

Principles for science and technology moon-shots

The Prime Minister [invited the Council for Science and Technology to offer advice](#) on moon-shots that could showcase the UK as a science superpower.

The CST has provided advice on how a moon-shot might be defined and highlights 7 principles for formulating and choosing a moon-shot theme.

1. Excite and inspire the public, academia, and industry
2. Help solve an important societal issue
3. Be truly disruptive and ground-breaking
4. Focus on areas where the underpinning science is at a stage to make a major breakthrough feasible
5. Be specific and well-defined in what it sets out to achieve, with a clear timeframe for completion
6. Take advantage of areas where the UK is, or is poised to be, a world leader
7. Generate significant additional benefits.

The letter also highlights factors that the government should consider for delivery of a successful moon-shot programme.

Gibraltar squadron to receive two cutting-edge Fast Patrol Craft

News story

A £9.9 million contract has been signed with Merseyside-based Marine Specialised Technology (MST) for two new boats to replace the Gibraltar Squadron Fast Patrol Craft.



Fast Patrol Craft in Gibraltar. Crown copyright.

The six-year contract, which will support 30 jobs and create a further 25, will see construction of the two boats beginning in July 2020 and will take approximately 18 months, with Boat 1 due to be delivered in Q3 2021/22 and Boat 2 in Q1 2022/23.

The remainder of the contract will provide an additional four years of local In-Service Support.

Both boats will be used to patrol HMNB Gibraltar and British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW).

They will also support British exercises and operations in the area and will keep close watch over Gibraltar's shores.

Putting technological advancement at the fore, the vessels will demonstrate UK sovereignty of Gibraltar as well as providing force protection to designated visiting UK and Allied military vessels.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said:

These new vessels will enable the Royal Navy to maintain the security of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters and protect British, NATO and Allied ships transiting through the region.

This contract will also support highly skilled jobs across the UK which clearly demonstrates how national security and regional prosperity go hand in hand.

The two new boats will replace the Gibraltar Squadron Fast Patrol Craft, HMS Pursuer and Dasher. These two Archer-class vessels very recently took over from HMS SABRE and HMS SCIMITAR, the Scimitar Class vessels that had been in service in Gibraltar for 17 years.

The vessels are being built at MST's boatyard on Merseyside and has created 25 new jobs as well as sustaining 30 current jobs as part of the £9.9 million contract.

Mark Milson, Project Manager for DE&S Boats Team, said:

There has been a British Armed Forces presence in Gibraltar for more than a hundred years and these boats will ensure we maintain an important capability to the Royal Navy and our armed forces, as well as playing a pivotal role in patrolling our coastline, protecting domestic waters and supporting maritime interests.

These boats will provide the Royal Navy Gibraltar Squadron with a modern, fast and effective capability for fulfilling their important role.

[Minister visits Midlands charity supporting thousands to apply to EU Settlement Scheme](#)

Home Office Minister Kevin Foster visited [The Refugee and Migrant Centre's](#) offices in Birmingham on Thursday 23 July 2020 and thanked them for their hard work and the sterling support they have been providing to help vulnerable EU citizens apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#).

The Refugee and Migrant Centre has engaged with and supported more than 9,000 people with their EU Settlement Scheme applications in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall. They are also supporting local authorities and Public Health England to help overcome barriers and engage the large Roma Gypsy community living in Birmingham.

They have also provided invaluable support throughout the coronavirus pandemic to some of the most vulnerable in society including victims of human trafficking or domestic abuse, those with severe mental health conditions, those without a permanent address, and those who are elderly or isolated.

The Refugee and Migrant Centre is one of 12 charities in the Midlands, and 57 organisations and local authorities across the UK, being awarded up to £17 million in Home Office funding to help vulnerable EU citizens apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Minister for Future Borders and Immigration Kevin Foster said:

EU citizens are our friends, family and neighbours which is why I am pleased there have already been more than 517,000 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme in the Midlands with more than 3.7 million across the UK.

The scheme is free and simple to use but it's vital everyone receives the support they need to apply. Charities like The Refugee and Migrant Centre, which the Home Office has funded, have been doing an excellent job providing people with easily accessible help and support in order to make their applications.

The Home Office has held a series of pop-up events across the UK to help raise awareness of the scheme at a local level. Staff have been on hand to answer questions and provide support in person.

In September to October 2019, and February of this year, the Home Office ran local events in 9 locations across the UK, including Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, London, Nottingham, Leeds and Aberdeen.

The Home Office also ran a £4 million marketing campaign in 2019 to encourage EU citizens to apply and a new wave of advertising began earlier this year to encourage those who have not yet applied to do so.

Pam Gill, Deputy CEO of the Refugee & Migrant Centre – Birmingham & Black Country said:

We have already engaged with more than 9,000 people who are in need of extra help applying to the EU Settlement Scheme through our centres in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

And we are supporting local authorities and Public Health England to help overcome barriers and engage the large Roma Gypsy community living in Birmingham, particularly in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

We are passionate about supporting those who often need it most and will continue to work alongside the Home Office to make sure people secure their status and can continue to live and work in the UK.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, people in the Midlands have also had access to a [range of support](#) either online, by email or by telephone to help them apply. The latest [official statistics](#) show there were 517,960 applications in the Midlands by 31 March 2020.

There are also over 1,500 Home Office staff working on the EU Settlement Scheme with 250 Settlement Resolution Centre staff in place to provide assistance to applicants with any questions about the scheme or who need help applying.

[Kenya: call for bids for personal protective equipment](#)

World news story

The British High Commission Nairobi is inviting bids from reputable and competent service providers to supply comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment.



On behalf of the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the British High Commission Nairobi is inviting all reputable and competent service providers with the relevant professional skills, experience, technical resources and financial capability for the tender to supply COVID-19 related Personal Protective Equipment.

The British High Commission Nairobi would like Personal Protective Equipment to be delivered for the High Commission's staff and visitors. Full details on the requirements, including instructions for interested bidders and registration are available via the FCO's e-Procurement portal, which requires registration.

Competent and financially stable suppliers are invited to access the invitation to tender documents by following these steps:

1. Open website <https://fco.bravosolution.co.uk>
2. Navigate to Personal Protective Equipment CPG/3732/2020. ITT 3890. Project 4604.

Kindly note that responses should be in English. Contact the Regional Procurement Lead, Mr Tankiso Potiane at Tankiso.Potiane@fco.gov.uk for any queries.

The invitation to tender documents should be completed and uploaded on the Bravo System by 1700hrs CAT on 31 July 2020.

Disclaimer

The British High Commission Nairobi reserves the right not to select any service provider and will only reply to the best-suited organisation. The British High Commission Nairobi will not meet any expenses incurred in preparing your invitation to tender documents.

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Tax credits deadline: customers at risk of losing out

Tax credits customers have just one week left to tell HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) about changes to their circumstances or income before the deadline on 31 July 2020.

Customers whose circumstances have changed in the last year or who have received a letter to reconfirm their income details must contact HMRC.

Failure to respond by the deadline may mean tax credits customers receive incorrect tax credits payments and may end up having to repay any overpayments.

HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, Angela MacDonald, said:

Tax credits provide much needed financial support to our customers. But we know that many customers leave it to the last minute to renew their tax credits award.

The time to renew your tax credits is now, you don't need to wait until deadline day on 31 July.

Customers who received an annual review pack or text and have already made their declaration including confirming their income and circumstances, don't need to do anything else.

However, customers need to contact HMRC straightaway if they disagree with any of the information in the pack or letter, need to tell us about any changes, or are self-employed and the income we hold for 2019 to 2020 is an estimate because they have not yet filed their tax return (they will then have until 31 January 2021 to tell us their actual income).

How to renew

Renewing tax credits online is quick and easy. Customers can log onto GOV.UK to check the progress of their renewal, be reassured that it is being processed, and know when they will hear back from HMRC.

Customers can use the HMRC App on their smartphone to:

- renew their tax credits
- check their tax credits payments schedule
- find out how much they have earned for the year

Customers can get help and information on renewing tax credits:

A word about scams

Customers should be aware that criminals could take advantage of tax credits renewals to text, email or phone the public, offering fake support. These scams mimic HMRC messages in an effort to look genuine.

If someone texts, emails or calls claiming to be from HMRC, saying that a customer can renew a tax credits award or access financial help, and asks for credit card or bank details, it is likely to be a scam. People should check GOV.UK for information on [how to recognise genuine HMRC contact](#).

More information

The deadline for customers to renew their tax credits is 31 July 2020.

In April, HMRC announced Working Tax Credit customers would receive up to £20 extra each week from 6 April 2020 until 5 April 2021 as part of a number of measures to support the country during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. To make sure the information HMRC holds is correct and up to date, letters have been sent to some customers to reconfirm their income details.

To establish how the total income was calculated, or report any changes use the webchat service. Go to GOV.UK and search 'tax credits general enquiries'.

Customers who are self-employed and have not filed their tax return for the 2019 to 2020 tax year, must estimate their profit or loss and report this to us online by 31 July 2020. If they do not tell us, we will finalise their award using the information we hold, and they will not be able to change it at a later date. Once they have provided an estimate, they will need to contact us again when they know their actual income, by no later than 31 January 2021.

Tax credits will gradually be replaced by Universal Credit. Customers cannot receive tax credits and Universal Credit at the same time. For more information, they need to go to the [Universal Credit page on GOV.UK](#).

HMRC's scams advice

Stop:

- take a moment to think before parting with your information or money
- genuine organisations like banks or HMRC will not normally contact you out of the blue to ask for personal details

Challenge:

Protect:

- forward suspicious emails claiming to be from HMRC to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk and texts to 60599
- contact your bank immediately if you think you have fallen victim to a scam, and report it to [Action Fraud](#)