

Prime Minister's words on EU negotiations: 7 September 2020

We are now entering the final phase of our negotiations with the EU.

The EU have been very clear about the timetable. I am too. There needs to be an agreement with our European friends by the time of the European Council on 15 October if it's going to be in force by the end of the year. So there is no sense in thinking about timelines that go beyond that point. If we can't agree by then, then I do not see that there will be a free trade agreement between us, and we should both accept that and move on.

We will then have a trading arrangement with the EU like Australia's. I want to be absolutely clear that, as we have said right from the start, that would be a good outcome for the UK. As a Government we are preparing, at our borders and at our ports, to be ready for it. We will have full control over our laws, our rules, and our fishing waters. We will have the freedom to do trade deals with every country in the world. And we will prosper mightily as a result.

We will of course always be ready to talk to our EU friends even in these circumstances. We will be ready to find sensible accommodations on practical issues such as flights, lorry transport, or scientific cooperation, if the EU wants to do that. Our door will never be closed and we will trade as friends and partners – but without a free trade agreement.

There is still an agreement to be had. We will continue to work hard in September to achieve it. It is one based on our reasonable proposal for a standard free trade agreement like the one the EU has agreed with Canada and so many others. Even at this late stage, if the EU are ready to rethink their current positions and agree this I will be delighted. But we cannot and will not compromise on the fundamentals of what it means to be an independent country to get it.

Tech start-up doubles turnover thanks to government support

About the transaction: Coriolis Technologies

Region	London
Sector	Technology
Export location	Multiple
UKEF support	Export insurance policy

UK Export Finance (UKEF) enabled Coriolis Technologies, a UK tech start-up based in London, to double its revenue during coronavirus (COVID-19) by protecting a major export deal using its export insurance support.

Coriolis Technologies provides data intelligence to the trade finance sector and 80% of its revenue comes from international business, mostly to clients in Africa and the Middle East. The company has grown substantially in the last 3 years by supplying data that can predict trade wars.

In August 2019, Coriolis secured a £1 million contract with a client in Africa to supply trade finance data. It was a major deal for the company and would double its annual turnover once fulfilled.

However, the overseas client had to delay payment when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic hit, which put pressure on Coriolis' cash flow. Coriolis also lost existing business as clients sought to cut back on their expenditures at the same time.

This contract was crucial to the Coriolis' survival, so the company sought insurance to protect itself against the client defaulting on its payment.

Coriolis were unable to get insurance on the private market due to the firm's small size but it qualified for UK Export Finance support, through its Export Insurance Policy – a product that has helped UK companies safeguard their exports during the pandemic.

UKEF's support enabled Coriolis to pay pre-delivery fees to its subcontractors and trade with the knowledge that they would get paid throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Rebecca Harding, founder and CEO of Coriolis Technologies said:

UK Export Finance's support came at a critical time. We lost massive amounts of business when COVID-19 hit and our future as a company was in doubt. This support from UKEF secured jobs and enabled us to grow. We are now on course to double our turnover this year.

Liz McCrory, UKEF Export Finance Manager said:

The UK is a world-leader in tech thanks to pioneering companies like Coriolis. UKEF has the expertise and products to help UK companies like them who rely on international business to succeed during the COVID-19 pandemic. I strongly encourage any exporter unable to get trade finance support in the private market to get in touch.

Putting the right finance and insurance in place can give you the exporting

edge, helping you to win contracts, fulfil orders and get paid.

[Tell us about your business](#)

[UK goes direct to EU businesses with new campaign](#)

A new communications campaign has been launched to provide EU-based businesses with information they need to get ready to trade with the UK after 31 December 2020.

This communications effort complements the UK Government's domestic facing campaign, "The UK's New Start", which outlines some of the steps UK businesses need to take to prepare and take advantage of new opportunities outside the EU.

The new campaign will be delivered through a range of channels including high-impact print advertising in pan-European and country-specific titles, digital display advertising, paid search and paid social media promotion across LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

The UK will be leaving the EU's customs union and single market on 31 December 2020, regardless of the outcome of negotiations. The campaign, to "Keep Business Moving", will direct EU traders to a dedicated gov.uk page which provides information on what they need to do to continue trading smoothly with the UK at the end of the year. The page will be updated with further information over the coming weeks and months.

The launch of the campaign will also see joint letters from HM Ambassadors and HM Trade Commissioner for Europe Richard Burn to key industry groups and businesses in member states and EEA countries, to ensure everyone is aware of the campaign.

Greg Hands, Minister for Trade Policy, Department for International Trade said:

Our preparations for the end of the transition period are well underway and this campaign will support the UK's valuable trading partners in the EU to keep business moving at the end of the year.

As we have always been clear, we want to reach a Canada-style trade agreement with the EU and that remains our ambition. However, the transition period is ending on 31 December and this will bring changes regardless of the final terms of our trade relationship.

We are supporting businesses by launching this campaign to help

them prepare over the coming weeks and months for changes in January, ensuring that businesses in both the UK and the EU can continue to operate smoothly in a new trading environment.

Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Europe, Richard Burn said:

The teams on the ground in our Embassies across Europe will work closely with our European partners, companies and business associations to ensure they have all the information they need to continue trading smoothly beyond the end of the transition period.

This new campaign will ensure EU businesses have the necessary practical information to succeed beyond 31 December 2020.

The campaign launch comes ahead of the eighth round of trade negotiations with the EU which begin on Tuesday.

[Scottish universities awarded £20 million from UK Government](#)

- University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, University of Glasgow and Herriot-Watt University to benefit from £20m UK Government investment to transform NHS healthcare delivery
- Projects include AI X-ray scanner to diagnose cancer and osteoarthritis more effectively and clinical sensors to provide feedback on health and wellbeing in homes
- Funding is part of UK Government commitment to increase R&D public spending by £22 billion by 2024/25
- The £20m awarded to Scottish universities is part of a £32m UK wide announcement for healthcare projects announced by UK Government Science Minister, Amanda Solloway at London Tech week today

Debilitating diseases such as cancer and osteoarthritis could be identified and treated faster and more effectively, thanks to four new Scottish tech projects that aim to transform care and treatments in the NHS by 2050, helping to improve people's quality of life as they age.

InlightenUs, led by the University of Edinburgh, will receive £5.4 million to use a combination of artificial intelligence (AI) and infra-red lasers to produce fast, high resolution 3D medical images, helping to identify diseases in patients more quickly.

Working with the universities of Nottingham and Southampton, the new research will initially be developed for use on hospital wards and GP surgeries, and

by 2050 aims to scale up to walk through airport style X-Ray scanners, which will be able to pick up detailed images of structures often hidden within the human body that can reveal tumors.

COG-MHEAR, led by Edinburgh Napier University will receive £3.2 million, to develop hearing aids designed to autonomously adapt to the nature and quality of their surroundings. Currently only 40% of people who could benefit from hearing aids have them, while most current devices make only limited use of speech enhancement. These hearing aids would be able to adapt to the nature and quality of the visual and acoustic environment around them, resulting in greater intelligibility of noise and potentially reduced listening effort for the listener.

Quantum Imaging for Monitoring of Wellbeing and Disease in Communities, led by the University of Glasgow, will receive £5.5 million to develop a project which aims to create a home of the future, providing homeowners with feedback on their health and wellbeing.

Bringing clinically approved sensors into the living environment will enable individuals, carers or healthcare professional to monitor blood flow, heart rate and even brain function, in the home. Monitoring physical and emotional well-being in the home will enable tailored programmes to be built for lifestyles improvement, as well as rehabilitation.

U-care, led by Heriot-Watt University, in partnership with the universities of Bath and Edinburgh, it will receive £6.1 million to exploit new laser, optical fibre and imaging technologies, delivering therapy for bacterial diseases and viruses in confined regions of the body such as the lungs, catheters inserted into the body for prolonged periods and areas of the body that have been subject to surgical procedures.

The platform will be able to cut out single cells leaving the cells around it undamaged in cancer surgery, aiming to offer a cure for currently unresectable tumors – tumors that are too close to critical structures and cannot be cut away safely with current approaches.

Science Minister, Amanda Solloway said:

The pioneering projects we are backing today will help modernise healthcare, improving all of our lives now and into the future.

Today's announcement is part of our ambitious R&D Roadmap and underlines our commitment to back our incredible scientists and researchers and invest in ground-breaking research to keep the UK ahead in cutting-edge discoveries.

Scotland Minister, Iain Stewart said:

Scotland is home to a world-leading research and tech sector. This UK Government is determined to support Scottish Universities and

the incredible talent they have. We are committed to help keep them at the cutting edge.

It is a fantastic to see such a variety of projects awarded funding, from identifying cancer more quickly to managing health and wellbeing in the home, all will make a positive difference to health of millions of people across the UK and important contribution to the future of the NHS.

The funding is being delivered through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), part of UK Research and Innovation, through the Transformative Healthcare Technologies for 2050 call.

EPSRC Executive Chair, Professor Dame Lynn Gladden, said:

The projects announced today will develop new approaches which could become routine in the NHS and community and home care in the coming decades.

Harnessing the latest technologies and the UK's world-leading expertise will allow us to deliver a step-change in how healthcare is delivered and benefit millions of people, emphasising the critical role the UK's R&D sector plays in improving the health of the nation.

Desk takes centre stage

The 'reactor in-core inspection desk', which was used to remotely check conditions deep inside the reactors at Sizewell A Site, was last used in 2005 just before the site stopped generating electricity.

The desk was a vital piece of equipment to help the site safely generate low-carbon electricity for 40 years. Considered cutting edge technology at the time, the desk allowed the operators to identify any maintenance or repairs needed inside the reactor core.

As work to decommission and clean up Sizewell A progressed, the desk became redundant and needed to be disposed of. Once it was carefully inspected and certified as free from contamination, Magnox's disposals contract partner, Ramco, took on the job of finding it a new home.

Having 'one careful owner' for the past half-century, and being a unique design piece, ensured plenty of interested bidders in the recent auction, but the highest bid of £10,200 was placed by a film studio based near Oxford.

The company has previously been involved with productions such as World War Z, Iron Man 2 and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Disposing of the desk in this way has recycled equipment that would have otherwise required months of painstaking work to dismantle for scrap.

Caron Weaver, Engineering and Asset Management Director, said:
“This sale proves that there is still value in Magnox assets if we are willing to look at what we have and find out if there is a market for them.

Our mindset is changing to ensure we exploit our assets and not follow the norm and throw them away as waste; this sale alone has saved Magnox in the region of £10,000.

Before we throw away any item we must consider reuse and we must achieve best value for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the UK tax payer and, most importantly, the environment through reuse and resale.

Sizewell A's Disposal Manager, Mark Thurston, added: “Each section would have taken two people at least one week to dismantle for scrap, so this has saved valuable time and brought a small profit. I look forward to spotting it in a film at some point in the future!”