Welcome to the first edition of techUK’s International Trade newsletter this year! Please read below for some of the latest digital trade news, events and opportunities.

**International trade news and views**

**India**

The UK and India have formally launched negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement on 13th January. India is an important partner for the UK technology sector, and an FTA offers the opportunity to drive technology collaboration and innovation across borders. We welcomed the launch of negotiations as an opportunity to deepen the bilateral tech partnership and advance an ambitious trade agenda. You can read our full response here. The UK’s strategic approach to the UK-India FTA negotiations can be accessed here.

It’s worth noting this is a difficult FTA for the UK to negotiate. The most important areas for our industry-data localisation, IP protection and mobility- are likely to be the most difficult and sensitive to negotiate with India. This is due to its India’s domestic policies. India’s long-awaited Data Protection Act-including unchanged data localisation requirements-is now likely to be passed by Parliament in its next session, beginning in February 2022.

Once the details of the sector working groups are confirmed by DIT we’ll be working with members to prioritise our influencing to ensure we continue advocating for the tech key priorities. If you haven’t been involved and would like to find out more please contact jana.psarska@techuk.org.

**Australia**

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on a four-day visit to Australia last week signed the first state level agreement between the UK and Australia to deepen cooperation with South Australia in industries such as space, cyber and green technologies. The agreement seeks to build on trade and investment opportunities arising from the recently signed free trade agreement between the UK and Australia. Foreign Secretary has also agreed a new Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership with Australia’s Foreign Minister to strengthen global technology supply chains. To find out more about what the FTA means for the tech sector, continue reading here.

**Singapore**

Following the announcement of the UK-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement in principle in December last year and MOUs covering digital trade facilitation, digital identity, and cyber security, techUK and SGTech will be launching a
partnership to support bilateral cooperation on tech and digital. If you would like to participate in our future industry-to-industry roundtables, please get in touch.

China

China will further promote the development of a digital economy during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, according to a circular issued by the General Office of the State Council on Jan 12, 2022. Additional five-year development plans have been issued for the Smart Manufacturing, Robotics, Software and Information Services, and the Big Data sectors.

HM Government has re-launched The Digital & Technology China Campaign, aiming to help UK businesses engage safely and ethically with China. As part of the campaign, we're looking for businesses and SMEs with experience of engaging or doing business in China to write a short blog post which will feature on CBBC and techUK channels. If you are interested in writing a blog, please contact techUK.

Upcoming engagement opportunities

**Digitalisation of trade campaign week**

TechUK’s International Trade Programme will be holding the Digitalisation of Trade campaign week, taking place 14-18 March.

During this week, will be bringing you news, views and insights from techUK members, stakeholders and industry experts on how digital technologies such as cloud computing, AI, IoT, quantum computing and DLT can be leveraged to facilitate international trade. We will also discuss challenges to the adoption of digital solutions in international trade and digitisation of trade documents, and finally look at how modern technologies can make trade more sustainable.

If you would like to contribute, please get in touch.
**UK-APAC Tech Forum** meeting

**Date:** 24th February, 9.00-10.00

Focused on Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan and the ASEAN countries, the forum provides engagement opportunities with key stakeholders in government and business to drive new digital economy partnerships, address barriers to digital market access and expand commercial networks in the region.

Please email [jana.psarska@techuk.org](mailto:jana.psarska@techuk.org) if you would like to join this session.

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**UK-China Tech Forum** in-person roundtable

**Date:** 17th February, 9.00-10.30

**Venue:** CBBC, Kings Buildings, 16 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HQ

The UK-China Tech Forum is a platform to allow businesses to engage with key stakeholders in government and business in areas of UK-China tech trade, policy, and market growth in both countries. The forum is an opportunity for CBBC and techUK members to engage with government and key stakeholders to better understand and influencing the policy landscape and capitalise on opportunities created by closer UK-China trade links.

We welcome techUK members to join our first session of 2022. Please email [jana.psarska@techuk.org](mailto:jana.psarska@techuk.org) if you would like to join this session.

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**Other events and opportunities**

**Summit: How will we thrive? UK Pavilion at the Arab Healthcare Exhibition**, 27 January

Panel sessions will bring together thought leaders and industry icons to explore how healthcare and life sciences will develop over time.

**Doing Business in Asia-Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities for MedTech Businesses**, 10 February

The session is designed for North East MedTech businesses of all sizes, with varying degrees of export experience, and will highlight key strategies and provide insights into how to navigate the challenges within this vast markets.

**Hack Osaka 2022-Kansai’s Mega Startup Festival**, 10 February
This year, we will be focusing on next-generation air mobility currently undergoing demonstration tests for Expo 2025 and infrastructure essential for urban development.

**NASSCOM Technology & Leadership Forum 2022|Shaping the Techade: The New Now and the Next, 16-18 February**

NASSCOM, the trade body representing the tech industry in India, will be hosting their [Technology and Leadership Forum](#) in February. Any techUK members wishing to attend can register on the link below and members can use the code NTLF2022ASSOCIATION1000 to claim a discount.

**UK-Singapore Innovation Partnership Series - Smart Cities, Green Tech, and Circular Economy, 21 February**

The UK Department for International Trade (DIT), in collaboration with the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN) and Tech Nation, welcomes innovative UK tech companies in smart cities, green tech, and the circular economy to participate in a virtual trade mission to Singapore commencing 21 February 2022.

**Doing business in the USA, 24 February**

dtechUK in partnership with Blue Link Worldwide invites you to a panel discussion on how to enter and thrive in one of the most competitive markets in the world – the USA.

**CIC CreaTech DIT India Mission 2022, 21-25 February**

This UK Government supported mission to India is delivered in partnership between the Department for International Trade in the UK and in India and the UK Creative Industries Council. The mission aims to open export opportunities in India for 12 selected UK companies which are demonstrating cutting edge innovation and proven commercial success where creativity meets technology.

**Virtual UK Smart Cities Mission to Malaysia, 22-24 February**

[Smart Manufacturing at Japanese Companies](#), Registration closes on 25 February

Opportunities for UK companies in IoT, Data Analytics, AI and Cyber Security. The Department for International Trade is inviting UK companies to present their technologies and for Japanese companies to present their needs and requirements in these sectors.

**Watch on replay techUK events**

- How can we engage more MSMEs in digital trade through regulatory cooperation?
- Commercialisation and international collaboration on quantum
- Launch of the UK-APAC Tech Forum: UK-Asia Pacific Digital Trade