

News Release

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JOB CREATION AIDED BY RSA CASH

More than 3,750 Scottish jobs could be created or safeguarded with the help of Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) cash.

Speaking on a trade mission to Canada, Enterprise Minister Jim Mather announced that 55 businesses in Scotland had accepted RSA grant offers of more than £28.7 million in the three months up until the end of September.

The offers relate to projects across Scotland with planned investment of more than £91 million.

Mr Mather is in North America to promote Scotland to potential investors.

Speaking from Edmonton, Mr Mather said:

“In the absence of tax raising powers, Regional Selective Assistance is an important tool in enabling business projects come to fruition.

“Encouraging investment and job creation is an essential ingredient of achieving increased, sustainable economic growth in Scotland.

“There are already 58 Canadian firms with Scottish operations – some of which have received business grant support. I believe there is potential to expand on that number.

“Throughout this week, I have been explaining to Canadian business leaders in a variety of sectors that Scotland has the skills

and expertise to help their companies thrive and go from strength to strength.

NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

1. Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) is the main national scheme of financial assistance to industry. It provides discretionary grants for investment projects that will create or safeguard jobs in Assisted Areas – areas designated for regional aid under European Community law. The scheme is administered by the Innovation and Investment Grants (IIG) unit of the Scottish Government.

2. Payments of RSA are made in instalments, typically over several years, provided that job and project expenditure targets are met.

3. The amounts quoted here and in the report therefore represent the maximum grant potentially payable if the project is satisfactorily completed, and not the amount actually paid to date.

4. 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. For further information on the scheme, and a full list of companies who have accepted offers, go to: www.scottishbusinessgrants.gov.uk

5. It was recently announced that business and innovation grant functions currently delivered by the Scottish Government, such as Regional Selective Assistance, would be transferred into Scottish Enterprise - initially on a joint venture basis. This is one of several changes being made as part of an overhaul of Scotland's enterprise networks.

Contact: Stewart Cooper : 0131 244 2175