



INTERNATIONAL  
**TRADE**  
ADMINISTRATION



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

## **INVITATION TO THE EIGHTH UNITED STATES-UNITED KINGDOM SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DIALOGUE**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024 in Belfast, United Kingdom**

Small business stakeholders are cordially invited to attend the 8th United States-United Kingdom Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Dialogue on Tuesday April 16, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom.

The SME Dialogue is convened by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Small Business Administration with the UK Department for Business and Trade.

Topics for discussion include opportunities and challenges for small businesses in U.S.-UK trade; benefits of digital tools and paperless trading; creative industries and U.S. and UK approaches; and intellectual property protection. Attendees will be able to engage in discussion with experts from the U.S. and UK as well as learn about tools and resources to grow their businesses internationally. A draft agenda is attached.

Established in 2018 in Washington, D.C. and London, and convening subsequently in New York City, Bristol, Boston, Edinburgh, and Indio, California, the SME Dialogue is an ongoing exchange bringing small and medium businesses and stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic together with government officials to identify ways to deepen U.S.-UK trade and investment ties and strengthen cooperation on issues of mutual interest to SMEs. Trade between the two countries is about \$247 billion per year, and together there is around \$1 trillion invested in each other's economies.

*This invitation is for SME stakeholders from the United States and United Kingdom only. Registration is free of charge and RSVPs are accepted on a first-come, first-serve space available basis. Participants cover their own travel expenses. Lunch, coffee breaks and a networking reception at the conclusion of the Dialogue will be provided for SME participants. The location of the meeting in Belfast and a detailed agenda will be provided to registered participants closer to the date of the event. Thank you for your interest.*

**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024

**RSVP for U.S. SME stakeholders:** Please provide your name, title, organization and city/state to [international@sba.gov](mailto:international@sba.gov)

**8th United States-United Kingdom  
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) Dialogue  
Tuesday April 16, 2024**

Belfast, United Kingdom

**08:30 – 09:30 Registration**

**09:30 – 10:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**10:00 – 11:15 Session 1 – Opportunities and Obstacles to SME Trade**

**11:15 – 11:30 – Coffee Break**

**11:30– 12:45 Session 2 - Creative Industries - UK and U.S. Approaches**

**12:45-13:45 – Lunch**

**13 :45 – 15:15 Session 3 – SMEs & Digital Tools – Benefits of Digitalisation and Paperless Trading**

**15:15 – 15:30 – Coffee Break**

**15:30 – 16:30 Session 4 Intellectual Property - Success in a Changing Landscape**

**16:30 – 16:45 Wrap-Up**

**16:45 – 17:00 – UK and U.S. closing remarks**

**17:00 – 18:30: Networking Reception for UK-U.S. SME Dialogue Participants**