



Building Technologies

Building technologies remains at the heart of the regional economy, and our position at the **centre of the country's supply and production industries** enables us to deliver a world-class service. The West Midlands operations today aim to make the connection between a heritage of manufacturing excellence and the future demands of high technologies creating a thriving and innovative sector.

Building Technologies companies in the West Midlands generate a turnover of £6.7 billion per annum and employ over 260,000 people in the region (source: Experian)

The West Midlands is **an area of major housing regeneration**. In Stoke 12,000 homes are to be demolished and 14,000 new built over the next 10 years. Between 2006 and 2010, 7,611 new residential properties will be built in the Birmingham area, an investment of around £1.74 billion. In Telford Millennium Community – 750 homes of which 50% MMC

In the Birmingham area over the next 10 years there will be investment in housing, schools, hospitals and infrastructure of around £13.2 billion including the development of Eastside (£6 billion investment) extending the Birmingham city boundary and adding a new learning zone.

In Coventry over the next ten years over £6 billion is being invested in a range of exciting developments to meet the demands of the twenty first century.

Sector Strengths:

- * **Availability of specialist production skills** – Pool of labour with production skills gained in part from the experience of working in the automotive industry and across the automotive supply chain. In the West Midlands 20% of people are employed in manufacturing – the 2nd highest proportion of manufacturing employment of the UK regions. (Source: NOMIS)
- * **Geographically centred for distribution/logistics** – our location at the heart of the national motorway network puts around 75% of the UK's population is within half a day's drive of Birmingham
- * A number of rail freight terminals are strategically located around the region to provide intermodal transport facilities. At Hams Hall there is a direct link for freight to the European rail network
- * **Networking facilities** – there are six established networking groups to facilitate the sharing of information and best practice within the construction industry at a regional and sub regional level

Business Support:

For BuildingTechnology linked businesses in the West Midlands Region there is an unrivalled network of specialist support available. From expert advice, cutting edge facilities and training to new product development and excellent business support – the opportunities for growth in the West Midlands are endless.

- * **Mtech** – The Mtech Group is one of the leading off-site construction (OSC) consultancies in Europe. Experienced in the every day practical issues of using off-site construction systems and processes, the company is well placed to help clients, architects, contractors and product manufacturers alike
- * **ADVANTAGE OFFSITE** – Advantage Offsite is a forward thinking initiative that has been set up to develop the region's expertise in Off-Site Manufacturing (OSM) for the construction industry.



- * Advantage Offsite will focus on the fast-growing sector of Off-Site Manufacturing (OSM) and assist in the development of the supply capacity in the largest midlands region. The programme will also engage with construction clients and contractors to maximise the uptake of OSM technology in the region
- * **West Midlands Centre for Constructing Excellence (WMMCE)** – WMMCE provides financial assistance to small and medium-sized construction companies in the West Midlands to enable them to improve their business processes, implement innovative technologies, adopt best practice and train their workforce
- * **CERAM** – CERAM Building Technology (CBT), a division of CERAM, is the UK's leading independent research and testing organisation specialising in Building and Construction Technology
- * **RAPRA Technology** – Rapra Technology Limited, Europe's leading independent plastics and rubber consultancy. Providing design, processing, testing, analytical expertise and one of the world's most comprehensive sources of commercial and technical information on plastics and rubber
- * **Warwick Manufacturing Group** – WMG is one of Europe's leading manufacturing groups and is involved in publicly and privately funded research on innovation in products and in manufacturing processes, with a focus on research, development and application of new approaches for a wide range of industrial sectors
- * **West Midlands Manufacturing Advisory Service** – MAS-WM is dedicated to helping manufacturers in the West Midlands improve any aspect of their manufacturing operations, processes and production

Sector future:

- * **The ATC Centre – Stourbridge College Advanced Technology College**
The centre has 5 workshop areas complete with wireless LAN and bespoke designed ICT access points that are waterproof, dustproof and shockproof. This allows multimedia and online resources to be accessed during craft training without leaving the workshop
- **ACT-UK – the National Centre for Advanced Construction Technologies**
This state of the art development, based at the heart of the West Midlands, will provide all the skills, methodology and technology needed for the ongoing development of the built environment, both in the UK and internationally
- **South Birmingham College, Bordesley Green – Construction Centre of Excellence**
The recently completed, £18 million, Construction Centre of Excellence in Bordesley Green, aims to train 2,500 students a year to become bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, plasterers, roofers, pipe-fitters and other skilled workers up to NVQ3 standard
- **John Seddon Building Technology Centre**
Based at the Burslem Campus of Stoke College this £5m centre provides state of the art training and assessment facilities for construction skills including plumbing, gas, painting and decorating, bench joinery, site carpentry and wood machining

If you'd like to speak to a sector specialist about the West Midlands Region as a potential location for your business, call the Inward Investment Team at Advantage West Midlands on +44 (0) 121 380 3500 or email info@investwm.org

To request a copy of the latest West Midlands business brochure, email marketing@advantagewm.co.uk