

# MIDLANDS ENGINE DIGITAL

## Worcestershire 5G Testbed - Learning from the UK's first 5G factory trial

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In 2019, the UK's first live 5G factory trials took place at the Worcestershire 5G Testbed, in a landmark step towards the creation of smart factories in the UK. Led by Worcestershire LEP and Worcestershire County Council, this marked the first time the transformative technology was used in British industry.

In a huge step on the UK's journey towards Industry 4.0, the process allowed manufacturers Worcester Bosch and Yamazaki Mazak to test the potential of 5G investments - from factory floor production, reconfiguration and real-time analysis, to steering a machine's movements from a remote location.

World-leading engineering company Worcester Bosch tested 5G for improved factory output, exploring preventative maintenance using Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and data analytics to predict failure.

Global manufacturer Yamazaki Mazak used 5G to conduct trials to demonstrate the benefits the technology can have on enhancing factory productivity. One of the two troubleshooting applications the company used the technology for included allowing senior engineers to remotely guide onsite engineers through machine maintenance.

The trials also tested end-to-end application performance, taking initial measures of 5G speeds and latency, the time that passes between a user action and the resulting response.



A review of the trial conducted in late 2020 revealed the potential for up to 2% productivity gains just through the improved operations and plant efficiency that 5G brings.

By providing low latency, responsiveness and reach 5G has the potential to transform where we live and work in ways that its predecessors, including 4G, simply couldn't.

Mark Stansfeld, Chair, Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Worcestershire 5G Testbed & Trials:

*"Going live with the UK's first 5G factory trials marked a monumental step in delivering the vision of the Worcestershire 5G Testbed to bring a productivity increase to the manufacturing sector and the UK economy."*

*"We are proud of the collaboration between all consortium members in making this happen and will be working closely to deliver the expected results from the live 5G trials."*

Learn more about the UK's first 5G factory by going to the WM5G website.

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