



Scottish Council for  
Development and Industry

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Embargo: None**

### **SCDI Comment on High Speed Rail announcement**

Commenting on today's announcement that HS2 is to go ahead, SCDI Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Sawers said:

"Today's decision by the UK Government is welcome. To fully realise the benefits of high speed rail to businesses and the economy, we now want to see the commitment to high speed rail extended to Scotland.

"The benefits of high-speed rail increase significantly once the network is extended to Scotland. SCDI's survey of leading Scottish businesses demonstrated overwhelming support for high-speed rail connections, particularly for the reduced journey times, increased productivity and potential to travel by rail rather than air.

"Furthermore, businesses across the North of Scotland will benefit from greater availability of flight slots to the UK's hub airport at Heathrow.

"The Scottish Government has committed significant funding to high-speed rail connections within Scotland. With HS2 now approved, we urge both Governments to work together to develop detailed plans for high speed rail links to Scotland."

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#### **Notes to editors**

SCDI is Scotland's leading independent economic development organisation representing 1,200 companies, SMEs, public sector bodies, charities, trade unions and faith groups.

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