

# Essex

a great place to do business

INVEST  
Essex

**Essex is an inspired choice for any business – whether it be for a European headquarters or UK office, opening up a research and development centre, establishing distribution or service facilities, starting a new enterprise or relocating a growing business. Essex offers a rich, well-established and well-located solution.**

## Location is our greatest strength

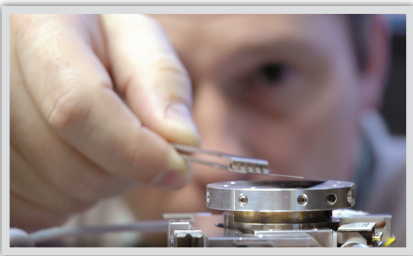
Essex, which has a population of over 1.7 million, is on the doorstep of London and Cambridge and is a gateway to dynamic growth markets throughout the UK and Europe. With 30 million consumers living within a 140 km radius and excellent transport links, your business will be at the heart of a national logistics infrastructure.



With the two international seaports of Tilbury, Harwich International and nearby Felixstowe, links to the national motorway network via M11 and M25 motorways and London Stansted airport, the UK's third busiest, you'll find it easy to do business on a regional, national and international scale.

## Business Environment

Essex is home to market-leading international companies like Ford, BAE Systems, IFDS and e2v Technologies. World leaders in many different market sectors recognise that Essex has 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 640,000 people and the county is home to an ever-increasing number of early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs.

Our business profile is diverse, with key sectors including advanced technology, financial and business services, ports and logistics, construction, creative and cultural industries, environmental technologies, public sector, health and education, retail and leisure, advanced manufacturing and tourism.

## Education and Research

Essex is at the heart of a thriving knowledge economy. By locating in Essex, you will benefit from the county's world-class universities, specialist schools and colleges and centres of excellence helping to transfer knowledge and provide high-quality research support. You'll also be able to attract the right employees from a large, skilled and highly-motivated workforce.



World leaders like Visteon, Ford and BAE Systems have based their own research and development centres in Essex.

The University of Essex in Colchester is the top-ranked UK university for Social Sciences research with a five-star rating. Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford is home to the Ashcroft International Business School. They both have a long history of working with Essex companies to add business value through collaborative research, knowledge transfer partnerships, access to expertise through consultancy, management training and conference facilities, as well as support for growing businesses and start-ups.

“ We're probably flying to Europe or the US four or five times a month. Having London Stansted Airport on our doorstep is a real bonus. We are also close to London and the rest of the UK by train or road, so we can easily reach our customers in this country.

Jon Lidbury, Configure One Europe

### Growth in Essex

Essex is the focus of some of Europe's largest growth and regeneration projects. Thames Gateway in south Essex, part of Europe's largest regeneration programme is attracting major inward investment, creating new markets and business opportunities. Haven Gateway in north east Essex, is to be home to a new £300



million deep sea container port development called Bathside Bay making Harwich International Port the second largest container port in the UK.

### The Olympic Opportunity

The 2012 London Olympics will give a further boost to the Essex economy, with significant event-related construction and logistics activities in the lead-up to the Games and

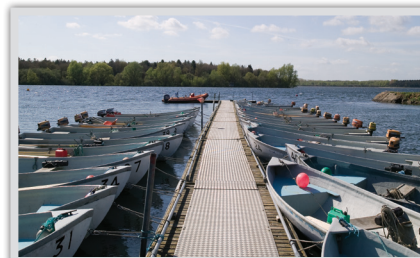


further regeneration associated with the East London sites after the event. Essex is proud to host not only the Olympic mountain bike championships at Hadleigh Country Park but also 21 accredited pre-games training camp facilities

including 6 Paralympic facilities. The transport infrastructure is being updated in preparation for the Games with the opening of Stratford International Station and links to the Channel Rail Tunnel, as well as developments to the local road network.

### Quality of Life

Essex also offers a great quality of life, with a huge choice of quality homes at reasonable prices, three quarters of the county



is beautiful unspoilt countryside, it has 560 km of coastline - England's longest, busy market towns, an excellent education system and superb leisure facilities.

Essex is also a county with a long proud history, celebrated in its many museums, castles, churches and historic houses. Colchester, for example, is Britain's oldest recorded town and was the first Roman capital of Britain.

The county has a vibrant cultural life with local and regional theatres and arts centres offering events and performances of the highest standard. The new Royal Opera House Production Campus at Thurrock opened in 2008, followed by the National Skills Academy for the Live Performing Arts in 2009. Construction is underway on the new firstsite:newsite visual arts facility in Colchester, which will provide a contemporary art space of international significance.

### Find out more about Essex

Essex is a growing county with a thriving business community offering great opportunities to local, national and international businesses. Find out more about Essex and the opportunities that the county has for your business.

- > **Take a tour of Essex on our virtual map**
- > **Browse available property on our property portal**
- > **Speak to us about your business aspirations**

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

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

Or contact us:

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Essex County Council