

# Locate in Kent

Since it was established in 1997, Locate in Kent, the investment promotion agency for Kent and Medway, has assisted more than 400 companies in creating more than 20,000 jobs in the county.



There is a property solution to be found in Kent for all types of business.

The agency has provided assistance to a variety of global names in numerous business sectors including Abbott Laboratories, Lloyd's of London, The Woolwich, Hochiki, Genzyme and The Telegraph Group.

Of the 72 investment projects Locate in Kent helped to attract to the county in 2006-7, the highest proportion were in the retail and wholesale sector, closely followed by engineering, business services, manufacturing and ICT. From these projects, the local economy will benefit from 1,665 new jobs and 2,075 retained jobs.

## Improved Transport Links

Kent and Medway is perfectly placed for business – positioned between the markets of London and Europe, the county is the closest UK location to continental Europe, offering access to more than 531 million consumers within a 24-hour drive.

The county already benefits from Eurostar services from Ashford International Station to Continental Europe, and the launch of the new high speed line from the new Ebbsfleet International Station in North Kent has built on Kent's reputation as the gateway to Europe.

From 2009, new domestic train services operated by Southeastern will cut the journey time from London St Pancras to Ebbsfleet to just 17 minutes and reduce

travelling to Ashford to 37 minutes. The speed of the services to London will be essential to the success of the 2012 Olympics and a key-decision making factor for companies relocating to Kent or investing in the UK from overseas.

## Cost-effective

Kent offers immediate access to the leading international financial centre of London – but its property prices are up to 60% lower than in the capital, making it the location of choice for many national and international companies. Kent has a workforce of over 780,000 people, with 5,000 skilled graduates moving into industry from universities and colleges every year, but again, its salary rates and labour costs are significantly lower than London's.

## Property

As well as being a cost-effective location with unrivalled links to London and European markets, Kent has a wide variety of commercial property on offer. From business parks like Kings Hill in West Malling – one of the largest and most successful mixed-use developments in Europe – and science parks like Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne, through to enterprise hubs, industrial units and individual offices, there is a property solution to be found in Kent for all types of business. ►



Picture courtesy of Kent County Council

Crossways Business Park