

PRESS RELEASE

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SCDI Welcomes Joint Study into High Speed Rail

Commenting on the announcement by the UK and Scottish Governments of a joint study into high-speed rail between Scotland and the north of England, SCDI Chief Executive Ross Martin said:

"The case for investment in high-speed rail capacity is compelling and it is even stronger for a national network including Scotland in which the benefits for businesses and the economy can be fully realised, so this joint study is very welcome.

"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. Importantly, businesses say that the benefits will not only be in the transformation of Scotland-London connectivity, but in the significant strengthening of links between Scotland and the major economic centres of northern England and the Midlands.

"High speed rail should be a key part of an overarching strategy for UK connectivity and the forthcoming UK Airports Commission report needs to ensure access to the UK's major airports for Scotland, especially for Aberdeen and Inverness."

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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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