

THE SINGAPORE-AUSTRALIA DIGITAL ECONOMY AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE

1. The Singapore-Australia Digital Economy Agreement (SADEA) ¹, which entered into force yesterday, will establish a seamless digital trading environment between the two countries. The SADEA will also enable seamless and trusted cross-border data flows without costly data localisation requirements, while protecting the personal data of consumers.

2. Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing said, “The SADEA’s entry-into-force is timely and sends a strong signal of Australia and Singapore’s shared commitment to deepening our cooperation and strengthening our digital connectivity amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that businesses will tap on the SADEA to unlock new opportunities in the fast expanding Digital Economy.”

3. Singapore and Australia signed seven Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) earlier in March this year when the SADEA was concluded, as part of efforts to operationalise the modules stipulated in the SADEA. Singapore and Australian agencies have identified digital collaboration projects, that will lead to tangible benefits and opportunities for our businesses and people when implemented.

4. Singapore’s Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and Singapore Customs began a blockchain trial for cross border trade with the Australian Border Force in November 2020, aiming to reduce administration costs and increase trade efficiency using digital solutions to enable paperless trading and secure exchange of electronic trade documents.

5. More details on Singapore’s DEAs can be found at: <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Improving-Trade/Digital-Economy-Agreements>.

Annex A: SADEA infographic

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
9 DECEMBER 2020**

¹ The SADEA is the second DEA that Singapore has signed (on 6 August 2020), following the signing of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) with Chile and New Zealand in June 2020.

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Annex A: SADEA infographic

The SADEA includes the following key features:



Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) Signed

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Develop and encourage sharing of best practices and adoption of ethical governance frameworks for AI.



Trade Facilitation

Digitalise trade administration documentation for efficient cargo clearance.



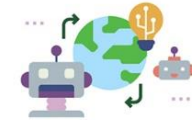
Digital Identities

Work towards mutual recognition of digital ID systems.



Data Innovation

Provide access to data to promote the development of new products, services and digital solutions.



E-certification of Agricultural Commodities

Establish E-Cert exchange for agricultural products and provide cost-savings for businesses.



E-invoicing

Adopt common E-invoicing framework for quicker processing.



Personal Data Protection

Develop compatible and interoperable data transfer mechanisms for personal data.



Highlights of Modules

E-payments

Adopt transparent and facilitative rules to promote secure cross-border E-payments.



Online Consumer Protection

Guard against fraudulent, misleading or deceptive conduct online through regulations.



Cross-border Data Flows

Seamlessly transfer data to support digitally-enabled activities, including for Financial Services.



Open Government Data

Encourage innovation by ensuring Government data is open and machine readable.



Prohibiting Data Localisation

Establish rules against data localisation requirements, including for Financial Services.



SMEs Cooperation

Promote information sharing and exchange through capacity building efforts such as a Digital SME Dialogue.



Source Code Protection

Remove access and transfer of Source Codes as a condition for market access.



Submarine Cables

Ensure efficient installation, maintenance and repair of submarine cable systems to maintain telecommunications connectivity.

