

# Essex – Great for Advanced Technology

## Sector Highlights in Essex

- » **An established knowledge economy, with more than 800 technology companies ranging from start-ups to global market leaders**
- » **The birthplace of radio and fibre optics, Essex has a strong and ongoing tradition of technical innovation**
- » **High levels of businesses-to-business collaboration across the Essex innovation community**
- » **A skilled labour pool with access to 15,000 knowledge workers.**
- » **Lower sector labour costs than London, the East of England and the UK average**
- » **Commercially-focused research from two world-class universities**
- » **A strong skills development infrastructure**
- » **Wide choice of commercial property from incubation centres to purpose-built business parks**
- » **Superb access to London, the UK, European and global markets via road, rail, seaports and airports**

Essex is an inspired choice for any business, offering a compelling mix of location, energetic business environment and quality of life. Essex has more than 70,000 businesses across a wide spectrum including large and small, successful start-ups, iconic brands, globally known names, and companies which have moved to Essex as a platform for growth, as well as having an outstanding record for technological innovation and manufacturing world-leading products.

Essex is a platform for doing business on a local, national or global scale. As well as being adjacent to the world financial city of London, Essex is extremely

well connected through its road and rail links to other parts of the UK and to continental Europe, as well as offering access to global markets via its international ports and airports.

### **A great location for business.**

For **advanced technology companies**, the county's skills, transport infrastructure and proximity to London, Cambridge and Europe make it an ideal location for a European headquarters or UK office, opening up a research and development centre, starting a new business or relocating a growing company.

**INVEST**  
Essex

***"On site customer support is very important in a complex technology business like ours. And we make use of the airport's freight facilities and the international seaports in Essex to support our global business"***

Richard Daniel, Executive Director, Raytheon Systems



Essex County Council

# Business Environment

## Strengths of the Advanced Technology sector in Essex

Essex has a long heritage in innovation and advanced technology and more than 800 technology companies, plus a constant flow of start-ups, are based in Essex, more than any other county in the East of England or in the counties surrounding London.

The concentration and mix of larger companies, an established local supply chain, start-ups and universities in Essex has created an innovation community, based on an open partnership flow of research and collaboration.

### Home to world-class companies:

**e2v technologies** – based in Essex for over 60 years e2v technologies is a global leader in innovative solutions for medical, science, aerospace, defence and industrial applications. The company has been responsible for many breakthrough technologies winning the Queen's Award for Innovation for their L3Vision™ thermal imaging sensors and cameras

**Voxsmart** – a leading provider of smartphone applications for mobile voice recording and call management. This Essex based dynamic young company has developed an innovative cloud-based mobile call recording solution.

**BAE Systems** is a global defence, security and aerospace company delivering a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions and customer support services. BAE Systems base their Technology and Engineering Services in Essex, providing a research and development facility for BAE Systems and its joint venture partners.

**A wide range of advanced technology businesses who are leaders in their field are also based in Essex, including:**

**Gigawave** – designs and manufactures specialised transmission equipment for television outside broadcasts worldwide.

**SELEX Galileo** – world leader in surveillance, protection, tracking, targeting, navigation, and control and imaging systems.

**Alphasense** – global supplier of high-quality oxygen, toxic and flammable sensors to many of the world's leading industrial OEMs.

**Raytheon Systems** – technology and innovation leader specialising in defence, national security and other government and commercial markets around the world.

# Skills and Labour Force

## Strengths of the Advanced Technology sector in Essex

More than 15,000 highly skilled knowledge workers work in the Advanced Technology sector in Essex offering expertise across many disciplines from research, design, engineering and product development to manufacturing, technical support and marketing. The availability of these knowledge workers as well as highly educated graduates has encouraged many technology companies to locate their research and development facilities in Essex.

The proximity of London and Cambridge for professional networking and collaboration and its competitive labour costs makes Essex an attractive location for high-calibre scientists and engineers.

*"Access to a good skills base is absolutely critical for us today and in the future. Over 70% of our employees have a second or higher degree, so that's a lot of people with PhDs and very skilled specialisms in their areas of research"*

James Baker, Director of Technology and Engineering Services, BAE Systems

### Labour costs

The average salary for Advanced Technology staff in Essex is approximately **46% lower** than the London average, **25% lower** than the East of England average and **34% lower** than the UK average for the sector



Selex Galileo, Basildon

Raytheon, Harlow



# Research and Education

## Strengths of the Advanced Technology sector in Essex

### World Leading University research

The University of Essex has a 5 star rated Electronics Systems Engineering department, with particular expertise in research, robotics, phototonics and optics. As well as the research the University is helping

Essex companies accelerate their own innovation and development activities with an active programme of spinouts, IP licensing, knowledge transfer partnerships and collaborative research.

*"There is a good network of training schools and colleges which we can use as part of our continuous staff development programme "*

Mark Jackson, Head of Business Development – Manufacturing, Olympus Keymed

## Graduate and skills training

Students are graduating from the following courses qualified for roles in the Advanced Technology sector

**University of Essex** – offer courses in computing and electronics at BSc, MSc, MPhil and PhD levels. It also operates business incubation providing infrastructure and advice to new business to enable them to establish and grow.

**Anglia Ruskin University** – offer courses in computer science, electronics engineering, networking at undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as research in strategic management, digital media and telecommunications engineering.

**South Essex College** – offer a wide range of ICT skills training in subjects such as programming, software design, network technology, IT systems support and web design.

*South Essex College, Southend*



# Logistics and Communications

Strengths of the Advanced Technology sector in Essex

## Links to national motorway network

Essex benefits from direct links to the UK's motorway network. It has major trunk routes linking all parts of the county to the M11 and from it London, the midlands and the north. Essex is well connected to the M25 motorway, London's orbital motorway with major connections to the UK's major arterial roads and the south, east and west of the country and to Europe.

## London Stansted Airport

Situated in the west of Essex, it is the UK's second largest airfreight terminal and the third busiest airport in the UK. It reaches more European destinations than any other airport with more than 29 scheduled and charter airlines serving 140 destinations across 30 countries.

## High speed rail services

Essex has fast mainline rail links to London, the rest of the UK and to Europe. Stratford International Station, adjacent to the London 2012 Olympic Village provides high-speed rail services to France and Belgium.

## Super-fast broadband

Essex is benefitting from the roll out of "Super-Fast" broadband providing businesses with greater flexibility in how they use the internet. Advantages include new services and more sophisticated communications, such as high-quality videoconferencing.



*London Stansted Airport*

*"Essex has proved to be a good base for both our domestic and growing international business portfolio."*

Claire Sandbrook, CEO, Shergroup

# Property

## Strengths of the Advanced Technology sector in Essex

### Wide choice of properties and locations

Essex has a wide choice of properties suitable for a range of advanced technology businesses from small high technology start ups to leading research firms.

Visit our property portal at [www.investessex.co.uk](http://www.investessex.co.uk)

### Examples of key sites across the county

**Chesterford Research Park** is set in open parkland and is home to Medical Technology companies like **Biofocus DPI** and **Cellzome**. It offers an exclusive, secure and relaxed working environment and excellent communications to London, Cambridge and Stansted Airport.

The **Basildon** area is a major employer with an economy in the region second only to Canary Wharf. The **Basildon Enterprise Parks** are home to 45,000 jobs many in the advanced technology and manufacturing sector and global brands like **New Holland Agriculture** and **Selex**.

*"We have found Essex to be very cost-effective to house our main operations and Tollesbury's riverside location is very attractive from an environmental perspective. We find also that our local area has many support industries that can provide us with a good selection of services such as metalworking and machining, painting and finishing which we do not handle in-house"*  
Steve Smith, Managing Director, Servowatch

**Harlow** – offers a choice of established and contemporary premises on business parks close to the M11 and London Stansted Airport. **The Pinnacles Estate** and **Mead Park Industrial Estate** are home to well known companies such as **GlaxoSmithKline**, **Pitney Bowes**, **3663 Food Distribution**, **Federal Express**, **Christian Salvesen** and **Raytheon**.

The **Essex Technology & Innovation Centre** at Ongar offers early-stage businesses flexible accommodation and on-site support.

### Examples of property occupied by Advanced Technology companies in Essex . . .





# Location

## Strengths of the Advanced Technology sector in Essex

Essex is superbly positioned for business. The county is strategically located in the south-east of England close to other vibrant economies such as London, one of the world's great financial centres, Cambridge, an international centre of research, and the dynamic growth markets of Europe.

Essex is a great place to live and work, with a huge choice of quality homes at reasonable prices, excellent schools and universities, first-class leisure facilities and an environment that gives the right work-life balance.

Essex has an excellent education system, with a number of outstanding schools regularly featuring in the top ten English state schools.

The quality of life in Essex is superb. The close proximity of central London, means you can enjoy the benefits of being close to a world-famous capital city while living and working in a county with fantastic leisure facilities and huge areas of unspoilt countryside.



Rayleigh Windmill



Southend-on-Sea

*"We need to attract and retain talented mobile people. Many of our employees make their homes in Essex – they enjoy the quieter, rural life but like to have London so close"*

Trevor Cross, Group Chief Technology Officer, e2v technologies

# Support

## Maximise your competitive advantage

Essex could be the perfect place for your next move. We can help you get your business off to the best possible start, maximise your potential and take advantage of all the opportunities Essex can offer.

We can provide help to find you the right site and put you in touch with professionals and suppliers who can help you establish and grow your business.

### **Access to local knowledge and expertise**

We have experience of working with businesses of all sizes and have helped many companies to relocate to Essex. You can draw on our extensive local knowledge of the Essex business environment, markets and supply chain as well as our established contacts with all the regional and national bodies who support inward investment.

Our property database makes it easy to find the ideal location in offices, business parks, industrial units or retail centres.

We are committed to your success and we look forward to welcoming your business to Essex.

**INVEST Essex** is Essex County Council's Inward Investment Service, providing 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.

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