme](#)

Press release

People in Tenbury Wells have until 31 January 2021 to visit a virtual engagement room to find out about a proposed flood risk management scheme.



Tenbury Wells

- Facilitated telephone calls will also be held on 26 January and 28 January to provide the same information as the virtual engagement room, for those without access to the website materials.
- Construction of the scheme is due to start in March 2022 and aims to reduce the risk of flood to Tenbury Wells, benefitting approximately 120 residential and 145 commercial properties.

Residents and business owners in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire are reminded they have until the end of the month to visit a virtual engagement room to find out about a proposed flood risk management scheme for their town.

As well as the virtual engagement room, two facilitated telephone calls will be held on 26 and 28 January at 11am and 6pm respectively, for those without internet access to find out about the scheme and ask any questions.

To join these calls telephone: UK Local UK-Wide: +44 (0) 33 0551 0202 or UK Toll Free: 0808 109 0701 for both dates. Conference PINs: 26 January 1557694; 28 January 5740455.

The flood defence plan to protect homes and businesses in Tenbury Wells has been put forward by the Environment Agency. It will see a mix of new flood walls and embankments to reduce flood risk to 120 residential and 145 commercial properties, after the government announced funding for the scheme in July 2020.

The virtual engagement room has been created due to current coronavirus restrictions, so the local community can be provided with all of the information that a face-to-face meeting would offer.

Information boards are also displayed in a number of locations around the town, to allow those without internet access the opportunity to get involved.

Dave Edwards, Flood Risk Management Team Leader for the Environment Agency said:

We are urging the local community to visit our virtual engagement room to find out about the proposed Tenbury Wells flood risk management scheme. Or, for those who are unable to access the online site, we have set-up 2 facilitated telephone calls which will provide exactly the same information, and give them the chance to find out about the scheme.

Due to the current coronavirus restrictions we have not been allowed to hold face-to-face events, but we hope that by visiting the virtual event or through the facilitated telephone calls, local residents and business owners will receive a similar experience.

Construction of the scheme is due to start in March 2022. Ground

investigation and site survey work is due to start in early 2021.

The virtual engagement room can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://virtualengage.arup.com/Tenbury-FRMS>.

Notes to editors

- The 2 facilitated telephone calls will be held on 26 January at 11am and 28 January at 6pm. The calls will be for approximately 1 hour.
Telephone: UK Local UK-Wide: +44 (0) 33 0551 0202 or UK Toll Free: 0808 109 0701 for both dates. Conference PINs: 26 January 1557694; 28 January 5740455.
- Tenbury Wells lies within the flood plain of the River Teme and Kyre Brook. Tenbury has suffered from extensive flooding to large parts of the town on a number of occasions, most recently in November 2019 and in February 2020.
- After the February 2020 floods, the government committed an additional £4.9 million towards a scheme for Tenbury. This funding has allowed the Environment Agency to progress plans.
- To check if your property, business, or place of work is within the new warning area, visit <https://gov.uk/check-flood-risk> or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.
- Since 2015, we have been investing £2.6bn to better protect the country from flooding and coastal erosion. We are on course to have better protected 300,000 homes by March 2021.
- Earlier this year the government announced a record £5.2 billion investment in flood and coastal defences – double the previous investment – to build around 2,000 new flood and coastal defences and better protect 336,000 properties.
- In July, the government announced an additional £170 million to accelerate the construction of flood defence projects in 2020 and 2021, where they would drive growth and benefit local economies, including £4.9 million for Tenbury.
- The Environment Agency has also published its [Flood and Coast Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#), a blueprint setting out how it will work with communities to deliver the government's plan.

[Bankrupt sentenced for hiding thousands from trustees](#)

Harvey Tudor (74), of Brookhouse, Lancaster, appeared at Preston Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 6 January where he appeared before District Judge Garland.

He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, as well as a 3-month curfew and a contribution to prosecution costs of £2,200.

The court heard that Harvey Tudor was made bankrupt in January 2014 owing creditors just over £52,000. Bankruptcy restrictions are normally lifted after 12 months but Harvey Tudor failed to cooperate with the Official Receiver and his discharge from bankruptcy was suspended indefinitely.

Whilst still a bankrupt, in February 2015 Harvey Tudor sold a property in Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, that he jointly owned with his wife.

Harvey Tudor split the proceeds, receiving just under £59,000, but failed to inform the Official Receiver of this amount as he was obliged to do before spending the sum over the course of the next two years.

On 6 November 2020 at Lancaster Magistrates' Court, Harvey Tudor pleaded guilty to one count of failing to declare property whilst bankrupt.

District Judge Garland told Harvey Tudor that it was his duty to report the house sale and not doing so was a "big mistake".

Julie Barnes, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Harvey Tudor knew his legal obligations when he was made bankrupt. Despite this, he tried to hide the proceeds from the sale of his house from his trustees to avoid repaying his creditors.

This case shows that we will not hesitate to take these matters to the criminal courts where it is appropriate to do so, and this sentence should act as a warning to others who try to hide their assets while bankrupt.

Harvey Tudor is of Brookhouse in Lancaster and his date of birth is June 1946.

Harvey Tudor's discharge from bankruptcy has been suspended indefinitely. Details are confirmed on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#)

Bankruptcy restrictions are wide ranging. The effects are the same whether you are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or to an undertaking. Guidance on the main statutory consequences flowing from a [bankruptcy restrictions order or undertaking](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: