Cyber Security

The Midlands: The UK's leading location for Cyber advantage
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Welcome to the Midlands

The Midlands is one of the most diverse and dynamic areas in the UK. With a fast growing economy and a well-connected transport network putting 75% of the UK within a two hour reach, the Midlands is an enviable business location.

Home to over 11.5 million people and over 750,000 businesses, the region includes some staple cities of the UK; Birmingham, Coventry, Hereford, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Worcester are all notable locations in the Midlands.

Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive, Rail and Fintech are all key industries in the region, creating the heartbeat to Britain’s economy.

With the local economy worth more than £200 billion, generating 13% of the UK’s Gross Value Added (GVA), employing 18% of the UK population and generating 16% of the UK’s exports to over 170 countries, the Midlands is truly an engine of growth.

The region’s history with Cyber is an unusual yet logical story. The surroundings of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire have seen rapid growth in recent years within the Cyber Sector.

The Government’s Telecommunication Research Establishment (TRE) moved to Malvern College in 1942, under a government ruling to relocate to a more remote location. Here, groundbreaking work was started by British scientists on the new technology radar and is where early pioneering work on the development of computers took place.

Malvern is within a short distance of the Government Intelligence Agency, Government Communication Head Quarters (GCHQ), located in Cheltenham and the headquarters of the Special Air Services (SAS) which are located in Hereford.
The Midlands at a Glance

**£200 billion** GVA economy - the fastest growing outside of London

20-24 year olds are our largest demographic group

Home to **20 universities**

Birmingham Airport handles over **10 million** passengers annually

92% of the UK population within a four hour commute of the Midlands region

A region with a **rich tourist offer** - 60 historic houses, two UNESCO world heritage sites
Cyber Clusters

Worcester, Malvern and Hereford

The Malvern cyber security cluster represents more than 100 innovative and leading businesses in the sector, working collaboratively within their cyber specialisms.

Situated in the heart of the Midlands and with close proximity to QinetiQ, Skylon Park and GCHQ, the area is known nationally as the Cyber Valley, it has a strong focus on research and development and a vibrant talent pool.

Malvern is home to one of the UK's first 5G test beds as of 2018 and is seeking collaboration with innovative partners.

The new test bed will focus on 5G commercial applications with the following leading companies, QinetiQ, Worcester Bosch and Yamazaki Mazak to enable development in the cyber security industry applications, Industry 4.0 and sensor data management.

Birmingham

Cyber security is one of the fastest growing sectors in Birmingham, boosted by the city's position in key industries that have a critical requirement for cyber solutions and skills. The city is home to the largest concentration of Business, Professional and Financial Services companies outside London and is the most active regional centre for tech businesses in the country.

Local Centres of Excellence and innovation for cyber include University of Birmingham's cyber centre, Innovation Birmingham's iCentrum and Serendip incubators, The BioHub Life Sciences incubator at UoB and Longbridge Innovation & Technology Park.
Cyber Clusters

Leicestershire

The cluster is heavily influenced by three world class universities specialising in; cybersecurity (DeMontfort University), Digital Technology (Loughborough) and Data Analytics (Leicester).

Airbus Group, Deloitte, BT and Rolls-Royce are lending their skills and experience to help train a new generation of elite cyber security students at DMU. The university has introduced the UK’s first Cyber Technology MSc to be directly supported and steered by these four major corporations.

Coventry and Warwickshire

As well as companies providing cyber security solutions, the region provides access to a strong pipeline of opportunities for companies seeking to supply cyber security products and services, particularly into the automotive and transport industry.

Two universities are active in cyber security, whilst the University of Warwick has been recognised as an “Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research” by the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre and The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the University of Coventry is an active R&D centre for automotive cyber security.

Companies actively delivering cyber security solutions in the region include, Accenture, CCL Group, Emerald Group, HORIBA-MIRA, IBM, Intaforensics, Nettitude, Omni Cyber, Risk Evolves, Synectics, TCS and ZenZero.
Industry Advantage

Cyber security is the fastest growing sector in the Midlands, boosted by the region’s strong position related to advanced manufacturing, automotive, rail and key industrial sectors. As these businesses continue to digitise, and their niche requirements continue to develop, the need for acute cyber services becomes critical. The Midlands have significant strengths in the Internet of Things (IOT), industry 4.0 and connected car.

The region has the largest concentration of Business, Professional and Financial service companies outside of London. It is the home to Automotive and Rail industry sectors in the UK and is a significant regional centre for technology businesses in the country.

The Midlands features an impressive range of company headquarters, including; KPMG, HSBC, HS2, Falanx Cyber, JCB, Jaguar Land Rover, Rolls Royce, QinetiQ and IBM. Due to the excellence in market opportunities, the proximity of other major cities, comparable lower operational costs and the highly skilled talent base, Cyber Security is in rapid growth.
Industry Opportunity

Cyber Valley

The Cyber Valley consists of Malvern, GCHQ and Hereford’s new Skylon Park. This region boasts the highest concentration of Cyber based businesses in the UK; Cyber Valley is home to 15% of the UK’s top 600 cyber companies.

Between Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire (the Cyber Valley), there is opportunity for new businesses and growth. Malvern Hills Science Park is currently undergoing development with Phase 5 of its build programme, a £4m investment, and providing a further 16,000sq.ft of floor space for new companies; it is also home to one of the UK’s first 5G test beds. Focused on the 5G commercial applications, QinetiQ, Worcester Bosch and Yamazaki Mazak will be among the first users to enable development in the cyber security industry applications, Industry 4.0 and sensor data management.

Skylon Park, Hereford’s Enterprise Zone is currently developing a Cyber Campus to reflect their focus on the defence and security sector, the centrepiece will be a 27,000sq.ft, £9m Centre for Cyber Security, scheduled to open by early 2020.
Industry Opportunity

FinTech

The development of the financial services industry within the Midlands has led to the need for rapid expansions of cyber security and financial technology. It has one of the UK’s largest financial services hubs, with a range of global financial firms locating and expanding in the area - including Deutsche Bank, KPMG, PwC and HSBC, which is setting up its ring-fenced UK retail banking headquarters in Birmingham, bringing 1,000 roles to the city.

PwC has recently moved their national leads for cyber security to their Birmingham office, whilst Deutsche Bank are shortly to boost their major tech capabilities within the Midlands with over 200 new security roles being created.

Mobility and Transport

The opportunity within the transport sector is vast; there is a large focus on cyber (secure by design) throughout the sector (including the National College for High Speed Rail).

Coventry University’s Centre for Mobility and Transport which applies Cyber Security research to transport technologies, including automotive, rail and intelligent infrastructure. With the region being home to Jaguar Land Rover, Naysmyth and Rolls Royce, the challenges and opportunities presented by big data, the Internet of Things (IoT), autonomous systems and cyber security are being developed here in the Midlands by these organisations, their supply chains, and academic institutions.

De Montfort University (DMU), Leicester, has recently partnered with Airbus Group, Deloitte and Rolls-Royce to build the skills and experience of elite cyber security students at DMU, contributing to the UK’s future workforce in cyber security.
The Digital sector has over 77,000 employees and over 17,500 companies within the Midlands region. The region is home to 20 Universities, many of them offering world class training within cyber.

The University of Birmingham’s Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber-Security Research is a partnership scheme supported by GCHQ, RCUK and BEIS.

De Montfort University has dedicated laboratories/ facilities for cyber-security and digital forensic education and research; it is also home to the Cyber-Security Centre (SCS).

The Cyber-Security Centre team at University of Warwick has recognised expertise in cyber security, especially within government, defence and the law enforcement communities. It is recognised as an Academic Centre of Excellence in cyber. Areas of focus include; cyber-physical systems, vehicle cyber-security, smart cities, digital forensics and advanced network defense solutions.
Support for Investors

If the Midlands is ticking all the boxes for you, take a look at some of the support that is on offer for new investors. Whether you are relocating your business, opening a new office or starting your business here, there is an abundance of support on offer. The Government’s strategy to devolve greater economic decision-making power now offers the Midlands as one of the UK’s leading regions the chance to promote the major tech opportunities in this rapid growth sector - creating an exciting investment environment with real buzz for the future.

Department for International Trade (DIT)

The Department for International Trade helps businesses export and grow into global markets, we also help overseas businesses locate and grow in the UK. We can also help with information on how to set up in the UK, provide sector specific information about the Cyber industry here in the Midlands and support you in finding the right location and introduce you to local partners and supply chain opportunities.

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Regional Advantage

Besides the business benefits of locating a Cyber company here in the Midlands, take inspiration from an area full of contrasts, from rolling hills and lush river valleys to vibrant cities, towns enshrined with history and breath taking landscapes, the Midlands has it all on offer.

The birthplace of William Shakespeare, England’s second city, Birmingham and the tomb of Richard III, central England is a place steeped in art, history and culture. One of Britain’s architectural jewels and Hereford Cathedral, the Midlands diversity has no boundaries.

The Midlands has some of the finest living and working landscapes in the UK, with five areas of outstanding natural beauty and over 33 nature reserves.

Malvern Hills, Worcestershire
Regional Advantage

The region is also a hub for global connections. Companies based within the Midlands have access to excellent transport links. The area acts as the engine and conduit for local and national economic activity and transport flows.

Birmingham Airport accommodates nearly 10 million passengers per year, with 50 airlines servicing more than 140 routes Worldwide annually, while East Midlands Airport (EMA) accommodates more than 4 million passengers per year, servicing more than 80 routes Worldwide. EMA is also the UK’s second largest cargo handler.

In total 45% of British rail freight and 33% of heavy road traffic either goes to, from or through the Midlands. The region has the fastest improving rail network in Europe and by 2023 will be the hub of the country’s new HS2 high speed rail network - expanding capacity and connecting London in less than 50 minutes.
The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility or promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our economy. We are a specialised government body with responsibility for negotiating international trade policy, supporting business, as well as delivering an outward-looking trade diplomacy strategy.

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