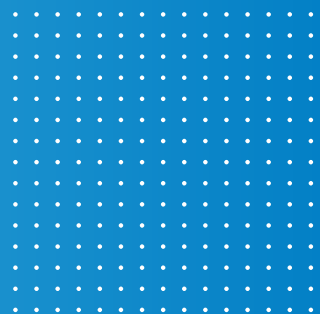


International Policy and Trade Programme

techUK's International Policy and Trade Programme works with stakeholders across the UK Government and our global partners to represent the tech sector in trade-related matters and seeks to expand opportunities for business growth. Our programme helps businesses access export opportunities in key strategic markets and works with the industry to shape the government's agenda on trade.

[Visit the International Policy and Trade hub on our website.](#)



2021 Achievements

In 2021, techUK re-affirmed its leading voice in digital trade policy thought leadership and advocacy. We launched a report, a [Blueprint for UK Digital Trade](#), that builds upon our initial iteration in 2020, *A Vision for UK Digital Trade Policy*. All of the core principles we advocated for have found their way into the first UK free trade agreements, with Japan, the EU, and more recently with Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. We also assisted our members in understanding international market opportunities, through our flagship [Tech Forums](#), on Japan, India and China, as well as our recently launched [UK-APAC Tech Forum](#).

Putting digital trade at the forefront of UK's trade policy

In May 2021, techUK hosted our first [Digital Trade Conference](#) to discuss the gold standard in digital trade policy making with speakers from across the globe. At the event we launched our flagship report, *A Blueprint for Digital Trade*, a detailed thought leadership piece outlining our vision for modern digital trade policy.

Through these initiatives, we continued to develop a close engagement with government, particularly with the Department of International Trade. Our CEO sits on the Strategic Trade Advisory Group, and our Deputy CEO on the Trade Advisory Group for Tech and Telecoms. Through formal and informal channels, we have worked with government to develop progressive digital trade policy with significant wins in 2021 and early 2022 including a series of very advanced agreements with digital trade provisions with Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.

Shaping the UK-EU relationship in the aftermath of Brexit

Through our membership of DIGITALEUROPE and the European Services Forum in Brussels, techUK worked on understanding the divergence areas in EU and UK policymaking in digital. Throughout 2021, we ran a [series of events](#) comparing policy developments in Brussels and London. These focused on issues such as competition in the digital age, content regulation, and data governance. Most importantly, we secured a positive adequacy decision that allows personal data to flow freely between the UK and the EU. This was one of techUK's major priorities in the negotiations for a new EU-UK relationship following Brexit.

Helping UK companies learn about and access new markets

Throughout 2021, we ran our flagship [UK-Japan](#), [UK-China](#) and [UK-India](#) Tech Forums. These focused on bringing industry and governments on both sides together to understand market access conditions, the benefits of trade deals, the support available from the UK Government and from target countries, address barriers to digital market access, and jointly develop practical steps that industry can take to make it easier for business to trade and collaborate across tech corridors. Given the shift in focus of the UK Government to the Indo-Pacific region, we also launched a UK-APAC Tech Forum in late 2021.

2022 Objectives

Working with the European Union to rebuild the relationship, ensure cooperation and minimise negative impacts on the UK tech sector

In 2022, we are taking our work on the EU-UK relationship to a new level. We are running a series of techUK engagements in Brussels, aimed at building bridges and creating opportunities for industry and stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges in EU-UK cooperation on digital policy.

Renewed focus on the USA market

This year techUK will be looking to support the UK Government in its strategy to engage the US Government and market. We will be running a series of events covering UK-US cooperation on regulation, trade and technology.

Helping government think beyond trade agreements in its regulatory cooperation plans

As the UK negotiates new trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, India, Israel and others, as well as CPTPP accession, we will be working closely with government, through our newly formed [Trade Working Group](#), to ensure the digital trade provisions in all these agreements are modern, consistent and provide opportunities for the UK tech sector. We are also aiming to launch new thought leadership on what we think the UK's strategy for international regulatory cooperation should be. Through the discussions within the G7, as well as through techUK's involvement in the B20 Digital Transformation Taskforce under the Indonesian Presidency, among other international fora, such as the OECD and WTO, we aim to create opportunities for engagement and cooperation highlighting the areas of emerging technology where such cooperation is key for the continued growth of the tech sector domestically and internationally.

Helping techUK members access export opportunities

Members will receive practical support on ways to enter new international markets for the first time as well as for continued growth opportunities. We will do this by regularly inviting relevant speakers to connect and consult with our member companies, including Trade Commissioners, DIT, FCDO, DCMS, law and accountancy firms, foreign governments representatives as well as universities, business advisories and other relevant organisations. Throughout the year, we will deliver a series of seminars, workshops and roundtables on how to access and grow in international markets, including the US, China, Japan, ASEAN region, India and others.