biggest economy after the decision to raise the cost of biggest economy after the decision to raise the cost of borrowing. That's all the business news. Researchers have developed a new type of sonar detector by copying dolphins. It doesn't just detect underwater objects, it can also hear what's inside them. The technology, developed by a team at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University, could be used to hunt mines and protect offshore wind and oil platforms. BBC Scotland's science correspondent Kenneth Macdonald reports. bottlenosed orphans make that has excited scientists. They are fantastic. They have sonar that has evolved over the years and it is unsurpassed. They can tell the difference between containers that hold fresh water, salt water, syrup

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and oil from ten metres, which we thought wow and we wanted to be able to do that. This is the result. This is our sonar that allows us to do things that dolphins do. The solar pack will be carried by one of Herriot Watt's underwater robots. It looks like a torpedo but will sound like a dolphin. We looked at the signals they used and we analyse them and figure got some things that other people had not seen about those signals and used those to create artificial signals that we would want to use and then we got to the difficult bit and that was getting a system that would produce those. A university spin out company sees opportunities worldwide starting with the North Sea. Inspection of the sea bed to make sure that you put infrastructure in the right place and you do it safely and securely. Postinstallation you

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need to monitor structures. Increasing issue for the oil and gas industry is decommissioning so when something gets to the end of its useful life do you dismantle it and make sure that anything that is left and not detrimental to the environment. It is being supported by a grant from the Scottish innovation centre for centre and imaging systems. We have identified about 90 research groups across institutions in Scotland that specialise in sensors or sensor technology. That is a tremendous resource to draw on. The project could mean better and cheaper ways of finding everything from undersea cables to misplaced minds. -- mines. A new study has shown that around 2,000 cases of serious birth defects, such as spina bifida, could have been prevented if the UK Government had followed advice to fortify flour with folic acid.

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78 countries, including the United States, add folic acid to cereal grain and flour, with many health experts believing the UK should follow suit. With more here's our health correspondent, Dominic Hughes. Spina bifida occurs when a baby is still in the womb and is known as a neural tube defect which can affect the brain. Very often these cases lead to termination, stillbirth, the death of the newborn baby or serious disability. Some protection can come from folic acid, naturally present in some foods, cereals and wholemeal bread. But it is hard to consume enough from purely natural sources, so the Department of Health has been advising pregnant women to take folic acid supplement since 1992. New research suggests as many as 28% of women ignore the advice and don't take folic acid while pregnant. In 1998 the authorities in the US started adding folic acid to flour for bread and since then have seen a dramatic fall in babies

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developing these defects. If the UK had adopted a similar policy, researchers say that since 1998 more than 2000 cases would have been avoided. It is getting to women who are basically healthy before they are pregnant when we have around 50% of pregnancies in this country that are still unplanned. It was always a tall order that would need a massive sustained campaign over and over again. No government has really tackled that head-long. Successive governments have been advised to follow the US example and introduce folic acid to flour for bread, most recently in October. The Department of Health has said they are still considering the latest recommendations. A new family photograph of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their children has been released, coinciding with the announcement that Prince George will begin nursery in January.