



## Business Networks

Right across the region, expertise is available to help you identify fresh opportunities for business growth. Our recommended business network organisations can use their experience and know-how to pinpoint new ways that you can keep developing.

Each one has been chosen for their success rates at helping our business community continue the region's tradition of excellence in enterprise.

- \* The Confederation of British Industry West Midlands based at Five Ways in Birmingham, covers the needs of member businesses in the whole of the West Midlands region
- \* The Federation of Small Business is the UK's largest organisation lobbying on behalf of and working for small businesses
- \* 2WM gives links to business support, land and property searches, jobs, grants, news and events
- \* Connect Midlands aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas, technology transfer opportunities through networking and training with peers and potential investors
- \* WEMTECH, the Regional Technology Centre for the Midlands, is an independent non-profit making organization assisting Small & Medium sized Enterprises (SME's) make better use of technology and improve their business methods
- \* Mercia Institute of Enterprise (MIE) is one of 13 Science Enterprise Centres which have been set up to promote and develop enterprise and entrepreneurship in Higher Education
- \* Birmingham Forward represents the city's professional, financial and business support services sector
- \* Birmingham Future represents networking opportunities to encourage leadership and entrepreneurship
- \* Passport to Export, part of UK Trade & Investment, provides the region's small firms with the tools they need to develop and grow their export activities successfully
- \* Coventry First is a network designed to bring together the business and professional services sector in Coventry
- \* Cluster Opportunity Groups (COG) are part of Advantage West Midlands' Cluster strategy. They aim to assess proposals for a specific sector against the agreed strategy for that key industry
- \* Midlands Excellence helps all types of organisations to improve their performance by providing a range of programmes, training and events
- \* The West Midlands Business Council provides a powerful business voice on key regional issues for businesses in any sector