



PRESS RELEASE

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UK 'green energy' experts visit China to build new partnerships

A group of prominent academics from the UK are visiting China next week to build new collaborations in energy research.

The visitors are from the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA), a partnership of eight research-intensive universities from the Midlands region of the UK. These include the universities of Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham and Warwick, and also the British Geological Survey. Together they are working to develop new low-carbon energy technologies and solutions.

ERA is the biggest energy research partnership in the UK, with government and industrial funding of £180m to develop new energy research facilities, laboratories and large-scale demonstration projects.

The visitors from the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA) - comprising ten academics and five business development specialists - will be visiting Beijing, Nanjing and Hangzhou during the week.

The aim of the visit is to meet with representatives from government, energy companies and academic organisations with an interest in renewable and low-carbon energy. ERA is particularly interested in building partnerships which could result in joint R&D projects or commercial collaborations.

While in China, ERA academics will be taking part in events hosted by:

- University of Science and Technology Beijing – Monday 13th January
- Tsinghua University, Beijing – Tuesday 14th January
- Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute, Nanjing – Wednesday 15th January
- Zhejiang Science and Technology Department, Hangzhou – Thursday 16th January

The representatives from ERA will be discussing their research activities and exploring collaboration opportunities in a number of research areas. These include:

- Wind Energy and Compressed Air Energy Storage
- Artificial Intelligence and Smart Energy
- Decarbonising transport from cars to freight vehicles
- Viability of emerging energy technologies
- Energy integration
- Thermal energy storage for heat, power and mobility
- Hydrothermal carbonisations: wet waste to solid biofuels
- Electro-chemicals and liquid salts

In addition, ERA will also be running a special 'Science on Tap' public engagement event on Monday 13th January in Beijing. The event is on the subject of *A Net-Zero World: Powered, Heated and Cooled by Renewables* which is part of the Green is GREAT campaign run by the British Embassy in China on behalf of the UK Science and Innovation Network.

Professor Martin Freer, Director of the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA), said: "We are all looking forward to meeting representatives from businesses, universities and government in Beijing, Nanjing and Hangzhou during the week. We're very keen to meet with people who want to collaborate with us in the future, in order to explore new opportunities and develop and commercialise renewable energy technologies in both China and the UK.

"I would also like to thank all of the prestigious organisations that are partnering with us in China and generously hosting our events this week. They will all be very warmly welcomed when they visit us in the UK in the future."

The week-long mission to China is organised by the Asia Business Centre at University of Nottingham, in partnership with Birmingham Energy Institute.

During the week, the mission will be meeting with over 200 representatives from Chinese energy industry across research institutions, companies, government bodies and media, in order to accelerate UK-China collaboration in green energy innovation.

For more information about the Energy Research Accelerator, visit www.era.ac.uk

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More information?

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Notes to Editors

The Energy Research Accelerator (ERA)

ERA consists of the partner universities of Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Warwick, and also the British Geological Survey (BGS). ERA aims to harness the Midlands' combined research excellence and industry expertise to play a critical role in tackling some of the biggest challenges facing the UK.

ERA's priorities are focused in the areas of Energy Transformation, Energy Storage, Energy Integration and End Use Energy Demand.

Funded by the UK government through Innovate UK, an initial capital investment of £60m, has secured additional industrial co-investment of £120m.

About Green is GREAT

Climate change is the most serious threat facing our world. Our planet needs action and it needs it right now. Green is GREAT is the UK's government national campaign in China.

The UK-China Green partnership is helping to tackle climate change, and through Green is GREAT activities we are deepening this partnership to create even wider impact.

The first phase of Green is GREAT campaign focuses on three distinct strands of work: Green Finance, Renewable Energy and Marine Plastics.

Since September 2019 around 20 events have been organised across China and there are still many more being planned.