<u>News story: David Mundell Promoting</u> <u>Scottish Trade on Norway Trip</u>

Mr Mundell will meet companies behind the important economic links between Scotland and Norway, including Statoil, Statkraft and Aker Solutions. He will also meet a number of Norwegian businesses operating in Scotland, and will highlight to them the opportunities of continuing to invest in Scotland.

Mr Mundell will also meet with, and subsequently be joined for part of his visit by, State Secretary Jens Frolich Holte from the Norwegian Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Speaking ahead of his trip Mr Mundell said:

As the UK prepares to leave the EU, we want to secure a new economic partnership with Europe, and build and strengthen our trade relationships around the world. Scottish companies will be at the forefront of that. Scotland's skills, products and services are highly regarded globally, and we will build on that as we strike ambitious new trade deals.

Scotland is also a great place for companies to invest and operate. A number of Norwegian companies have extensive Scottish operations, and I will be highlighting to them the huge opportunities of continuing to invest in Scotland.

I am very pleased that I will be joined by State Secretary Holte from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Mundell will travel to Oslo to meet a number of businesses and Norwegian government officials. He will then travel to Bergen to meet the Mayor of Bergen and other local political, business and civic figures, and to visit Marine Harvest's HQ.