GREATER MANCHESTER
CYBER

Greater Manchester: A digital region with a difference

In an increasingly connected world, cyber threats continually evolve. Criminal entrepreneurs and nations are working harder than ever to undermine the efforts of rivals. We only need to look at the US election or the weaknesses that were exposed within Facebook to understand that cyber security remains at the top of the agenda. The UK is committed to tackling cyber security, and Greater Manchester, home to world-class cyber expertise, is at the helm.

Our ambition to be recognised as one of the **best places in the world for developing and harnessing digital technology** drives all that we do. That's why we've put in place a number of initiatives to improve the lives of our citizens with tech at the centre. Cyber security plays a vital part in our plans and has created a wealth of opportunities for businesses.

"I want Greater Manchester to be a digital city with a difference – one with a bold digital economy which actively encourages businesses to invest and grow, and also one where technology is used to deliver positive change, from connecting young people with opportunities, to tackling social problems such as homelessness. This bold vision places the needs of people firmly at the heart of technological innovation."

**Andy Burnham,
Mayor of Greater Manchester**

Why Greater Manchester?

Greater Manchester has always been a pioneer, seeking new solutions to old problems. Birthplace of the industrial revolution and home to the stored program computer, we've never stopped innovating. Today we're leading the way in defending assets connected to the World Wide Web from hackers, and the boom in cyber security businesses in Manchester shows the growing demand for the region's cyber security expertise.

A Top 20 European Digital City and an emerging hotspot for companies specialising in security, Greater Manchester is a recognised destination for cyber security experts including home-grown companies like Avecto, Hedgehog, NCC Group and Secarma and global giants such as Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and Qinetiq. Our companies provide services such as escrow and penetration testing to advising the UK government and implementing initiatives to improve the country's technical cyber capabilities.

Major corporations who are firmly invested in Manchester, including BBC, Barclays and BNY Mellon, all see the importance of cyber security in our digital age, each employing teams of experts to keep data and consumers safe from possible attacks.

These companies are drawn to the region due to its ability to attract and retain talent and the academic strengths of our world-leading universities.

The region's diverse ecosystem, which includes the UK's largest regional financial and professional services sector, digitally-enabled health and social care, a vibrant e-commerce hub and an industrial base that is embracing digital solutions, offers cyber companies a wealth of opportunities.

Above all, Greater Manchester is a place that gets things done; we have a long history of proven public/private partnerships combined with stable local civic leadership conducive to innovation and growth. Our combined authority, a joint governance of ten councils, share a strategy for economic growth and work together to drive the region's cyber activity.

82,300 PEOPLE
employed in creative & tech industries

WORKFORCE OF 7.2 MILLION
within 50 miles

Population of
2.8MILLION PEOPLE

Operational business costs:
UP TO 40% LOWER
than London

60 DIRECT TRAINS A DAY TO LONDON
with a journey time of just over 2 hours

Best city for international connectivity outside of London
WITH DIRECT FLIGHTS TO OVER 200 DESTINATIONS

24,000 STUDENTS
enrolled on creative, technology, engineering and maths courses in Greater Manchester

Networking infrastructure required to meet the needs of
BANDWIDTH-HUNGRY CREATIVE AND TECH COMPANIES

ADDITIONAL £23.8M
being invested to enhance fibre connectivity

What we are doing

Greater Manchester has never been one to rest on its laurels and we're implementing a number of initiatives – covering protection, resilience and economic growth – to ensure that the region cements its reputation as a leading centre of cyber innovation and research.

Nationally, Greater Manchester is playing a leading role supporting the national cyber resilience programme for local government for the Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government via the iNetwork partnership of over 110 organisations hosted by Tameside Council.

Greater Manchester also leads the development of a security community comprising local chapters of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association, the Open Web Application Security Project, and one the first local branches of the Institute of Information Security Professionals.

Greater Manchester Cyber Innovation Centre

The Greater Manchester Cyber Innovation Centre, a new £10m programme, is being created to facilitate the growth of cyber security businesses in the region. The Centre will be the cyber embassy for Greater Manchester and the wider region, providing collaborative space in which companies, universities and government can share best practice to tackle cyber threats. This approach is influenced by the models already in operation in Cyber London (CYLON) and Mach37 in the USA.

Cyber Foundry

This £6m ERDF funded initiative, a collaboration between four north west universities, will engage with a wide range of businesses on cyber innovation research and will be run out of the GM Cyber Innovation Centre. This will lead to a pipeline of opportunity for the Centre to incubate and develop. The four universities are Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Manchester, University of Salford and Lancaster University.

Greater Manchester Police

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have established a dedicated cyber-crime unit which includes industry experts as well as a specialist software developer. The Unit works alongside universities, business and the community to ensure that the region has the capability to withstand cyber attacks. GMP work closely with TITAN, the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, which is set up to tackle cyber crime and cyber attacks.

Greater Manchester Cyber Advisory Group

The GM Cyber Security Advisory Group has been created to ensure that the economic growth relating to cyber security is maximised in Greater Manchester and the wider North, and that the cyber resilience of the city region is enhanced.
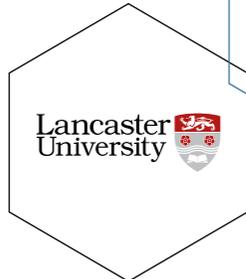
It will guide and inform the activities within the GM Cyber portfolio, identify new opportunities and progress them, and connect relevant activities within the region's digital portfolio and those outside Greater Manchester.

A cyber centre of excellence

Greater Manchester's universities have an enviable academic heritage that provides a rich source of skills and research expertise.

Alongside university education, the city is committed to a cradle to grave approach to the development of digital skills. Over 220 code clubs have opened at primary schools, the UK's intelligence and security organisation GCHQ are running summer schools in Greater Manchester, and apprenticeships on cyber security are in the pipeline.

The **University of Manchester**, **Manchester Metropolitan University** and **University of Salford**, along with their regional neighbour **Lancaster University** work together on cyber security to maximise their contributions to regional and national agendas. The four universities are also collaborating on Greater Manchester's Cyber Foundry programme, which will deliver cyber security innovation to SMEs in the region. Some of the key strengths of the universities include:

The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and the Lancaster University are partners in the Government's Institute of Coding initiative (partnership receiving £20M in total), which aims to boost advanced coding skills with one area of focus being cyber security.

In the Research Excellence Framework 2014 UK research assessment exercise in Computer Science, the University of Manchester was ranked best for research environment, Lancaster University was ranked 12th overall, 90% of the University of Salford's impact case studies were ranked as internationally excellent, and 85% of Manchester Metropolitan's outputs (such as publications) were ranked as world-leading or internationally excellent.

Manchester Metropolitan University, which has been offering cyber and digital forensics degrees for over a decade, was one of the first universities in the country to deliver a digital degree apprenticeship, BSc Digital & Technology Solutions which includes a Cyber Security pathway.

All four universities have master's courses in Cyber Security.

The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University are in the top five for Government funded Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in the UK.

Lancaster University is an EPSRC/GCHQ Accredited Centre of Excellence for cyber security research, and all four universities have strong research centres in cyber security.

University of Manchester staff helped establish the only international governance standard for cyber security SMEs, and contributed to the definition of the National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Essentials.

The University of Salford has been the site of the UK's National Advanced Robotics Research Centre since 1987, and offers MSc in Robotics and Automation, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

How Greater Manchester can help

Greater Manchester is a city committed to cyber innovation and collaboration.

When it comes to cyber security initiatives or working with our universities we can help you to engage with those involved.

We're a city that supports innovation and there are a number of organisations, initiatives and funding support designed to help businesses within Greater Manchester grow.

The services provided by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and MIDAS, Greater Manchester's inward investment agency, will save you money, time and effort and enhance your project with the expert knowledge and local intelligence that result in a faster and more successful move.

MIDAS' Services

Free support includes:

- Research support and business case development
- Introductions to local networks
- Recruitment and training support and advice
- Property solutions
- Relocation advice and assistance
- Post-investment PR support

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils and the Mayor, who work with other local services, businesses, communities and partners to improve the city-region.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority's vision is to make Greater Manchester the best place to grow up, get on, and grow old. Find out more about our plans at: **www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ ourpeopleourplace**.

HELLO Manchester

HELLO Manchester is a service that offers free or discounted office space and professional services, as well as preferential hospitality rates to investors.

This 'soft landing' initiative enables companies to establish a foothold in Europe's top city for business competitiveness with minimal risk and cost.

All of this is underpinned by a vibrant quality of life and complimentary business support from MIDAS.

Get in touch to find out more:

info@midas.org.uk
+44 (0) 161 237 4470