

# News Release

January 20, 2009

## SHOT IN THE ARM FOR SCOTTISH JOBS

More than 1,300 jobs will be created or safeguarded with the aid of a Scottish Government grant scheme, it was confirmed today.

Eighteen businesses accepted Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) worth over £16 million, in the three months to the end of December.

These include Aggreko UK Ltd, which has accepted a £2.75 million grant to create 113 new jobs and safeguard a further 120 in Dumbarton.

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, said:

“This is welcome news for Scottish jobs at a time of global economic uncertainty. Every pound spent in our economy during the current downturn could protect a job or save a business.

“That’s why the Scottish Government is using all the tools at our disposal – including RSA – to help stimulate investment and job creation.

“Today’s announcement builds on our economic recovery programme and our Budget Bill, which features accelerated capital spending supporting 4,700 jobs to keep Scotland’s economy moving.

“This action, combined with our support for business through schemes such as RSA, will help ensure Scotland is well positioned to take early advantage of any economic recovery.”

On a visit to Aggreko today, Enterprise Minister Jim Mather said:

“The creation of 113 new jobs at Aggreko will not only be a boost for Dunbartonshire, but also the wider economy.

“I wish all involved every success and look forward to seeing this major job creation project progressing.”

## NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

1. RSA is the Scottish Government's main national scheme of financial assistance to industry. It is aimed at encouraging investment and job creation in the Assisted Areas (AAs) of Scotland. It also encompasses support available to Small Medium-sized Enterprises in other areas (referred to as Tier 3). Recent changes to Tier 3 assistance mean that small businesses can now qualify, subject to meeting scheme criteria, for up to 20 per cent (10 per cent for medium-sized companies) of eligible project costs. Tier 3 coverage has been extended to areas of Scotland which had not previously been eligible for RSA support.

3. Payments of RSA are made in instalments, typically over several years, provided that job and project expenditure targets are met. The amounts quoted here and in the report represent the maximum grant potentially available if the project is satisfactorily completed, and not the amount actually paid to date. All job numbers are based on firms' forecast figures at the time a grant is offered and are subject to change, depending on future economic conditions and other factors affecting the business concerned.

4. The report can be viewed at: [www.scottishbusinessgrants.gov.uk](http://www.scottishbusinessgrants.gov.uk)

5. The Government's economic recovery programme includes:

Re-shaping our capital expenditure

Intensifying our activity and support for Homecoming 2009, to boost tourism

Ensuring all government activity, including on planning and regulation, supports economic development

Intensifying our work around energy efficiency & fuel poverty

Increasing advice to businesses and individuals

Improving financial advice to vulnerable individuals

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