

[Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration remit letter: 2020 to 2021](#)

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[Modernising access to smart energy data: apply for contracts](#)

The electricity system of the UK is changing rapidly. More than 50% of electricity is now generated by low carbon sources such as nuclear and wind. Many homes and businesses can generate electricity, particularly from solar panels.

Smart time-of-use tariffs are giving consumers greater control of their energy bills, and the growing use of electric vehicles is placing new demands on the grid.

Effective use of data and better communication is essential to the working of this modern electricity grid.

An analysis by the Carbon Trust estimates that a smart and flexible system could save the UK £40 billion by 2050. It will also help the UK to meet its carbon reduction targets.

However, a lack of common data standards and sharing of data are a barrier to competition and innovation.

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, working with the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#) and the [Office of Gas and Electricity Markets](#), has up to £1.9 million to invest in the development of products and services that will modernise data services in the energy sector.

Projects must exploit state-of-the-art data science

Projects should use state-of-the-art data science and are encouraged to design and build ways in which a user can search and access relevant data such as by location, asset type and other characteristics.

They must:

- be flexible and easy to use
- enable digital information exchange across the energy industry
- demonstrate transparency and efficiency
- encourage innovation through ease of access to data
- involve interested private sector organisations
- show that data based on different standards can be made to work together
- create opportunities for commercial exploitation
- show regard to data security

The competition is being run in 3 phases.

Up to £480,000 is available in phase 1 to fund up to 3 contracts for short feasibility studies.

Successful projects will be able to apply for further contracts in the later stages.

Competition information

- the competition is open and the deadline for registration is at midday on 2 January 2020
- organisations of any size can apply
- phase 1 contracts are expected to last 6 weeks and be worth between £100,000 and £160,000

[Dstl announces latest free IP opportunities](#)



Lower limb injuries from either purpose-designed mines or Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are not always fatal but invariably life-altering. This technology uses a shaped metal 'cup' that covers the foot from heel to mid-sole. It can be sized to fit either over the shoe or as an insert and has been shown in blast trials to preserve the lower leg from traumatic amputation. Applicable to both the military and civilian sectors, particularly in areas of the world affected by legacy munitions, there is an opportunity to develop, design and manufacture a potentially low cost item of humanitarian benefit.

Andvari is a digital forensic assessment tool that uses statistical techniques and machine learning to increase the identification of data during digital forensic investigation. A probabilistic framework "learns" which data is of interest to an investigator, saving a significant amount of time compared to a random search. The technology is applicable to all fields of digital forensics in which metadata is analysed and prioritised, such as law enforcement and defence.

Technologies available through Easy Access IP are usually considered to be at low technical readiness for commercialisation. For Dstl the scheme provides a mechanism to release low technical readiness technology to those who may be able to develop it further. By offering the licences for free, Dstl hopes to build stronger relationships within industry and academia and see the technology potentially come to market and create an impact.

[For more details visit Dstl's Guidance to Intellectual Property](#)

Published 16 October 2019

[Treasury publishes Isle of Man VAT review](#)

The Isle of Man Government has correctly implemented and administered UK and EU VAT law for aircraft and yachts but should implement additional post-registration compliance procedures to ensure that the right VAT continues to be collected, a review carried out by HM Treasury has found.

Following a series of allegations of VAT avoidance in late 2017, the Isle of Man Government invited HM Treasury to carry out a review of its VAT rules and procedures regarding aircraft and yacht importations.

The [review](#), published today (16 October 2019), looked into the application of aircraft and yacht VAT rules in the Isle of Man and whether its rules and procedures enabled importation (e.g. by high net worth individuals) of private jets into the EU without paying the correct amount of VAT.

Publication today concludes over a year of intensive investigation by VAT administration experts into this issue.

The report found that UK and EU VAT law had been correctly implemented in the Isle of Man and allegations of widespread VAT avoidance on aircraft and yachts were not upheld.

The report finds that the Isle of Man Government carries out extensive and effective compliance checks during VAT registration but should implement further compliance checks in the years after registration to ensure that the right amount of VAT continues to be collected. The Isle of Man Government has already started to implement improved compliance procedures in light of these recommendations.

The work carried out by HM Treasury has also highlighted the complexity in international VAT rules and the report notes that there may be merit in a wider review of these rules if EU member states and other jurisdictions deem that more tax should be collected on these activities.

In a statement, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Jesse Norman said:

This is a matter of considerable public importance, and the Isle of Man government rightly agreed to a full review.

I am pleased to confirm that the reviewers have found no evidence of widespread VAT avoidance. However, the Isle of Man government is taking action to improve its post-registration checks as a result of the review. My officials look forward to working closely with them to provide advice and guidance throughout the implementation and in the future.

The Isle of Man is a UK Crown Dependency and has sovereignty over its tax system but under the Isle of Man Act 1979, it must apply VAT rules in a very similar way to the UK. It is the responsibility of the Isle of Man to assure those rules.

The Isle of Man invited HM Treasury to carry out a review of its VAT procedures for aircraft and yachts following allegations made as part of the Paradise Papers leaks in November 2017. While the UK and Isle of Man are separate tax jurisdictions, the UK Government works closely with Isle of Man Customs and Excise and is happy to provide technical assistance when asked.

The review into the Isle of Man's VAT procedures was one part of the UK's response to the Paradise Papers.

Detailed work has been carried out on the published Paradise Papers data which revealed that less than 2% of the data released by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists relates to UK individuals or entities.

HMRC has reviewed over 300 corporate groups and individuals from its customer

population who were identified in the documents. For approximately 80% of these, the structures identified have no UK tax consequences or were already known to HMRC.

For the remaining 20%, where new information is available, these are subject to ongoing examination by HMRC, who will take robust compliance action wherever appropriate.

[Plant a tree seed and decorate a plant pot in Kendal with local artist](#)

On Wednesday 23 October 2019, 1pm till 5.30pm, the Environment Agency opens the doors to its visitor centre at Westmorland shopping centre for a fun filled afternoon planting tree seeds and decorating plant pots which people can then take home, nurture and plant.

The event has kindly been supported by Homebase who are providing all the equipment, including the plant pots and compost the Tree Council, Kendal Conservation Volunteers and local artist, Lana Grindley, who will help people bring to life their decorative ideas.

Lana Grindley of Love Arts Workshops, said: "I'm delighted to be able to support the Environment Agency in hosting this family activity day – it's a great way children, families and local people to get creative whilst giving back to nature.

"I really enjoy working alongside the local community and delivering creative workshops that get people's creative juices flowing!

"It's free to attend and I'm really looking forward to helping people get involved and also help the Environment Agency in their mission to plant more trees in Kendal."

Stewart Mounsey, Environment Agency Flood Risk Manager for Cumbria, said: "We delighted to be able to host this half term event for youngsters, families and local people in Kendal and hope everyone has a fun day whilst helping our local environment.

"The Tree Council have kindly provided guidance which people can take home to help people plant and care for their tree and we hope it helps children learn about the importance of caring for our natural environment.

"We'd also love people's thoughts and ideas to incorporate into our art strategy and work to improve public areas as part of the flood scheme."

The proposed Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme will reduce the risk of

flooding to 1,437 homes and 1,151 businesses across Kendal and surrounding areas to a 1% chance of flooding in any one year.

As with every project they undertake, the Environment Agency also strive to improve our environment – and as well as delivering a flood risk management scheme, in Kendal, they will be restoring vital habitat, bringing nature back to certain areas, improving public spaces and access in the town, as well as looking at ways to incorporate community art into the scheme.

The visitor centre is based in The Fell Tarn shop, 1st floor, Westmorland Shopping Centre, Kendal, where you can also find out the latest information about the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme:

- Our plans and timescales
- Scheme overview aesthetics and finishes (including samples of flood walls and glass panels)
- Kendal public realm/art strategy (which is where we are planning on adding art into the scheme and improving public areas)
- Environmental enhancements we are including as part of the project, mitigation throughout construction and tree planting
- Property level flood resilience and resistance (individual property level protection)

Here there is an opportunity for the public to feedback their thoughts and comments on the detailed designs to the project team and find out more about steps individuals can do to better protect their families and homes.

As well as talking to the project team at the visitor's centre, you can also email the project team with thoughts and ideas at KendalFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

The Environment Agency is continuing with ground investigation, environmental studies and survey work for all three phases of the scheme, with main construction of the scheme starting in early 2020.

The project is receiving £5.34 million of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Department for Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for ERDF. Established by the European Union ERDF funds help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>