

UKDI seeks innovations to detect and defeat fibre optically controlled UAS

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New fast-paced Market Engagement calls for industry perspectives and novel ideas for countering fibre optic UAS.

- UKDI has launched a new Market Exploration called Countering Fibre Optic Uncrewed Aerial Systems
- This Market Engagement is being run on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD)
- The deadline for submissions is midday (BST) on 21 April 2026

UK Defence Innovation (UKDI) is pleased to launch a new Market Engagement called Countering Fibre Optic Uncrewed Aerial Systems. Run on behalf of MOD this Market Engagement seeks novel ideas to detect and defeat fibre optically controlled UAS. We are interested in hearing industry perspectives on whether or not this is possible, including the feasibility (can the technology be developed), viability (is it cost-effective), and desirability (is it tactically useful).

Background

Current conflict has demonstrated rapid uncrewed aerial system (UAS) evolution, including UAS controlled by trailing fibre optic cables, which are immune to conventional countermeasures. We would like a solution to mitigate this new threat.

We need novel capabilities to detect, track, identify and defeat fibre optically controlled UAS.

What we are seeking

Solutions should:

- integrate seamlessly into current systems
- deliver clear tactical advantages
- Consider future adaptations

Solutions may be for fixed sites or mobile tactical users, who are expected to operate in far-forward frontline positions.

Submit a proposal

Do you have a novel idea or some information on this area that you'd like to share? Read the full Market Engagement document and submit a proposal.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukdi-seeks-innovations-to-detect-and-defeat-fibre-optically-controlled-uas>