# US financial giants pledge over £1.25 billion to accelerate UK’s digital and financial ambitions ahead of Trump’s state visit



The UK government has secured over £1.25 billion in private investment commitments from major US financial firms, marking a significant boost to the country's financial services sector ahead of President Donald Trump's second state visit. This influx of capital is projected to create approximately 1,800 new jobs across key UK cities including London, Belfast, Manchester, and Edinburgh, according to official statements. Leading contributors to this investment initiative include BlackRock, Bank of America, Citigroup, PayPal, and S&P Global.

BlackRock, the world’s largest asset manager, is a cornerstone of this commitment with a £7 billion pledge aimed at expanding its UK market presence next year. The firm, which recently opened a new office in Edinburgh that nearly doubles its local workforce, is also set to invest £500 million specifically in UK data centres through a new joint venture with Digital Gravity Partners. This move, reported by Sky News and industry sources, is designed to modernise and expand digital infrastructure in response to rising demands from advances in artificial intelligence and cloud computing technology. BlackRock CEO Larry Fink is expected to join a high-profile US business delegation during the state visit, signalling the strategic importance of these investments.

Bank of America announced it will establish its first-ever operation in Northern Ireland, creating up to 1,000 jobs in Belfast as part of this expansion. Similarly, Citigroup plans to invest £1.1 billion across its UK operations with focus areas including Northern Ireland, while S&P Global will contribute a £4 million investment in Manchester, generating around 200 permanent jobs. PayPal is also among the US firms increasing their footprint in the UK market.

In addition to these direct investment announcements, the UK and US are poised to sign a landmark multibillion-dollar technology agreement during the visit. This deal aims to enhance collaboration across cutting-edge sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, telecommunications, and quantum computing. UK Technology Secretary Liz Kendall has emphasised the transformative potential of such partnerships, which complement ongoing UK government efforts to bolster innovation and economic growth.

These developments take place amid ongoing negotiations to deepen the broader UK-US economic partnership. Recently secured tariff reductions in key sectors, including automotive and aerospace, are complemented by continued discussions around alleviating British steel tariffs, which remain at 25%. The Commons Business and Trade Committee has urged the UK government to exert maximum pressure on the US to finalise these terms, as well as resolve outstanding issues involving aluminium and pharmaceuticals, reflecting the nuanced supply chain dynamics and the UK’s green transition.

Political tensions provide a complex backdrop to these economic engagements. The dismissal of UK Ambassador Lord Peter Mandelson, previously instrumental in fostering US-UK technology collaborations, has raised concerns about potential strains in diplomatic relations. Nonetheless, both governments stress the strength of their "special relationship" and the mutual benefits of expanded trade and investment ties. Efforts to secure exemptions for UK products like Scotch whisky from US tariffs also form part of the broader negotiations.

Moreover, high-profile tech leaders including Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and OpenAI’s Sam Altman are expected to participate in the state visit, highlighting the growing importance of transatlantic collaboration in artificial intelligence. OpenAI itself plans to expand its significant AI data centre project in the UK, reinforcing the country's strategic position in the global technological landscape.

Altogether, this multifaceted state visit and the corresponding investment pledges underscore the United Kingdom's ongoing ambition to strengthen its economic resilience, create jobs, and maintain its role as a global financial hub, while navigating the challenges of international diplomacy and trade relations in a rapidly evolving geopolitical environment.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.coastfm.co.uk/news/business/us-financial-firms-pledge-125bn-to-uk), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-firms-pledge-17-billion-uk-ahead-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-giants-boost-uk-investments-jobs-2025-09-13/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/blackrock-invest-700-million-uk-data-centres-during-trump-visit-sky-news-reports-2025-09-13/), [[7]](https://news.sky.com/story/blackrock-to-invest-500m-in-uk-data-centres-during-trump-visit-13429741)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.coastfm.co.uk/news/business/us-financial-firms-pledge-125bn-to-uk), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-firms-pledge-17-billion-uk-ahead-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-giants-boost-uk-investments-jobs-2025-09-13/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-sign-multibillion-dollar-tech-deal-during-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-firms-pledge-17-billion-uk-ahead-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.coastfm.co.uk/news/business/us-financial-firms-pledge-125bn-to-uk), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-sign-multibillion-dollar-tech-deal-during-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-giants-boost-uk-investments-jobs-2025-09-13/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/786bd800-f7b6-430f-992d-d278cd3d72df), [[1]](https://www.coastfm.co.uk/news/business/us-financial-firms-pledge-125bn-to-uk)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/786bd800-f7b6-430f-992d-d278cd3d72df), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-sign-multibillion-dollar-tech-deal-during-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/blackrock-invest-700-million-uk-data-centres-during-trump-visit-sky-news-reports-2025-09-13/), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/786bd800-f7b6-430f-992d-d278cd3d72df)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.coastfm.co.uk/news/business/us-financial-firms-pledge-125bn-to-uk> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-firms-pledge-17-billion-uk-ahead-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/> - Major U.S. financial firms have pledged over £1.25 billion ($1.69 billion) in investment to the UK's financial services sector ahead of President Donald Trump's state visit. This initiative is expected to create 1,800 new jobs across cities including London, Edinburgh, Belfast, and Manchester. Bank of America plans to establish its first Northern Ireland operation, creating up to 1,000 jobs in Belfast, while Citigroup is investing £1.1 billion to expand its UK operations, focusing on Northern Ireland. S&P Global will invest over £4 million in Manchester, generating 200 permanent jobs. BlackRock intends to allocate £7 billion to the UK market next year and has opened a new office in Edinburgh, nearly doubling its staff there. UK Trade Minister Peter Kyle praised these investments as a testament to strong UK-US trade relations. A UK-US technology agreement is also expected soon to enhance tech sector ties. The overall initiative aims to boost UK economic growth and strengthen transatlantic economic cooperation.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-financial-giants-boost-uk-investments-jobs-2025-09-13/> - On September 13, 2025, the UK government announced significant private U.S. investments totaling over £1.25 billion ($1.69 billion) in the UK's financial services sector. Major American companies involved include PayPal, Bank of America, Citigroup, and S&P Global. These investments are expected to create 1,800 jobs across various UK cities, such as Belfast and Edinburgh, and provide increased benefits to millions of customers. A broader trade deal between the UK and the U.S. includes £20 billion in trade, with BlackRock pledging £7 billion towards UK growth. Specific projects include Bank of America's establishment of operations in Belfast, creating up to 1,000 jobs, Citi's £1.1 billion investment in its UK branches, and S&P Global's £4 million investment in Manchester, generating 200 permanent jobs.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/blackrock-invest-700-million-uk-data-centres-during-trump-visit-sky-news-reports-2025-09-13/> - BlackRock plans to invest £500 million (approximately $700 million) in data center infrastructure in the UK, according to a Sky News report. This major investment will be announced during U.S. President Donald Trump's upcoming state visit. BlackRock will execute the investment via a new joint venture with Digital Gravity Partners. CEO Larry Fink is expected to be part of the high-profile U.S. business delegation attending the visit, which also includes OpenAI’s Sam Altman and Blackstone’s Stephen Schwarzman. Additionally, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Altman are expected to express commitment to multi-billion-dollar investments in UK data centers. These developments reflect the growing demand for digital infrastructure, driven by advances in artificial intelligence and cloud computing technologies. Neither BlackRock nor the UK government commented immediately on the report.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-sign-multibillion-dollar-tech-deal-during-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/> - The United Kingdom and the United States are set to sign a significant multibillion-dollar technology agreement during President Donald Trump's upcoming state visit to the UK. The deal aims to strengthen collaboration in emerging tech sectors, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, telecommunications, and quantum computing. UK Technology Secretary Liz Kendall highlighted the transformative potential of these technologies. President Trump's three-day visit, beginning Tuesday, will include a delegation of top U.S. tech leaders such as Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and OpenAI’s Sam Altman. As part of the broader set of deals, investment firm BlackRock is expected to invest $700 million in UK data centers. The agreement underscores increasing transatlantic collaboration, with U.S. tech firms like OpenAI expanding operations in London and UK companies such as DeepMind deepening ties with American counterparts, in line with shared AI Action Plans launched by both nations earlier this year.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/786bd800-f7b6-430f-992d-d278cd3d72df> - Ahead of Donald Trump's state visit to London, the US and UK are rushing to finalize key agreements in nuclear energy, artificial intelligence, and trade, including whisky tariffs. One major initiative is OpenAI's plan to expand its $500 billion Stargate AI data center project into the UK, specifically in Blyth, Northumberland, in partnership with Nvidia and local firm Nscale. The project, aimed at boosting the UK's 'sovereign AI' capabilities, will complement Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s push for economic growth and technological leadership against global competitors like China. The visit, however, is overshadowed by the scandal-induced dismissal of UK Ambassador Lord Peter Mandelson, due to his ties with Jeffrey Epstein. Mandelson had played a pivotal role in fostering US-UK tech partnerships, and his removal risks straining relations with Trump. Discussions during the visit will also include aligning regulations for small modular nuclear reactors, potentially opening the US market to UK company Rolls-Royce. Additional deals involving Centrica and X-energy are expected. Moreover, efforts are being made to reach an agreement to exempt Scotch whisky from a 10% tariff on UK exports.
7. <https://news.sky.com/story/blackrock-to-invest-500m-in-uk-data-centres-during-trump-visit-13429741> - The world’s largest asset manager, BlackRock, is set to announce a £500 million investment in UK data centres during President Trump's state visit. This investment will be executed through a new joint venture with Digital Gravity Partners, focusing on acquiring and modernising existing data centres to enhance their capacity. The project is among several deals expected to be announced, highlighting the strength of the economic partnership between Britain and the US. BlackRock, which manages over $12.5 trillion in assets, has a significant presence in Britain and will open a new Edinburgh office employing about 1,300 people. The announcement coincides with a politically charged environment, with President Trump's arrival amid the dismissal of Lord Mandelson as US ambassador and broader concerns about the direction of UK economic growth. Despite these challenges, ministers are keen to emphasise that Britain remains an attractive destination for global capital. The Office for Investment, recently given an expanded role in Whitehall, has played a coordinating role in pulling together the investment commitments, which span multiple sectors, including energy, financial services, nuclear power, and technology. The government hopes to publish aggregate figures early next week, which insiders suggest will rival the £63 billion of commitments secured at last October’s International Investment Summit.