

## Manufacturing in Kent & Medway

- Manufacturing in the South East is worth £18 billion and employs around 320,000 people. Kent & Medway has been quoted as the “**powerhouse of the South East**” and contributes an estimated output worth of around **£3.5 billion, with a sum of 17% of the regions total output** in the manufacturing sector.
- Although manufacturing has shifted to more high tech activities, it has remained strong in Kent through a focus on more value added operations, incorporating R&D and cutting edge technologies.
- There are over **3,500 manufacturing companies** in Kent & Medway, employing almost **70,000 people**. Key manufacturing sectors are **Life Sciences; Automotive; Food and Printing, Paper & Packaging**, with most manufacturers established in West and Mid Kent.
- There are a number of significant manufacturing operations in Kent, including **Pfizer; GSK; Murex Biotech** within Life Sciences; **Intier Automotive; Grupo Antolin and Delphi Diesels** and **Cummins plc** within Automotive and **Brake Brothers** and **Premier Foods** within the Food industry.
- This new wave of manufacturing requires more high level technical skills as well as IT and Customer Service skills, all of which Kent offers in abundance. This includes almost **2,000 students in Engineering**, an average of **3,000 graduating each year in Computer Science skills**. In terms of **Life Sciences, there is a graduate pool of 1,800 students and 400 graduates**.
- 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.

- Key research strengths within the Department of Engineering Systems at Chatham Maritime include:
  - **Wolfson Centre for Bulk Solids Handling Technology** is world renowned for expertise in this area as well as generating significant revenue through consultancy and industrial services
  - **Centre for Advanced Instrumentation and Control**
  - **The Manufacturing Research Group** – excellence in research and also in developing partnerships within industry
  - **Electronics & Manufacturing Engineering Research Group** – strengths in teaching and research and in working with industry
- Recent investors include: **Ecoprocess; Genesis Speciality Chemicals Ltd; Silent Gliss Ltd; Alpha Boilers; Technigen UK Ltd and NIC Instruments Ltd.**
- For further information on the Manufacturing 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).