**Memorandum of Understanding**

**between**

**techUK**

**&**

**IT Ukraine Association**

**1. Preamble**

techUK is a membership organisation in the United Kingdom whose mission is to champion the technology sector and prepare and empower the UK for what comes next, delivering a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet. It is the UK’s leading digital technology membership organisation, with nearly 1000 members spread across the UK. These companies range from leading FTSE 100 companies to new innovative start-ups. The majority of techUK’s members are small and medium-sized businesses. By working collaboratively with government and others, we provide expert guidance and insight for our members and stakeholders about how to prepare for the future, anticipate change and realise the positive potential of technology in a fast-moving world.

IT Ukraine Association is the leading trade association for Ukraine’s tech industry. Representing nearly 80,000 IT professionals in total from top multinational corporations, large local enterprises, vibrant small and medium-sized enterprises, and innovative startups. IT Ukraine Association's mission is to protect the interests of business and promote the brand of Ukraine as a leading technological nation.

**2. Background**

The UK has been committed to supporting Ukraine after the Russian invasion and to the post-war recovery. The UK and Ukrainian governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June 2022 at the UK-Ukraine Infrastructure Summit. The MoU included a commitment to set up an infrastructure task force for the reconstruction of Kyiv Oblast, provisions on cross-border data flows, and a pledge to work more closely on technologies such as semiconductors and telecommunications equipment.

On 20 March 2023, the two Governments signed a crucial Digital Trade Agreement. The DTA will make trade easier and increase regulatory cooperation on emerging technologies. The DTA has made trade for Ukrainian businesses cheaper by extending tariff free trade on Ukrainian imports to the UK until early 2024, and through the acceptance of electronic transactions, e-signatures, and e-contracts. Ukraine also has guaranteed access to financial services due to the deal’s facilitation of cross-border data flows, crucial for financing the reconstruction of the country. The DTA also pledges further cooperation on cybersecurity, following on from the UK Government’s £6m programme for improving Ukrainian cyber defence announced in 2022. Finally, the DTA includes a pathway for cooperation on digital identities, regulation of AI and other emerging technologies, as well as competition policy.

Against this backdrop, the partnership between techUK and IT Ukraine Association will support the flourishing of tech ecosystems in our countries by strengthening bilateral cooperation on tech and digital, promoting commercial opportunities, and developing stronger industry links and networks where they add value.

**3. Objective and scope**

Under the auspices of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to

As the “MOU”), techUK and IT Ukraine Association shall work cooperatively to facilitate the tech-led reconstruction of Ukraine, promote and foster commercial links, enable industry-to-industry partnerships between the tech ecosystems of both countries through various activities, which can include participating in each other’s virtual events, facilitating visits by delegations from the UK or Ukraine, enhancing trade linkages, and promoting dialogue on regulatory cooperation in digital and tech issues. In compliance with legal regulations, and adhering to the principles of equality, mutual benefit, mutual trust, mutual assistance, and complementary advantages, both organisations agree to work towards establishing a long-term cooperative mechanism to promote cooperation on emerging technologies and facilitating industry-to-industry partnerships in tech sectors of interest to techUK and IT Ukraine Association members.

In particular, this MOU is intended to:

* Facilitate the reconstruction of Ukraine via both commercial and pro-bono technology deals, techUK and IT Ukraine Association will work through the UK-Ukraine Tech Bridge to do as such. The Tech Bridge offers a platform for members to mobilise their vocal support into a more tangible offering. Companies will get the opportunity to engage with Tech Bridge activities such as skills pathways or challenge funds, among others.
* Enhance industry-to-industry collaboration and develop stronger industry links and networks on areas including digital trade facilitation, cyber security, AI and emerging tech, digital identity, and other tech areas of interest to both organisations’ members.
* Promote commercial opportunities in the above-mentioned areas, which can include cooperation on e-Invoicing, digitalisation of trade documents, and data exchange systems, as well as other identified areas of mutual interest.
* Promote dialogue on regulatory cooperation in digital and tech issues.

**3.1. Forms of co-operation**

Within such fields as are mutually acceptable for the Parties, the following forms of

co-operation, amongst others, may be pursued hereunder:

* Joint activities facilitating industry-to-industry collaboration, through the Tech Bridge
* Webinars promoting commercial opportunities
* Roundtables on best approaches to regulation and tech innovation
* Any other activities the Parties may agree to jointly undertake to further the objectives of this MOU

**4. Awareness**

Both organisations shall endeavour to increase awareness about this collaboration in

their respective ecosystems.

**5. Working Mechanism**

To implement this MOU, both organisations shall endeavour to establish a collaboration and communication mechanism involving relevant stakeholders.

**6. Further Matter**

The MOU shall come into force on the day of signing and will be valid for two years.

Both Parties shall decide to renew, terminate or modify the MOU through mutual

consent.

Party A: IT Ukraine Association Party B: techUK

Signed by Mr Konstantin Vasyuk Signed by Mr Julian David

Executive Director, IT Ukraine Association CEO techUK

Signature: Signature:

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Date: 20th June 2023 Date: 20th June 2023