Home to the UK’s fastest growing regional economy, Manchester has established a strong reputation as an economic powerhouse and a competitive place to do business.

Manchester has always been a pioneer of innovation, as the world’s first industrial city with the first factories and industrial estates and where Ford built their first cars in Europe. Today, Manchester is at the heart of the UK’s largest manufacturing and advanced engineering cluster; the Northern Powerhouse.

Whether you are looking for a laboratory for research and development or large-scale manufacturing, Manchester has the infrastructure in place to support innovation, business growth and commercialisation. From research and development, architectural services and civil construction; to assembly, distribution and technical consultancy; our companies are well-established across the whole business life cycle.

Companies located here have access to some of the best global talent. There are over 100,000 students enrolled across five universities with 14,000 studying STEM subjects accompanied by a skilled manufacturing workforce of nearly 115,000 people working in areas as diverse as aerospace, defence, electronics systems, software engineering and transport.

Located at the heart of the UK, Manchester has excellent connectivity with Europe and the rest of the world, providing companies with outstanding access to market. Manchester also offers businesses a diverse and sustainable talent pool, 30-40% lower operating costs than in the capital and outstanding quality of life for employees, which has led to 40 of the FTSE 100 having operations in the city region.

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**ADVANCED MANUFACTURING HIGHLIGHTS**

- **£500m** invested in research centres of excellence
- **£7.9bn** GVA
- **8,340** advanced manufacturing companies
- **2038** carbon neutral by
- **900+** companies in food and drink cluster

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**IN GOOD COMPANY**

- adidas
- AECOM
- AIRBUS
- arm
- ARUP
- BAE Systems
- Balfour Beatty
- Cargill
- Fractury
- HEINEKEN
- Heinz
- Jacobs
- Kellogg’s
- Lidl
- nexperie
- Montagut Cripps
- Ocado
- PZ Cussons
- Siemens
- Unilever
- Zapp

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**BEST UK CITY TO LIVE**

The Economist

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**BEST UK CITY FOR BUSINESS**

Management Today 2019
ADVANCED MATERIALS
Complementing the city’s innovation and expertise in graphene, Manchester is home to a robust advanced materials cluster with research strengths in sustainable packaging, technical textiles, surfaces and coatings, composites and light alloys.

In addition to Europe’s largest school of materials based at the University of Manchester, the city is creating a core advanced materials ecosystem where businesses can collaborate, converge and drive innovation with academics, scientists, manufacturers and engineers to become industry leaders - at its core are a range of accessible, world-leading institutes: the National Graphene Institute (NGI), the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC), the Henry Royce Institute and BP’s International Centre for Advanced Materials.

LIGHTWEIGHTING
Manchester is at the heart of the largest aerospace cluster in Europe and the UK’s second largest automotive cluster, offering easy access to end manufacturers, and is perfectly located for supply chain opportunities in the UK’s automotive, aerospace and rail industries. With the city’s ambitious plans to be carbon neutral by 2038 and the birthplace of graphene, Manchester is the ideal location to explore lightweight materials for the low carbon transport of our future.

LOGISTICS
With the best international connectivity in the UK outside of London and multi-modal transport capabilities across sea, road, rail and air - Manchester is the Northern gateway to a myriad of national and global opportunities - and is the preferred distribution hub for world-renowned companies like Adidas, Argos, L’Oréal, and Next. Given the city’s competitive operating costs and a wide choice of distribution parks, Manchester is the logical choice for logistics.

FOOD AND DRINK
Manchester has a food and drink manufacturing and related services cluster with over 900 companies including Kellogg’s, Heineken, Kraft Heinz and McVities which has enabled the city to establish a strong reputation as the “super centre” for sustainable packaging design and manufacture. With access to a large food and drink specialised talent pool, the Manchester Food Research Centre, world-leading advanced materials research institutes and the European-renowned Centre for Robotics and Automation at Salford University, the city region is well placed to help shape the future of this sector.

INDUSTRY 4.0
Since the days of the Industrial Revolution, Manchester has played an important role in shaping the UK’s economy and the city-region continues to be a place where creativity and technology are jointly driving the next wave of innovation. Its growing expertise in areas such as cyber security, AI, robotics, additive manufacturing, virtual and augmented reality, the Internet of Things, and machine learning, positions Manchester as a key location for companies developing Industry 4.0 technologies and has access to large market opportunities.

MANCHESTER KEY FACTS

- **Greater Manchester population**: 2.8m
- **Working age population**: 1.8m
- **People within one-hour commute**: 7.2m
- **Destinations connected by Manchester Airport**: 200+
- **Businesses exporting**: 1 in 5
- **Students across five universities**: > 100,000
- **GVA**: £62.8bn
- **Lower operating costs than London**: Upto 40%
- **Economic growth 2013-2018**: 9.3%

GET IN TOUCH
To find out how we can help you, contact David Hilton, Head of Business Development – Advanced Manufacturing and Advanced Materials.

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European Union European Regional Development Fund