

## **techUK-JEITA Joint Statement on the UK-Japan Tech Forum**

Jointly hosted by techUK and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA), the UK-Japan Tech Forum is a platform that brings together UK and Japanese tech companies, as well as stakeholders and policy-makers to discuss the key issues that affect trade and investment between the two countries. This year's Forum was focused on the ongoing UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement negotiations and the UK-Japan collaboration in the post-COVID-19 recovery stage.

UK and Japanese tech companies are global leaders in innovation, R&D and delivering the sustainable growth, vital in this time of uncertainty. techUK and JEITA call on negotiators to conclude an agreement as soon as possible, to allow business the legal certainty they need from 1 January 2021.

techUK and JEITA are highly supportive of the UK and Japanese governments' ambition to achieve a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, with state-of-the-art provisions on digital and telecoms. To be modern and ground-breaking, this imminent agreement will likely include key principles on digital trade, in particular those that:

- **Enable the cross-border flow of data without compromising data protection standards;**
- **Prevent the forced localization of data;**
- **Facilitate regulatory access to data;**
- **Foster cross-border data flows for financial data, which should not be treated differently to other categories of data;**
- **Commit to the ongoing duty-free treatment of products aligned with the WTO's ITA and ITA2 agreements, and collaborate to expand duty-free coverage for innovative new technologies;**
- **Protect the moratorium on digital tariffs by including it in the agreement;**
- **Prevent the mandatory transfer of source codes, algorithms, or encryption keys as a condition for market access;**
- **Support the development of AI through enabling open government data and text and data mining while respecting intellectual property;**
- **Establish cooperation on the regulation of AI, fintech and emerging technologies;**
- **Establish cooperation on cybersecurity issues with an emphasis on a risk-based approach;**
- **Standardise minimum de minimis thresholds to facilitate ecommerce;**
- **Secure recognition of e-signatures and expansion of paperless trading.**

By including such provisions, the UK and Japan have an opportunity to set high standards for digital trade and promote an open and rules-based international trade agenda. With the borders between the digital economy and the economy as a whole increasingly blurred, we believe digital trade provides a key opportunity for economic recovery, growth and resilience, as well as for increased investment in each other's markets.

techUK and JEITA also recognize that both economies already share strong collaboration, trade and investment links, especially in the technology sector. Both countries are major exporters and investors in each other's economies.

The UK-Japan FTA has the potential to unlock a new wave of collaboration across various technology verticals and engagement areas, including tech trade and investment, research and development and technology partnerships, among others.

In order to unlock these opportunities, techUK and JEITA will explore running a working group to explore complimentary technology areas and optimize FTA opportunities, turbo-boosting the UK-Japan trade and investment relationship and carrying through implementation of the FTA on a practical level. The working group will be convened through the joint techUK-JEITA initiative, the UK-Japan Tech Forum.

On a practical level, techUK and JEITA also commit to strengthening the relationship between techUK members and Japanese companies by exploring virtual engagement in the upcoming CEATEC event, the biggest IT trade show in Japan which displays the Society 5.0 – the society that makes full use of advanced technologies. Hosted by JEITA, CEATEC 2020 Online will introduce new solutions for the sustainable development through the use of the latest technologies. techUK will work with JEITA to enable techUK members to take advantage of these emerging tech collaboration opportunities.

**The Chair of the UK-Japan Tech Forum, Paul Patterson, CEO and Head of Northern & Western Europe, Fujitsu, commented on the recent meeting:**

"The UK and Japan are natural partners with already strong links built upon shared values and inter-connected economies. This relationship is especially strong in the technology sector with both countries committed to innovation. The UK-Japan FTA can deliver new and exciting opportunities to drive growth and prosperity for both nations. I look forward to working together with both governments and the business communities from Japan and the UK to unlock new collaboration areas through the future activities of the UK-Japan Tech Forum."

**Julian David, CEO, techUK, said:**

"The technology sector has been one of the success stories for UK-Japan collaboration. With the conclusion of the UK-Japan EPA in sight, both the UK and Japan have the opportunity to unlock a new wave of tech partnerships and growth. We must however ensure that the new agreement delivers on opening for further avenues in tech collaboration, trade and investment, and creates an enabling environment for innovation. I look forward to working with partners through the

UK-Japan Tech Forum to optimize the FTA opportunities and turbo-boost the UK-Japan tech collaboration through joint initiatives.”

**Keiichi Kawakami, Senior Executive Vice President, JEITA, said:**

“UK-Japan Tech Forum showed that technology sector in both countries hope for high-level rules on electronic commerce in Japan-UK FTA in sight, as stepping forward to Data Free Flow with Trust or DFFT agreed by the G20 meeting last year in Japan. To strengthen the relationship between Japan and UK technology sector, I look forward to working with techUK to take advantage of CEATEC 2020 ONLINE held in coming October as an opportunity for co-creation among enterprises and start-ups in both countries for innovation toward the Society 5.0.”

**About techUK:**

techUK is a membership organisation that brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve. We collaborate across business, government and stakeholders to fulfil the potential of technology to deliver a stronger society and more sustainable future. By providing expertise and insight, we support our members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.

**About JEITA:**

The Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) is a Japanese trade organisation for the electronics and IT industries. The objective of JEITA is to promote the healthy manufacturing, international trade and consumption of electronics products and components in order to contribute to the overall development of the electronics and information technology industries, and thereby further Japan’s economic development and cultural prosperity. JEITA’s mission is to foster a digital network society for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in which IT advancement brings fulfillment and a higher quality of life to everyone.

**About UK-Japan Tech Forum:**

Hosted by techUK and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA), the UK-Japan Tech Forum is a platform to allow businesses to engage with key stakeholders in government and business in areas of UK-Japan trade, policy and market growth in both countries. The forum is for representatives of businesses, government and other stakeholders interested in influencing or understanding the policy landscape impacting the technology sector, trade relations, and the market opportunities and challenges in Japan and the UK. The forum brings members together to discuss issues and events that may impact their growth in the UK and Japan and provides an avenue for collective concerns to be aired and discussed with both governments. Moreover, it provides a platform for participants to explore emerging opportunities for growth and expand their business networks.