**Press release**

DATE October 2019

**Language services critical for UK future economic growth, says [YOUR ORGANISATION]**

**[YOUR TOWN’s] [YOUR COMPANY] is supporting the findings of an influential report from the Association of Translation Companies (ATC) which highlights the importance of language services to the future growth of the UK and local economies.**

The report, *Language Services: The need to invest in the UK’s international future*  sets out compelling evidence for the need to place critical language services at the core of the UK’s economic vision in order to secure its long-term trading future.

Revenues from the UK’s 1,200 language service companies contribute £1.2bn per annum to the UK economy, who employ over 12,000 staff but the added value language service companies generate to the UK’s economy through the growth of international trade far surpasses the numerical data.

The overwhelming economic case for language capabilities in business, translation and interpreting shows a clear link to increased global competitiveness. The British Council, in its report *The Languages for the Future*, also argues that in a new era of cooperation with Europe and the rest of the world, investment in upgrading the UK’s ability to understand and engage with people internationally is critical.

The ATC’s report highlights the Department for International Trade’s 2017 survey, which reports one of the main knowledge barriers for export by 59% of respondents in the £500k+ sector was understanding overseas clients in terms of their language or culture.

The report goes on to share the Institute of Directors’ findings that 30% of respondents were trading with over 11 markets, with 18% concerned about the language barrier and/or unfamiliarity with informal or cultural business practices abroad.

In many cases UK companies are trading with a high dependence on language support, something 52% of SMEs in the British Academy’s project, *Born Global,* agreed would be helpful to extend business opportunities in the future. The ATC itself is funding further PhD research on the role of languages in the internationalisation of UK SMEs and how languages impact and facilitate SME growth through exports, due to be completed in 2020. What is clear is that language services companies play a pivotal role in facilitating UK companies export to countries and markets where trading in English simply isn’t an option.

In [YOUR TOWN], [YOUR COMPANY] employs [XX] staff and is a significant contributor to the local economy.

[NAME], [POSITION], [COMPANY], said: “Language services are critical for Britain and we need a wide range of translation and interpreting services. We’re joining the ATC in its call to get the support from government we all need to ensure we can support trade and communities not just at national level but also right here in [TOWN].”

Translation and interpreting also permeate the UK’s public sector, notably the NHS, the police and justice services, with language service companies facilitating multilingual communication for both users and providers helping to make the British justice system, police NHS, and more, function effectively in challenging and crucial situations.

The UK is a hugely diverse, multicultural society and it relies on skilled and qualified mother tongue linguists of diverse languages, ranging from Acholi to Zulu, through French to Finnish. There is a critical need to safeguard UK industry’s and the public sector’s continued access to mother tongue translators and interpreters in the years ahead, and to ensure that the route to these skilled roles remains accessible post-Brexit.

 **# ENDS #**

**Media contact:**

[Your contact details including email, phone, postal address and website]

About [Your company]

[If you’re happy with it, include the detail you publish on your website to give an overview of your company]

**The Association of Translation Companies**

### Representing the interests of translation companies for more than 40 years

As the language sector’s leading professional body, ATC prides itself on a forward-thinking stance dedicated to maintaining the highest possible industry standards while supporting its members to thrive and grow in the competitive global economy.

From its beginnings as a small group of leading British translation companies in 1976, the ATC has grown to a membership of more than 150, expanding its horizons to become a worldwide association at the vanguard of the industry. The Association’s activities are guided by its council and elected [officers](https://atc.org.uk/about/meet-the-atc-council/) and its stated objectives.

ATC is also a founding member of the European Union of Association of Translation Companies – a pan European grouping of translation company associations.

One of the oldest translation associations in the world, ATC has been involved in significant changes in the sector and continues to provide leading advice and support including working with legislators about matters affecting the industry.

It has been at the forefront of the development of the worldwide ISO standard, for the provision of language services, and actively promotes ISO standard adoption throughout the profession.