

Press release: HMS Queen Elizabeth hosts UK-US 'International Trade Day' in New York

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, is today (Monday 22nd October) hosting a number of trade events to secure trading ties between UK and US businesses on board the Royal Navy's HMS Queen Elizabeth in New York.

The event takes place days after US Treasury Secretary, Robert Lighthizer, announced that the US intends to begin negotiations towards a UK-US Free Trade Agreement after the UK leaves the European Union.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) will host a roundtable bringing together a number of the UK's world leading cyber companies will to present their technology and software to US Fortune 500 companies, in an effort to secure fruitful new deals. Businesses such as Garrison, iProov and Tessian will attend the event, all of whom have secured US business success in recent months.

Dr Fox will speak at the event, highlighting the UK's ability to counter significant cyber threats as they continue to grow from overseas.

He will then announce the founding of a sub-committee of the [Board of Trade](#) which will look specifically at cyber, how UK companies can increase their exports in the sector and how UK-US collaboration can help tackle increasing online threats.

Capitalising upon the nautical setting, Dr Fox will join Maritime UK to host the first Maritime Nations Forum between the UK and US, focused on strengthening maritime trade and relations between the 2 countries.

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox MP, said:

The United States is one of our closest allies, our largest single bilateral trading partner and we will see that bond continue to strengthen as we leave the European Union.

This 'trade day' will see some of the UK's most innovative businesses meeting their US counterparts as we continue to combat growing overseas cyber threats together.

My international economic department is [currently consulting](#) on the potential of a future free trade agreement with the US, and I would strongly encourage British businesses and the public to make the most of this opportunity to share their thoughts on what this deal should include.

The Forum will celebrate existing links and identify areas for further partnership and collaboration.

UK businesses attending include ship owners, law firms, port operators, manufacturers, technical consultancies and training colleges, some of whom were involved in delivering the HMS Queen Elizabeth project.

Maritime UK Chairman, David Dingle, said:

The UK and US have a strength of relationship like few others – based upon freedom, trade and prosperity.

With the US being the largest single nation trading partner for the UK, it is logical that we proactively recommit ourselves to boosting that trading relationship and our maritime partnership.

Britain is an island, maritime nation, with 95% of global trade being facilitated by the maritime sector.

The inaugural Maritime Nations Forum aboard the HMS Queen Elizabeth will allow our two nations to think creatively about new opportunities to deepen our partnership and to collaborate. We are looking forward to strengthening our special relationship, and will welcome a US delegation to the UK to join us for London International Shipping Week in 2019.

The trade day will conclude with a celebration of some of the UK's hard-working businesses who are currently operating in the US.

A number of British companies will be presented with prestigious Board of Trade Awards by the Secretary of State, recognising their successful export activity.

Winners of the Board of Trade Awards come from a broad range of sectors, from life sciences, to the space industry and food and drink. Combined, they export their goods and services across the planet and even into space, representing the best of British innovation and entrepreneurship.

Trade between the UK and the US totalled £180.6 billion in the year to June 2018, making the US the UK's largest single nation trading partner and export market.

British companies currently export £1.8 billion worth of cyber goods and services to the US every year, making it the largest market for their products. The UK's recently launched [Cyber Export Strategy](#) and made a commitment to create a specialised cyber role based in the US and DIT has just launched recruitment for this.

The inaugural meeting of the 'Atlantic Future Forum' to discuss the trend of innovation that both the UK and US are seeing in the Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sectors will also take place on board.

Following discussions between businesses from both countries, Dr Fox will sign a new accord with the US government, committing both governments to work with leading businesses to ensure that the UK-US partnership remains at the forefront of global cyber security, defence and AI.

Further Info

Full list of Board of Trade Award Winners:

- Almac – the life sciences company provide a range of services such as R&D, clinical trial supply and commercial-scale manufacture, they currently employ 5000 people in 17 facilities across Europe, the US and Asia.
- Casual Films – provide a range of directing and in-house creative services out of their London office, they also operate in New York and the Bay Area of California.
- Fever-Tree – produce a well known range of drinks, the company currently has major operations in both the UK and the US
- Grimshaw – this architects company employ 550 staff across the world in Los Angeles, New York, London, Melbourne, Sydney, Doha, Kuala Lumpur and Dubai – they are currently designing some of the worlds most innovative structures.
- Onfido – this innovative company have developed an app which uses facial recognition to access digital devices – available on your phone or tablet now
- SSTL – Surrey Satellites currently employ 500 staff who design, build, test, launch and operate technology in space, they have a 40% share of the global small satellite export market
- Trading Hub–provide trade data analytics to the financial services industry, their clients range from international banks to regulatory institutions and asset managers – their metrics based system identifies, investigates and reports market abuse, amongst other services.

Press release: Charities safeguarding measures bolstered through new dedicated fund

- Government renews commitment to improve safeguarding for England's charity sector
- Measures build on recent Code of Ethics that sets the standards for all charities

Charity employees, volunteers and those that benefit from their services will

be better protected under new safeguarding measures, Minister for Sport and Civil Society Tracey Crouch announced today.

Up to £2 million will also be invested in projects that raise awareness of safeguarding and improve incident handling, protecting more people from harm within the charity sector.

The Government's plans include developing digital solutions that provide simple and confidential ways for charities to report concerns and give better access to clear and consistent guidance on reporting and whistle-blowing.

Free training – with support from the Big Lottery Fund – will also be offered so charities can implement the highest possible safeguarding standards.

The plans and funding follow a Safeguarding Summit, held for the sector by the Government and Charity Commission, where it was agreed that safeguarding requires the strongest leadership, culture, policy and processes to be implemented.

Tracey Crouch, Minister for Sport and Civil Society, said:

Safeguarding is non-negotiable. Charities are widely trusted and we need to ensure an environment exists where everyone feels safe – from service-users to the employees and volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to benefit communities across the country.

We want to instil fundamental changes to help restore the reputation of the sector. These measures will help protect and empower people to speak up and ensure charity leaders tackle poor behaviour head-on.

Professor John Drew CBE, former Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales, has been appointed to chair the cross sector Safeguarding Programme Group, which will oversee the implementation of the new measures.

This will complement the programme of work for the international aid sector, announced last week, by Secretary of State for International Development Penny Mordaunt.

These measures build on the new charity Code of Ethics, spearheaded by NCV0 and sets the standards for all charities.

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Government has been working closely with the Home Office, charities, the Charity Commission and Big Lottery Fund to develop this programme.

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Press release: Joint UK, France and Germany statement on Jamal Khashoggi's death

The violent death of Jamal Khashoggi, within the premises of the Saudi Consulate General in Istanbul had been feared for many days but its confirmation still comes as a shock.

Nothing can justify this killing and we condemn it in the strongest possible terms. □

Defending freedom of expression and a free press are key priorities for Germany, the United Kingdom and France□.

The threatening, attacking or killing of journalists, under any circumstances, is unacceptable and of utmost concern to our three nations.

Our thoughts □are today □with Mr Khashoggi's family, his fiancée, and his friends – who have worried about him for weeks, and to whom we extend our most heartfelt condolences.

We take note of the Saudi statement which gives their preliminary findings.

Yet there remains an urgent need for clarification of exactly what happened on October 2nd – beyond the hypotheses that have been raised so far in the Saudi investigation, which need to be backed by facts to be considered credible.

We thus stress that more efforts are needed and expected towards establishing the truth in a comprehensive, transparent and credible manner.

We will ultimately make our judgement based on the credibility of the further explanation we receive about what happened and our confidence that such a shameful event cannot and will not ever be repeated.

We therefore ask for the investigation to be carried out thoroughly until responsibilities are clearly established and that there is proper accountability and due process for any crimes committed.

We will stay in close contact with our Saudi partners in that regard.

The quality and significance of the relationship we have with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also rests with the respect we have for the norms and values to which the Saudi authorities and us are jointly committed under international

law.