

[UKAEA announces fusion supply chain events for 2020](#)

UKAEA will be running a series of supply chain events during 2020 to showcase its major projects and highlight the contract opportunities they offer. With increased Government investment in fusion and new test centres working with academic and industrial partners, it is a great time to get involved and work with us.

Projects covered will include:

- STEP, the UK fusion powerplant project
- RACE (UKAEA's robotics centre)
- New Fusion Technology Facilities at Culham and at Rotherham
- The H3AT tritium research facility
- Opportunities at ITER, the international fusion experiment based at Cadarache, France
- Development of the Culham Science Centre campus

The first event will be held at the Manufacturing Technology Centre, Coventry on Tuesday 11 February and you can register interest at the link below.

UKAEA senior managers and procurement staff will be on hand to discuss the opportunities and how you can work with us.

If you are unable to make the first event, please visit the website to subscribe for future event updates.

<https://www.ukaeaevents.com/>

[Joint statement from President Macron,](#)

Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq

We have condemned the recent attacks on coalitions forces in Iraq and are gravely concerned by the negative role Iran has played in the region, including through the IRGC and the Al-Qods force under the command of General Soleimani.

There is now an urgent need for de-escalation. We call on all parties to exercise utmost restraint and responsibility. The current cycle of violence in Iraq must be stopped.

We specifically call on Iran to refrain from further violent action or proliferation, and urge Iran to reverse all measures inconsistent with the JCPOA.

We recall our attachment to the sovereignty and security of Iraq. Another crisis risks jeopardizing years of efforts to stabilize Iraq.

We also reaffirm our commitment to continue the fight against Daesh, which remains a high priority. The preservation of the Coalition is key in this regard. We therefore urge the Iraqi authorities to continue providing the Coalition all the necessary support.

We stand ready to continue our engagement with all sides in order to contribute to defuse tensions and restore stability to the region.

£2 million fund opens for flood-affected farmers

A £2 million fund to support farmers who suffered uninsurable damage to their property in the devastating floods in November has opened for applications today (Monday 6 January).

The Government confirmed in November 2019 that it would extend its Farming Recovery Fund so farmers in parts of South Yorkshire could apply for grants between £500 and £25,000 to cover a number of repair costs, including removing debris, re-cultivation and replacing damaged field gates.

The Farming Recovery Fund is open for applications from farmers with affected land in parts of South Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and the Midlands. Affected farmers in these areas are being encouraged to check GOV.UK to see if they are eligible to claim.

The announcement followed significant overtopping of flood defences and breaches in rivers occurred due to the unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding in parts of South Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and the Midlands, including areas within Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Worcestershire.

The Farming Recovery Fund first opened in September 2019 with £2 million available to support farmers affected by flooding in North Yorkshire and Wainfleet in Lincolnshire over the summer. Today's announcement brings the total funding available this year up to £4 million, to help affected farmers get back on their feet.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers said:

I saw first-hand the impacts of this devastating flooding myself when visiting farmers in Lincolnshire in November. I am delighted we've been able to extend our Farming Recovery Fund to cover farmers in parts of South Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and the Midlands who were hit with unprecedented weather last year.

This scheme, coupled with the other measures we've announced, will help farmers get back on their feet.

Rural Payments Agency Chief Executive Paul Caldwell said:

We recognise there has been severe and unprecedented weather this year, so the RPA is working hard to offer advice and support to affected farmers to complete their Farming Recovery Fund applications.

The Farming Recovery Fund provides support to farmers following extreme flooding events, contributing to the costs of the clean-up operation and to uninsurable losses.

While insurance will pay out for the majority of the damage, under the Farming Recovery Fund farmers will be able to apply for money to help cover unexpected costs – such as rebuilding fences and stone walls.

Farmers who have already repaired damage caused by the flooding should keep records of all relevant evidence, including receipts and before and after photos, in order to help the RPA process eligible applications promptly.

The application window for flood affected farmers in North Yorkshire and Wainfleet in Lincolnshire which opened in September 2019 closes on 31 March. The window for this extension of the Fund will close on 31 July, but farmers are encouraged to submit their applications when they are able.

[The Farming Recovery Fund handbook](#) has been published today on GOV.UK with

full details of which areas are eligible, what is covered and how to apply for funding. All farmers whose land has been flooded can [access existing guidance around CAP payments](#) on GOV.UK.

Information about [other forms of Government recovery support](#), including the Business Support Grant and Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme can be found on GOV.UK.

PM statement on the situation in Iraq following calls with President Macron, President Trump and Chancellor Merkel

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Today I have spoken with President Macron, President Trump and Chancellor Merkel and will be speaking with other leaders in the coming days.

General Qasem Soleimani posed a threat to all our interests and was responsible for a pattern of disruptive, destabilising behaviour in the region. Given the leading role he has played in actions that have led to the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians and western personnel, we will not lament his death.

It is clear however that all calls for retaliation or reprisals will simply lead to more violence in the region and they are in no one's interest.

We are in close contact with all sides to encourage de-escalation. I will be speaking to other leaders and our Iraqi friends to support peace and stability. The Foreign Secretary has been in constant contact with leaders and foreign ministers from across the globe and we have taken steps to increase the security of our personnel and interests in the region. Following further international engagement and ministerial meetings here in the UK, Parliament will be updated on Tuesday.

Government confirms extra support for Troubled Families to succeed

Families with deep rooted problems will receive much-needed support to get their lives back on track with up to £165 million of new funding, Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP announced today (5 January 2020).

The funding for the Troubled Families programme will provide intensive support for some of the most vulnerable families.

Working with the whole family unit across local services, with a focus on early intervention, the programme has a proven track record of driving reforms across public services.

The funding will be used to tackle complex inter-connected problems including unemployment, poor school attendance, mental health issues, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

The Troubled Families programme will help more people in need get access to the early, practical and coordinated support to transform their lives for the better.

This is the right thing to do for families and for society as a whole, and these reforms will reduce the demand and dependency on costly, reactive key public services.

We want to build on the success of the programme in the coming year, delivering on our manifesto commitment to ensure we reach all those who could benefit from the programme – from the early years and throughout their lives.

Rather than responding to each problem, or single family member separately, assigned Troubled Families keyworkers engage with the whole family. Through this approach they coordinate support from a range of services to identify and address family issues as early as possible rather than merely reacting to crises.

The latest evaluation results show that, compared to families with similar characteristics who have not been on the programme, 19-24 months after starting to receive support:

- the proportion of children on the programme going into care has reduced by a third

- the proportion of adults on the programme going to prison has reduced by a quarter and juvenile convictions reduced by 15%
- more people on the programme are back in work, with 10% fewer people claiming Jobseekers Allowance.

The programme was originally set to run for 5 years from 2015 to 2020 but was extended by a year in Spending Round 2019. Today £165 million of funding has been confirmed for 2020 to 2021.

Since the current programme began in 2015, 297,733 families have made improvements with the problems that led to them joining the programme. In 26,848 of these families one or more adults has moved off benefits and into work.

The current Troubled Families Programme was rolled out in England in April 2015 and replaced the first programme which had been in place since 2012.

The third annual report of the current Troubled Families Programme annual report [Building Resilient Families](#) is available.