Capacity
Capability
Connectivity
The Midlands: Opportunities in Rail
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**The Midlands at a Glance**

- **£207bn GVA**
- **200 years making trains**
- **10m+ population**
- **250+ rail companies**
- **20-24 year olds largest demographic group**
- **9 Rail and Engineering Specialist Colleges**
- **20 universities**
- **5 Rail Test Facilities**
- **2M+ educated to degree level**
- **20 rail centres of excellence**

Cover Photo Image: Bombardier Aventra – designed, engineered and manufactured in the Midlands
The Midlands is one of the most dynamic areas in the UK. Located at the heart of a connected transport network, it has close proximity to London, and access to 75% of the UK within 2 hours.

Home to over 10 million people and 440,000 businesses, the region includes the cities of Birmingham and Nottingham alongside Coventry, Derby, Hereford, Leicester, Lincoln, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Worcester.

Our local economy is worth more than £207 billion, generating nearly 15% of the UK’s Gross Value Added (GVA), and experiencing growth of 18% over the last five years. We’re home to 27,500 businesses in advanced manufacturing, employing 246,100. We export £43bn worth of goods to 178 countries, growing at a rate in excess of the national rate. The Midlands is indeed an engine of growth at the heart of the UK.

The home of Shakespeare, Robin Hood, JRR Tolkien and Sir Isaac Newton is today at the centre of plans for a new high speed rail network and an innovation hub for advanced manufacturing, automotive, life sciences, digital technologies and rail technologies.

Birmingham Airport handles over 10 million passengers across 140 routes annually, while East Midlands Airport is the UK’s second largest cargo handler. In total, 45% of British rail freight and 33% of heavy road freight goes to, from or through the Midlands.

The region’s 20 universities support a world-class science and innovation base making the region a global centre of excellence in areas such as advanced manufacturing, engineering, low carbon and autonomous technologies, healthcare, life sciences and agri-food and drink.

A high quality of life also attracts people to live, work, study and invest here, with the Midlands region blessed with five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 60 historic houses, two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a thriving culture of sport, music and the arts.

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The Midlands is at the heart of UK advanced engineering, home to a global cluster of aerospace, automotive and rail companies. Aston Martin Lagonda, BMW, Bombardier, Jaguar Land Rover, Geely, GKN, JCB, Rolls-Royce, Siemens and Toyota UK are just some of the OEMs here designing and manufacturing the transport solutions of today and tomorrow.

Our highly skilled workforce, world-class training facilities and internationally renowned universities and innovation centres, combined with excellent connectivity by rail, road and air and a superb quality of life, has made the Midlands the first choice for advanced engineering and manufacturing in the UK.

We’ve been building trains and railways for 200 years, and today we are on the fast track for a new rail revolution, driven by exciting opportunities and technologies such as high speed rail, light rail and digital technologies.
The Midlands is a hotspot for R&D activity in transport technologies. Our rail supply chain includes expertise in rolling stock design, development and manufacture; infrastructure and consultancy services; systems and signalling; and light and very light rail technologies.

The University of Birmingham is a world-leading centre for rail research, and together with Nottingham University and Loughborough University, is a partner of UKRRIN (UK Rail Research & Infrastructure Network), pioneering research into rolling stock, infrastructure and digital systems.

The new National College for High Speed Rail in Birmingham is growing the rail skills base, leading on digital technologies and supporting the second campus at Doncaster focusing on rolling stock engineering.

Derby is the UK home of Bombardier manufacturing and continues to be a major centre of rail technology in the UK. The Midlands Metro and Nottingham Metro showcase the latest tram and light rail technology.

The Midlands has five rail test centres, including Rail Innovation and Development Centres at Melton and Tuxford. The Quinton Rail Technology Centre is a leading centre for the deployment and testing of light rail technology, including a new UK Tram £1m facility; and a proposed very light rail innovation centre at Dudley, in association with WMG at the University of Warwick will showcase light rail technologies’.

High Speed 2 (HS2), at £55bn, is one of the world’s largest live global investment programmes in high speed rail. The UK is also investing heavily in conventional and light rail renewal and expansion, as well as improved stations and infrastructure.

The Midlands is seeing large investment in existing and new rail projects, such as £1bn promised investment for the new West Midlands Trains franchise, Midlands Metro and the Midlands Connect programme.

Our Midlands location provides the best access to the HS2 opportunity and other Midlands rail investments, and our leading supply chain and central location makes this an excellent base to access rail projects elsewhere in the UK.

Capacity, capability and connectivity ... the Midlands Engine is on track to provide the best rail investment opportunities for your business.
Leading Rail Cluster

The Midlands’ rail supply chain includes some of the world’s leading engineering, consultancy, design, technology and manufacturing companies. Station your business in Europe’s most dynamic rail cluster.
Mapping the Midlands' Rail Capability

Key
- Green: Light Rail
- Blue: Motorways
- Red: Strategic Development Sites
- HS2
- Innovation Centres
- Training Centres
- Key OEMs
- Major Projects
UK Rail and Infrastructure Opportunities -
pipeline of over £200bn

- **GENERAL**
  - Network Rail CP5 (2014-19): £38.3bn
  - Network Rail CP6 (2019-24): £38.3bn

- **HIGH SPEED**
  - HS2 Phase 1: £27bn (forecast)
  - HS2 Phase 2: £29bn
  - IEP Programme/Class 800: £5.7bn (275 years)
  - Great Western Mainline Electrification: £2.8bn
  - Bedford/Kettering/Corby Electrification: £322m

- **CONVENTIONAL RAIL**
  - Crossrail 2: £38.3bn
  - Crossrail 1 (Elizabeth Line): £14.8bn
  - Thameslink Programme: £6.5bn
  - New Tube for London (NTfL): £1bn
  - Wessex Programme: £742m
  - EGIP - Glasgow-Edinburgh: £560m
  - Four Lines Modernisation (4LM): £760m
  - East-West Rail Link: £530m
  - Northern Hub: £5.7bn (27.5 years)

- **LIGHT RAIL**
  - Coventry Very Light Rail: £6bn +
  - Midland Metro Extensions: £1.3bn

- **STATIONS**
  - Coventry Station: £82m
  - Worcester Parkway: £22m

- **FREIGHT**
  - East Midlands Gateway (SRFI): To be confirmed
  - West Midlands SRFI: £8m (total project)
  - DIRFT III SRFI: To be confirmed

- **SCHEDULE**
  - 2017: £16.42bn
  - 2018: £22m
  - 2019: £8m (total project)
  - 2020: £6m +
  - 2021: £1bn
  - 2022: £1bn
  - 2023: £1bn
  - 2024: £1bn
  - 2025: £1bn
  - 2026: £1bn
  - 2027: £1bn
The Midlands – A Great Place to Live and Work

From small independent shops, to iconic retail stores and designer outlets, the towns and cities in the Midlands provide a distinctive experience, packed with modern attractions, great restaurants, pubs, bars and green spaces. It’s not just the eleven Michelin-starred restaurants that makes the Midlands a great place to eat and drink, its vibrant food and drink scene will suit most tastes. There is so much to experience from Artisan cheeses, to food festivals and craft beers and ciders.

Enjoy classic performances by the celebrated Royal Ballet, or experience vibrant contemporary productions alongside modern artists at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

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. From ancient deer parks to the 10,000 acre Sherwood Forest, which is home to over 1000 ancient oak trees and the legend of Robin Hood, whether it’s walking, abseiling, or cycling, the Midlands offers a great environment to enjoy physical activity and a wide range of sporting experiences.

We’re home to major football clubs Aston Villa, Leicester City, Nottingham Forest, West Bromwich Albion, and 6 of the 12 clubs who founded The Football League in 1888. As the birthplace of Rugby, the Midlands has a strong affinity with the game, and hosted the Rugby World Cup in 2015.

This is an excellent place to play golf, with courses throughout the Midlands, including The Belfry, a former host of the Ryder Cup.

Home to many of the F1 teams, F1 racing has been thrilling an international audience at Silverstone for 65 years, providing a world-class motorsport experience at one of the fastest racing circuits in the world. Meanwhile Formula-e, the low carbon alternative, is based locally at Donington Park.

And the Midlands offers a range of options for schools and study, including a number of the finest private schools in the UK.
The Department for International Trade (DIT) helps businesses export and grow into global markets. We also help overseas companies locate to and grow in the UK.

We can help with information on how to set up in the UK, provide sector specific information about the rail industry in the UK, and support you to identify the right location here for you and introduce you to local partners and supply chains.

Our network of UK specialists includes a team who are based in the Midlands, providing expert local knowledge of projects, potential public and private sector partners and other local business support.

For more information on rail opportunities in the Midlands, please contact: midlandsengine@trade.gsi.gov.uk
The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility for 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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Published May 2017
by Department for International Trade