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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**BIOPARTNER WELCOMES AUTUMN STATEMENT INCREASE IN SUPPORT FOR UK EXPORT
Benefits promised for Overseas Trade Show delegates**

BioPartner, the trade organisation for internationalising life sciences companies, welcomes the recent announcement in the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of a significant boost for UKTI's budget, which is now set to increase by £70 million a year over the next two years.

Of particular interest to BioPartner members and other UK SMEs is the statement by Nick Baird, CEO of UK Trade & Investment who listed the ways in which the extra support will help UKTI to deliver assistance to companies, including:

- * increase the number of international trade advisers in the English regions and offer additional funds to high-growth potential SMEs, enabling more companies to successfully export
- *double the number of companies given financial support towards the cost of exhibiting at their first few overseas trade shows

Mr Baird went on to say: "This increase in funding will help us to deliver innovative new programmes to get more SMEs exporting, help UK firms access the most valuable high-value opportunities overseas, and reinforce the UK as the location of choice for investors. It also helps us along our journey to deliver more services through partners and to refocus the efforts of our core staff on more strategic work, focusing on big campaigns and delivering through others."

Lin Bateson, Executive Director of BioPartner, said, "As a delivery partner for UK Trade & Investment, we look forward to disseminating extra resources to UK companies, to enable them to take the first steps toward international partnerships, and to develop early stage relationships overseas."

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Notes for Editors

About BioPartner.co.uk

BioPartner.co.uk is an independent, accredited trade organisation, promoting international partnering for trade, investment and collaborations with UK Life Science companies. BioPartner's UK Delegations promote the UK presence at major international biopharma conferences. Through the BioPartnership Programme, BioPartner assists companies to attend these events by providing access to government grants and heavily discounted entry fees.

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