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ROADSHOW HIGHLIGHTS BLUEPRINT FOR UK'S LIFE SCIENCES

South West firms are being offered the chance to help shape the future of the UK's Life Sciences industry as a special roadshow begins a tour of the UK.

The Life Sciences Roadshows offer a chance for those in the industry to find out about and help influence the Office for Life Sciences' plans for the future of the sector.

Organised by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and the Office for Life Sciences (OLS), the free events will kick off in Wales and will run in Bath on 9 March at Bailbrooke House.

UKTI Chief Executive Sir Andrew Cahn explained:

"The UK has the largest Life Sciences sector in Europe and our research remains the strongest and most productive in the G8. Here is an industry where we are world-class and have the potential to go further. UKTI helped to bring in £500 million in research and development investment in the last two and a half years, of which the largest share was in pharmaceuticals.

"A fifth of all medicines globally are developed in the UK and we have been awarded more than 20 Nobel Prizes in Life Sciences. But it's vital that we work together to ensure we remain competitive and continue to innovate and adapt.

"The Office for Life Sciences Blueprint, published in July, outlines what is being done to support this vital industry and the roadshows offer companies the chance to find out how they can make a difference, the support available to them and how they can get involved in shaping the industry's future."

The OLS has brought together the UK Life Sciences industry with Government departments, including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department of Health, UKTI, The Treasury, Regional Development Agencies and devolved administrations to work collectively to maintain the UK's place as a global leader.

During the events, UKTI will also be running an interactive programme of workshops covering a range of topics including market intelligence, a marketing workshop with one-to-one support, selling into the NHS, exhibition training, the challenge of China (with a free, exclusive report from Ernst & Young) and accessing finance in the downturn.

There will also be a comprehensive Life Sciences "Question Time" and a networking reception.

Other events will be held as follows:

Wales	21 January	City Hall, Cardiff
West Midlands	02 February	Think Tank, Birmingham
East Midlands	03 February	Bio City, Nottingham
Yorkshire & Humber	17 February	Science Park, York
North East	18 February	International Centre for Life, Newcastle
North West	22 February	BiolIncubator, Manchester
Scotland	24 February	Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh
Northern Ireland	25 February	Invest NI building, Belfast
East of England	03 March	Churchill College, Cambridge
London	23 March	Wellcome Trust, London
South East	29 March	Saïd Business School, Oxford

For more information or to register log onto the website at www.olsroadshows.ukti.gov.uk or contact Ian Bunker at UK Trade & Investment on 0207 215 4851 or email: ian.bunker@ukti.gsi.gov.uk.

Notes to Editors

UK Trade & Investment

UK Trade & Investment is the government organisation that provides integrated support services for UK companies engaged in overseas trade and foreign enterprises seeking to locate in the UK. It brings together the work of teams in British embassies and FCO posts overseas and government departments across Whitehall. In England, international trade support is coordinated by nine International Trade Directors working in partnership with each Regional Development Agency. UK Trade & Investment services are delivered locally through a network of International Trade Teams. The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own arrangements for local delivery of services. For more information visit the web site www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk.

GWE Business West

The South West UK Trade and Investment service is delivered by GWE Business West, a leading membership and economic development organisation delivering an extensive range of services to businesses. As a powerful voice for business we play a major role in shaping and supporting economic growth and success.

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