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Few energy subject matters have been more hotly debated than the development of shale gas. The shale debate has passionate and vocal advocates on both sides.

On the one hand, the UK must secure its future energy mix, offsetting declining North Sea production and reducing carbon emissions from coal, whilst ensuring affordable energy for UK households and businesses.

Gas currently heats more than 80% of UK homes and flows through a well-developed transmissions network. Shale gas, as demonstrated in the US, can help improve the security of supply, as well as increase employment and investment opportunities.

On the other hand, there are concerns surrounding the environmental impacts of shale gas exploration.

What the debate lacked was a clear set of data from which to form a complete picture of the size of the opportunities and supply chain requirements.

*Getting ready for UK shale gas - supply chain and skills requirements and opportunities* filled this gap. It is the first research to quantify, to a high level of detail, what the country needs to get a viable onshore shale gas industry off the ground.

The report was publicly launched by the then Minister of State for Business and Energy, Michael Fallon, in April 2014, who stated that: *"The UK will look back on this day and say that the search for shale got serious and started here."*

The report has played an important role in shaping discussions within the industry and enhancing government support for shale; on the day the report was launched, so was a £2m shale innovation fund to accelerate technology development.