

SPOTLIGHT ON KEY EMPLOYERS.

The West Midlands is host to a wide range of employers in the transport technology industry:

Jaguar Land Rover Ltd • JCB • GKN PLC • Denso • Aston Martin • TRW Automotive Holdings Corp • Goodrich • Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Company • Johnson Controls • Aero engine Controls • Thyssen Krupp • Michelin Tyres • Intier • Pilkington Glass • MIRA • Dunlop Aircraft Tyres Ltd • IAC • Unipart • Moog • ATS (Associated Tyre Specialists) • Sertec • Ricardo • SAIC/MG Rover • Dana UK Automotive Systems Ltd • Schaeffler Holdings Ltd • Stadco • JC Payne Truck Bodies Ltd • Unipres • Zytex

Well connected

Birmingham is at the heart of the UK's motorway and rail network, and is recognised as the best connected UK city. It has easy access to all major cities across the country and an international airport just 10 minutes from the city centre.

"Birmingham has latent talent in the rail sector that it is not showing off enough; an unappreciated sibling of its big brother - the automotive industry."

Colin Flack, CEO, Rail Alliance



Birmingham Unlimited

Business Birmingham is your access point to Birmingham's transport business networks and here to help you benefit from the city's strong enterprise culture. By working as a strategic partner and consultant with your internal project team, we can provide relevant information for your organisation and a comprehensive package of support.

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BUSINESS BASE FOR TRANSPORT.

The transport technologies sector remains top for job creation worldwide. Birmingham and the West Midlands region has an illustrious transport manufacturing heritage – supporting the aerospace, rail and automotive industries – and is still a world leader.

This powerful heritage has been translated into one of the most significant manufacturing regions in the UK, and Birmingham has a clear role to play in this strength. Today, Birmingham retains a sizeable, specialised and experienced workforce in automotive with 11,500 people employed in the sector and around 100,000 in the wider region. The city provides top class companies in the automotive, rail and aerospace sectors, and a strong and supportive research base to enhance innovation. The city's universities have research strengths in low carbon and energy-efficient fuel types – tying in with automotive production of low carbon vehicles.

The large presence of companies within the automotive supply chain and Birmingham's central location in the UK is ideal not just for vehicle manufacturers but also for companies within the supply chain whose clients are spread across the UK. The transport technology sector contributes £360 million to the city's economy.

A sizeable, specialised and experienced workforce in transport technologies with 12,700 people employed.

Birmingham's advantage

- The transport sector employs approximately 12,700 people.
- 215 transport technology companies are located in Birmingham
- Air, road and rail connections provide access to 400 million people across Europe
- 126 direct destinations from Birmingham Airport, including cities in Europe, North America and the Middle East, only nine minutes by train from the city centre
- Over 90 per cent of the UK market - consumer and business - within a four hour travel time
- Largest concentration of businesses outside London
- £94 billion regional economy – a major engine of UK growth outside London
- Access to a population of 4.3 million people of working age within a one hour drive of the city centre
- Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with under 25's accounting for nearly 40 per cent of its population
- Almost 100,000 graduates at the 15 universities and three university colleges within an hour's drive time
- The city attracts 33 million people a year for business and pleasure
- The wider Birmingham locality accounts for over 30 per cent of all UK manufactured automotive production and over 60 per cent of all UK automotive R&D

New Street Station, Birmingham



Jaguar Cars, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham



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CAPABILITIES AND ASSETS.

Automotive sector

Birmingham was a key city in the industrial revolution, earning titles such as 'Workshop of the World' and 'City of a Thousand Trades.' This early industrial heritage aided the development of the automotive sector, which began with bicycles, progressed to automobiles, and has now led to ground-breaking developments in hydrogen, electric and hybrid vehicle technology plus other renewable energy production.

The sector in Birmingham and the West Midlands has seen a strengthening of its position as a luxury car maker with the presence of Jaguar and Land Rover producing and exporting successfully to developed and emerging markets. Also in the city is Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (MG Rover), whilst Aston Martin, Nissan and Toyota are within close proximity. The presence of such large players is strategically important; their success maintains a strong local supply chain and drives innovation in collaboration with universities in Birmingham and the wider region.

Assets

- Birmingham City University - The School of Technology Engineering and Environment houses a leading automotive research centre with a long running interest in the control of automotive power trains, with a particular focus on emissions reduction in vehicles
- University of Birmingham - Has expertise in the research areas of Vehicle Technology and Advanced Materials. It undertakes leading research into future power systems and vehicle dynamics, and the development of materials, processes and manufacturing applications
- Coventry University - The University has the largest School of Engineering in the UK and offers a number of world-leading automotive-specific courses. It is the only university in the world with a full-scale automotive design facility giving it a unique vehicle styling and design capability
- University of Warwick - Home to internationally renowned WMG (formerly known as Warwick Manufacturing Group) and the International Automotive Research Centre
- CABLED is the UK's largest trial of electric and ultra-low emission vehicles. Led by Birmingham and Coventry, the project is making ultra-low carbon vehicles available to a wide cross section of real world users. This is followed by Plugged in Places, which has important implications for R&D of the market for zero emissions vehicles including establishing and enabling infrastructure such as charging points

Rail sector

Birmingham is home to a world renowned centre of research into railway engineering and technology and several of the world's major engineering consultancies such as Amey, Atkins, and WSP. Arup, for example, is the world leader in the design of High Speed Rail systems, including HS2 in the UK. Network Rail, which owns and operates Britain's railway infrastructure, is based in the city and is the key procurer of goods and services, as well as a driver of innovation in the sector.

Assets

- The Birmingham Centre for Railway Engineering and Teaching at the University of Birmingham is the leading research centre in its field in the UK. The centre conducts cutting edge research in the whole sphere of the sector. Research areas with particularly valuable commercial applications are being developed in partnership with the private sector. Current research includes track condition monitoring, aerodynamics, and hybrid systems
- The Midlands Rail Alliance is an independent, national membership organisation for the sector. Other programmes include the Rail Supply Programme delivered by the Manufacturing Advisory Service, and Trail, a technology translation programme delivered by the University of Birmingham

Aerospace sector

Aerospace is a globally integrated industry with a handful of successful manufacturers drawing on a large web of suppliers from across the world. The UK has the world's largest aerospace industry outside the USA with 17 per cent share of global market and annual turnover of around £20.5 billion. The sector directly employs around 101,000 people, supporting a total of 230,000 jobs across the UK economy. Birmingham has two significant tier one suppliers with operations in the city; GKN (transparency systems) and Goodrich. These tier one suppliers support a range of tier two and three suppliers. Rolls-Royce has a presence in the region and the West Midlands makes up a quarter of the firm's supply chain in the manufacturing and servicing of Rolls-Royce aero engines.

Assets

- GKN Aerospace, based in the city, has signed a £235 million contract with Pratt & Whitney to make titanium engine ducts for the F135 engine (for the Joint Strike fighter aircraft)
- Timet UK, the world's largest supplier of titanium products, has applications in aerospace as well as automotive manufacturing
- Bromford Industries has a manufacturing plant in Birmingham which specialises in gas turbine and cooling components, as well as landing gear for the sector directly supplying firms such as Messier Dowty and the Airbus A380 programme

215 transport technology companies in Birmingham across automotive, rail and aerospace.

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