



Press Release

Thursday 29th April 2021

PACIFIC FUTURE FORUM 2021 TO BE HOSTED ON HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

- Annual defence, security, trade and technology summit delivered in partnership with the UK government will take place in the Republic of Korea from 31st August to 2nd September -
- Forum will explore topics including climate change, new technologies and fighting future pandemics -
- The event brings together political, military and business leaders, think tanks, academia and experts in technology, defence, security and energy -

The Pacific Future Forum 2021 - the annual defence, security, trade and technology summit delivered in partnership with the UK government - will take place in the Indo-Pacific from 31st August to 2nd September on the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Today's news follows the UK government's recent announcement that it plans to deploy the Carrier Strike Group led by HMS Queen Elizabeth next month as part of its renewed focus in the Indo-Pacific region. Alongside the G7 and COP26, the Pacific Future Forum 2021 will be one of the government's keynote events of the year.

Chaired by Lord Sedwill and hosted by the First Sea Lord and the Royal Navy, the Pacific Future Forum 2021 will bring together the most senior political, military and business leaders, think tanks and academia working in the fields of defence, technology, security, cyber, automation, biotechnology, big data, space technology and AI. Delegates will explore topics including reinvigorating our economies, addressing the problem of climate change, fighting future pandemics and harnessing new technologies to build back a better world.

Pacific Future Forum 2021 is an evolution of the Atlantic Future Forum, and will focus on broadening the transatlantic alliance to include a wider group of democratic, like-minded powers. Held in the Indo-Pacific for the first time, the Forum will provide a pivotal opportunity for nations in the Indo-Pacific to come together to demonstrate the power of multilateralism in tackling the global crises of today. It will take place as the UK Government continues to advance its agenda for 'Global Britain' and works to expand the G7 to the 'Democratic 10'.

Lord Sedwill, Chairman of the Pacific Future Forum 2021 said: "The Forum is Britain's premier defence, security and technology summit and we are delighted to be hosting it in the Pacific for the first time. This will be a seminal moment to bring our nations together, strengthen our alliances and explore how we build the stronger, more united world we need."

Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace said: “I am delighted that the Pacific Future Forum will be hosted on HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Navy’s Fleet Flagship, during the Carrier Strike Group 21 deployment. The Future Forum has become an important platform for the UK’s discussions with allies and partners and it is a special opportunity to do this onboard the carrier, alongside embarked world-class UK and US fifth-generation jets, while deployed. We are grateful to the Republic of Korea for allowing us to visit and stage this event which is a powerful symbol of our commitment to cooperation between nations in the Indo-Pacific whether on climate change, global trade or defence and security.”

The first Forum took place in 2018 and has been held in different locations including Annapolis, New York and Portsmouth. It is convened on behalf of the UK Cabinet Office with support from the Ministry of Defence; Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; and the Department for International Trade. Last year’s event was opened by the Prime Minister and included contributions from Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, Secretary of State for International Trade Liz Truss, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, US National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien and GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming.

A number of leading private sector companies support the Pacific Future Forum, helping to shape the agenda and providing support in the staging of the event. These include BAE Systems, Frazer-Nash Consultancy, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, Northrop Grumman, QinetiQ and Raytheon Technologies as early confirmed Partners.

- Ends -

Additional partner quotes

Charles Woodburn, Chief Executive BAE Systems, said: “The Carrier Strike Group deployment is a significant moment for thousands of our employees who helped design and build HMS Queen Elizabeth and many other assets involved as well as those who continue to support the Royal Navy’s fleet at home and at sea. We share the UK Government’s vision for a Global Britain and look forward to the opportunity to showcase the technologies that industry can deliver to our allies in the Indo-Pacific and how we can contribute to our shared goal to build back better.”

Rupert Bridges, Defence Director at Frazer-Nash Consultancy said: “Last year’s Atlantic Future Forum offered a great opportunity to discuss the global challenges society faces, and 2021’s Pacific Future Forum promises to build on this solid foundation, enabling industry, academia, military and government to work together to build a better world. Only by bridging the gap between policy-makers and those in the field, and collaborating on the development and delivery of solutions, can we address issues such as climate change and reinvigorating world economies.”

Paul Livingston, UK Chief Executive at Lockheed Martin UK said: “As a strategic partner for the defence and security of the UK, NATO and their allies for more than 75 years, Lockheed Martin is honoured to partner with the Pacific Future Forum 2021 team to deliver Britain’s premier defence, security and technology summit that will examine key challenges facing the world today and how a multilateral approach can make the world a better place.”

Gus MacGregor-Millar, GM Defense & Intelligence, WW Public Sector, Microsoft said: "Citizens, businesses and governments around the world are under daily attack from nation state sponsored actors. It is crucial that likeminded democratic governments and the private sector work together to tackle emerging cybersecurity threats, creating the science and technology innovations that will be necessary for defence in the future. This is why we are proud to support the Pacific Future Forum – enabling collaboration between global allies and partners is exactly what is required at this juncture."

Steve Wadey, QinetiQ CEO, said: “QinetiQ is delighted to be involved in the Pacific Future Forum with its important and exciting agenda addressing globally significant issues and opportunities. Our ongoing commitment to the event emphasises the importance we place on it and the key role that QinetiQ plays in addressing the global defence and security challenges ahead.”

Notes to editors

The Pacific Future Forum 2021 is an international summit dedicated to strengthening the defence, security, technology and trading relationships between democratic nations. The Forum convenes senior decision makers, thought leaders and high-level industry representatives from around the world, providing a unique platform to debate and discuss the most pressing global challenges we face. Alongside COP26 and the G7, the PFF’21 is one of the UK government’s international keynote events of 2021.

Media enquiries

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For the latest information on the Pacific Future Forum see:

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