

## Hi-tech Engineering in Kent & Medway

- Kent & Medway were recognised in Europe as a “**Centre of Excellence in Engineering**” in 2000 – evident in the presence of some **400 engineering companies, employing over 17,000 people**.
- Companies availing of this local excellence include established world-class firms such as **FujiCopian, BAe Systems, Delphi Diesel Systems** and **Megger** to name but a few.
- There are currently in the region of almost **2,000 students** studying various aspects of Engineering throughout Kent universities, ensuring a steady pipeline of quality labour to the sector. In addition, a large number of non-engineering companies in the area are using high-tech processes, new materials or technical management systems, and employing a workforce skilled in engineering.
- The University of Greenwich is home to an industry funded **Chair of Manufacturing Engineering**, which has secured funding for the development of a prototyping centre. The group runs external training schemes for companies to enable them to improve manufacturing and manufacturing processes. One example is a successful scheme for Cummins Inc.
- An example of a world player with a successful local presence is **Delphi Diesel Systems**, which currently employs 1,600 people at their Gillingham facility, producing high-precision fuel injection equipment for marine, agricultural and industrial equipment.
- In particular **chemical / environmental engineering** are widespread and involve the development of industrial processes in sectors such as **food & drink, pharmaceuticals and healthcare** – all of which have a strong presence in Kent.
- The most contemporary of these is **energy production** and the **development of sustainable technologies**; in 2007, Locate in Kent successfully secured a wind power project with London Array, which should bring significant opportunities within these fields to the county.
- The **London Array project in Kent** will be the **world’s first gigawatt scale offshore wind farm** and will have greater output than the entire current UK wind farm capacity.

- The Government's Sustainable Development Strategy aims to be an EU leader in sustainable procurement by 2009 through UK public sector spending. Kent is also prime placed to the Thames Gateway development of some 120,000 homes east of London and in the future planned to be carbon neutral, offering major opportunities for inward investors.
- There has been a lot of recent activity within the sector in Kent, with key investor examples including **Hitachi Europe Ltd; Invicta Electronics; Whirlpool (UK) Ltd; Grenco Refrigeration and Jackson Civil Engineering.**
- For further information on the Hi-tech Engineering sector in Kent and its company base, please visit [www.locateinkent.com](http://www.locateinkent.com) or contact us on 00 44 1732 520700 / [enquiries@locateinkent.com](mailto:enquiries@locateinkent.com).