<u>Press release: Welsh Secretary in</u> <u>celebration of Welsh start-ups</u>

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns recognises outstanding achievements of Welsh firms at start-up awards.

Alun Cairns MP will speak to leading Welsh start-ups at tonight's Wales Start-Up Awards at Tramshed Tech (15 September), in the heart of Cardiff's digital landscape.

The Secretary of State will recognise the outstanding achievements and contribution of shortlisted firms such as Stratium Ltd, Elidir Health Ltd and Amplyfi to the Welsh economy.

Alun Cairns said:

Over the past few years we've seen extraordinary growth from Welsh start-ups. The UK Government has been working hard to create the right conditions for growth in Wales, and we are pleased to see that there are now 31,000 more SMEs in Wales than in 2010.

Around 1,943 start-up loans have been provided by the UK Government to businesses in Wales over the past 4 years, worth in excess of £15.5 million — helping people access the funds they need to make that move and become successful business men and women.

It's therefore important to take the time to recognise and celebrate the businesses we have here in Wales.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Wales Start-Up Awards were launched to recognise the achievements of the entrepreneurial individuals who have spotted the opportunity and taken the risks to launch a new product or service, and who are often the unsung heroes of the business community.

The Wales Start-Up Awards 2017 will be held at Depot, Cardiff and will start at 6.30pm.

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