

Fact Sheet on the UKSDEA

A. Highlights of Modules within the UKSDEA

i. **Advance end-to-end digital trade**

Electronic payments (E-payments)

1. To support the development of safe and secure cross border E-payments, Singapore and the UK will promote transparent and facilitative rules, such as by encouraging open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), adopting internationally accepted standards and promoting interoperability between E-payment systems.

Paperless Trading

2. To support digitalisation and the seamless exchange of key commercial documents, Singapore and the UK will accept electronic versions of trade administration documents. Both parties will also seek to facilitate cross-border digitalisation of supply chains, with a focus on promoting interoperability of electronic documents such as bills of lading and invoices. This will enable faster and cheaper transactions, and reduce cost for businesses.

ii. **Enable trusted data flows**

Cross-border Data Flows (including for Financial Services)

3. Data flow is increasingly important to the growth of the global economy, as it supports electronic commerce and other digitally enabled activities such as data analytics and AI. Businesses operating in Singapore and the UK will be allowed to transfer information, including those which are generated or held by financial institutions, more seamlessly across borders with the assurance that they meet the requisite regulations.

Prohibiting Data Localisation (including for Financial Services)

4. Data localisation requirements are an unnecessary barrier to trade and may drive up the cost of storing data for all businesses. Singapore and the UK will put in place disciplines against requirements for data localisation and allow businesses to choose where their data is stored.

Submarine Cables

5. Submarine cable systems form a critical part of the digital infrastructure that provide cross-border data and voice connectivity between countries and across regions.

6. Under the DEA, Singapore and the UK recognise the importance of (i) submarine cable systems and associated facilities, eg. landing stations; and (ii) the expeditious and efficient installation, maintenance and repair of such systems and facilities. Singapore and the UK will ensure access and minimise risks to these systems and facilities to promote national, regional and global telecommunications connectivity.

Open Government Information

7. To encourage innovation in this new data driven age, particularly by Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), both countries will ensure that government information that has been made publicly available will be in a machine readable and open format, with easy to use and freely available Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

iii. Facilitate trust in digital systems and participation in the Digital Economy

Cryptography

8. To ensure that companies using cryptography can trust the market within which they operate, encourage innovation, and ensure that private keys and related technologies used are protected, neither country will require the transfer of, or access to, the above as a condition of market access. This would cover both products as well as services that use cryptography.

Source Code Protection

9. To ensure software developers can trust the market within which they operate, encourage innovation, and ensure that source code used by companies are protected, neither country will require the transfer of, or access to, source code as a condition of market access. This includes algorithms expressed in the source code.

Online Consumer Protection

10. To enhance consumer welfare, both countries will adopt or maintain laws and regulations that guard against fraudulent, misleading or deceptive conduct that causes harm to consumers engaged in online commercial activities.

Small and Medium Enterprises Cooperation

11. SMEs play a special role in enhancing competitiveness and maintaining dynamism in the economy. Singapore and the UK will cooperate in promoting jobs and growth for SMEs, as well as encourage their participation in e-commerce platforms that will help link them with international suppliers, buyers, and other potential business partners.

Digital Inclusion

12. To ensure that all people and businesses can participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the digital economy, both countries will cooperate to remove barriers for participation in the digital economy, including for women.