

# Sector Strengths

In Essex

Essex a great place to do business

**INVEST**  
Essex

**World leaders in many different market sectors recognise that Essex provides a great environment for business. Almost 60,000 VAT registered companies, more than a quarter of the total in the East of England, operate in Essex. They employ more than 641,000 people and the county is home to an ever-increasing number of early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs.**

Essex offers businesses access to a number of strong and established sectors, including ICT and advanced electronics, financial and business services, construction, creative industries, ports and logistics and environmental technologies.

With its unique position and access to London and Europe, 21st century infrastructure and clusters of expertise Essex offers unparalleled opportunities for expanding businesses and it is an ideal home for businesses seeking new market opportunities.

INVEST Essex provides confidential advice and practical support to companies wanting to establish a presence or expand in the UK. We promote Essex as an outstanding business destination and help existing and potential investors make the most of our strategic location, thriving business environment, and quality of life.

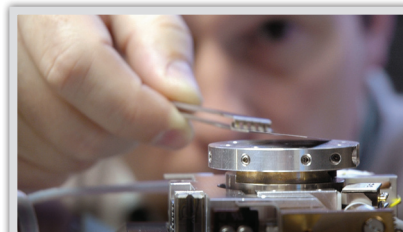
**Web:** [www.investessex.co.uk](http://www.investessex.co.uk)

**Tel:** 01245 702480

**Email:** [contact@investessex.co.uk](mailto:contact@investessex.co.uk)

## ICT and Advanced Electronics

The ICT and advanced electronics sector in Essex is the largest in the East of England with over 800 businesses and 14,000 people employed within the sector. There are many examples



of world leading companies taking advantage of what Essex has to offer. Names such as e2v Technologies and Raytheon have located their head offices here and many others use Essex as a base for research and

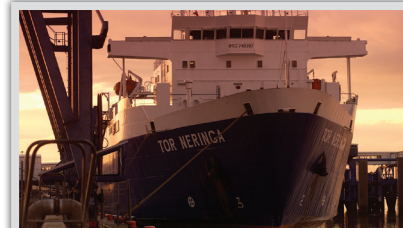
development such as BAE Systems who have located their Advanced Technology Centre within the county.

Essex has a proud record in the ICT and Electronics sector being the home of the Marconi Company and the birth place of radio and fibre optic technologies and as a result Essex benefits from a large highly skilled workforce with quality technical expertise. This workforce is further developed and advanced through the high level courses offered at Anglia Ruskin University and at one of the largest computing and electronics departments in the country at the University of Essex.

## Ports and Logistics

Essex is at the heart of the most significant deep sea port presence in the UK and one of the most significant in Europe.

The Haven Gateway ports of Harwich International, Tilbury, in



Essex and Felixstowe, in nearby Suffolk, have an annual turnover of over £3 billion and directly employ 32,200 people in the sub-region. Essex is also home to Europe's fastest growing major airport London Stansted

reaching more European destinations than any other European airport. These ports provide Essex businesses with easy passenger and freight access into Europe and the world.

The Ports and Logistics sector is a significant contributor to Essex's economy with more than 1600 businesses. The sector has a major role in supporting and servicing most other sectors in the county, the UK and also the rest of the world.

Major international companies located here include DSV, Groundstar, BAA Stansted and the Stobart Group.

### Financial Services

Essex's location on the doorstep of London, a world financial centre, has enabled it to grow into a leading destination for financial and business services businesses. Essex financial companies are able to exploit the huge benefits of having close proximity to and easy access into London, the UK and Europe without the costs associated with a capital city location.

Essex's huge strength lies in its highly qualified financial services skills base with almost 70,000 of Essex residents employed within the sector.

Essex's reputation in risk and insurance services, investor record keeping services, asset management, credit card processing and e-commerce has lead to more than 1300 companies choosing it as a location for their business. Leading examples of these businesses included HSBC Bank Plc, International Financial Data Services Ltd and Lloyds TSB.



*"Our client base is in the financial services sector, so the proximity of London is a real benefit. Essex has also proved to be an excellent recruiting ground for high-quality staff"*  
**Julian Rice, IFDS**

### Environmental Technology

Essex is establishing itself as an attractive location for environmental technology companies and is rapidly building international capability in a variety of areas including renewable energy, clean technologies, environmental consultancy, reclamation and recycling and air pollution control.

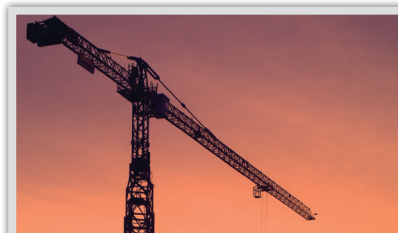
The environmental technologies sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK, with Essex being home to more than 600 businesses. There are a number of internationally known and market leading companies within Essex including Ecotherm, Essex and Suffolk Water, Alphasense, Fläktwoods and EBM Papst.



Essex has a diverse set of environmental technology subsectors, with companies spanning a wide range of environmental activities. This means that Essex's environmental workforce is highly skilled, dynamic and flexible and is able to be innovative in its approach to emerging technologies within the sector.

### Construction

There are more than 10,000 businesses and over 40,000 people employed within the construction industry in Essex making the sector one of the strongest and most important in the county. The sector has particular strengths in residential, non-residential and engineering services as well as expertise in sustainable construction.



Nationally the construction sector accounts for 10% of the UK's GDP and therefore the sector in Essex has an extremely important role to play in the national and regional economy.

There are a number of well known companies who have located their headquarters within Essex in order to take advantage of the construction opportunities in London, the east of England and surrounding areas. Companies including Countryside Properties, Higgins Construction and the Apollo Group have been able to take advantage of the skills base within Essex and the high level of building contracts available within the region.

### Creative Industries

The creative industries are an incredibly dynamic aspect of Essex's economy with more than 3,500 businesses located within the county. This number continues to grow as companies are attracted to the county's thriving and competitive business environment as well as a beautiful and desirable location.

Essex has over 12,000 people employed in the creative industries sector. This highly skilled workforce represents every aspect of the sector including music, film, television, publishing and design. The inventiveness and diversity of the Essex sector keep it at the forefront of creativity whether it is through research and development activity, architecture or design.



With specialist university courses, cost effective premises and some of the fastest broadband speeds in the UK, Essex provides a wonderful platform for success for any creative industries business.

**Find out more about Essex**

**Web: [www.investessex.co.uk](http://www.investessex.co.uk)**

**Tel: 01245 702480**

**Email: [contact@investessex.co.uk](mailto:contact@investessex.co.uk)**