



Scottish Council for  
Development and Industry

## PRESS RELEASE

### SCDI WELCOMES BUSINESS ROLE FOR FOREIGN OFFICE

*22 July 2010*

SCDI, Scotland's leading independent economic development organisation, has today welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that the UK Foreign Office is to focus on commercialisation and promoting UK trade abroad.

**Responding to the announcement, SCDI Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Sawers said:**

"Internationalisation is key to the future success of our economy and we must maximise all the levers that exist to encourage more businesses in Scotland to trade in Global Markets. Today's announcement sends a clear signal from the Government that exports and inward investment will support our future prosperity and demonstrates the key role of British foreign policy in rebuilding our economy.

"SCDI has worked in partnership with the Holyrood and Westminster Governments to promote international trade in the key growth markets throughout the World. We now look forward to working with the Foreign Office to continue to promote UK capabilities on the Global Stage."

2010 marks the celebration of 50 years of SCDI's international trade visits. Since the first visit to the then USSR in 1960, SCDI has taken more than 5,000 companies on 360 visits to more than 50 global markets. The business achieved over the 2009/10 trade visit programme was more than £3.3m.

**ENDS**

For further information please call Janette Harkess on 0141 352 8558.

**Notes to editors**

SCDI is Scotland's leading economic development organisation representing 1,200 companies, SMEs, public sector bodies, charities, trade unions and faith groups.

SCDI's international trade visits receive support from Scottish Development International (SDI) and our Glasgow trade visits are supported by Glasgow City Council.

Future SCDI trade visits include:

- Poland – September 2010
- India – October 2010
- United Arab Emirates – January 2011



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SCDI called for a doubling of Scotland's exports in our response to the Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee's inquiry into 'Scottish Exports and Trade Promotion'.

A full copy of our response is available at <http://www.scdi.org.uk/Docs/Trade%20Inquiry.pdf>

For further information, please contact James Alexander, Policy and Communications Manager on 07762 023 985.