

PN14/2010

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Trade Minister encourages South West firms to take it to the world

Lord Davies of Abersoch, Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business visited the South West today to hear local businesses' views on what Government can do to help South West companies compete in the international marketplace.

The Minister began his day in Swindon at Dynamatic Ltd UK, the largest producer of hydraulic gear pumps in Asia and one of the top five worldwide.

Lord Davies then visited Aardman Animations Ltd in Bristol where he discussed their staggering international success and whether Government could do more to help companies from creative industries. He enjoyed a tour of Aardman's world-renowned workshop accompanied by Sir John Sorrell, UK Creative Industries Business Ambassador.

The Minister then attended a buffet lunch at Paintworks in Bristol, where he met with over a hundred local business people enjoying food sourced from South West-based companies including Dorset Village Bakery, Kitchen Garden Foods, Sharpham Park, and Westaway Sausages.

Over lunch, Lord Davies took the opportunity to meet representatives from the winning teams of the UK Trade & Investment South West International Enterprise Competition, including pupils and staff from both Thomas Hardy School (Dorchester) and Devonport High School for Girls (Plymouth).

A 'Question and Answer' session, orchestrated by Mark Leaver, Director of Development at South West Screen, then followed. Key questions from the floor

included how the Government was working to help protect UK intellectual property, what match-funding or incentives programmes were in place for SME exporters, and what contacts or networks could be leveraged by South West companies looking to trade internationally.

Lord Davies said:

“The South-West is generating many talented and brilliant entrepreneurs who are taking on the world. Whether in animation, music, infrastructure or food and drink, the sheer quality offered by the South West is making its mark overseas and creating jobs and revenue at home.

“With the low pound presenting a window of opportunity, there has never been a better time to consider exporting, and UK Trade & Investment can help businesses to take the first steps.”

Photography

Photography from the event is available by request from Daniel Gray on 0117 917 5062 or daniel.gray@coi.gsi.gov.uk

Media contact

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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.