



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

SCDI LAUNCHES BLUEPRINT FOR SCOTLAND

SCDI today (June 16) launches its Blueprint for Scotland setting out its vision and framework for a prosperous and successful nation.

As a leader in the debate on key economic issues, SCDI believes in a Scotland that is ambitious, enterprising and outward-looking, measuring success in its ability to maximise its assets, its potential and its people.

This strategic policy Blueprint sets out SCDI's perspective of the challenges and opportunities facing Scotland over the next 10 years, and the actions and investment needed to achieve a prosperous and innovative nation.

The Blueprint focuses on SCDI's key policy priorities:

- an outward and enterprising **nation**;
- maximising Scotland's **assets**
- realising the potential of our **people**

SCDI's key policy innovations for the next five years include:

- Strengthening the Scottish Parliament's responsibility for tax and spending decisions which promote sustainable economic growth
- Launching construction programmes for off-shore wind, carbon capture and storage, marine energy parks and new onshore and offshore grids with Scottish supply chains
- Ring-fencing 0.5% of the procurement budget to create jobs and stimulate creativity and innovation across the economy

SCDI's Blueprint also sets out an ambitious programme of priority targets for the next decade. These include:

- Doubling the value of Scotland's exports
- Full-wiring Scotland to high-speed broadband and creating new 'distributed cities' in the Highlands and Islands and southern Scotland
- Increasing business R&D to at least UK average of 1.08% of GDP

Robert Armour, Chair of SCDI, said:

"Enlarging and emboldening Scotland's business base will improve our export earning and build more sustainable businesses, improve our reputation, support a skilled workforce and make Scotland a desirable location for global talent to create and innovate."



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“An economically successful Scotland must also be fully-connected in energy, digital and transport terms. We must be an enterprising and collaborative nation with clear international ambitions which are supported by world-class infrastructure and public service delivery.

“Our Blueprint is an articulation of that ambition and provides a constructive route map for delivery and success.”

SCDI Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Sawers said:

“In a decade of challenge and opportunity, we require bold thinking, tough choices and clear focus to ensure that Scotland emerges as a strong and successful competitor in the global marketplace, and a smarter, fairer nation.

“SCDI’s Blueprint outlines the key actions and priorities we consider necessary to achieve our shared vision for Scotland. Despite the economic challenges we face, it is important Scotland remains focused on the delivery of sustainable economic success.”

Ends
