

## Logistics and Supply Chain

The location of a company's logistics hub is of fundamental importance in determining how best to serve an ever-expanding European market, with key factors being excellent connectivity and ease of access to markets whilst keeping costs to a minimum.

The Manchester City Region is well linked to the UK's motorway network, has an international airport serving 200 destinations worldwide, and provides direct access via the Manchester Ship Canal to a major deep sea shipping port.

With over 77,000 people working within the logistics sector in the Northwest, Manchester has a sizeable and accessible labour force, providing the capacity for companies to expand operations within short time frames and save costs; the region offers potential savings of 30% over southeast locations. The numerous academic institutions also aid the constant flow of newly qualified labour into the sector.

Manchester also provides a low risk environment with a proven history of successful logistics and distribution hubs and its achievements in the sector are clear from the presence of regional and national distribution centres for companies such as Kellogg's, L'Oreal, Procter & Gamble and JJB Sports.

## Outsourcing

The market for outsourcing continues to expand across Manchester and the wider Northwest. The city region accommodates fast-growing regional and UK firms serving domestic and international clients from the public and private sectors, including the likes of IBM, Hewlett Packard, Xansa and Vertex. Manchester's excellent international connectivity has also helped to establish links with "sister centres" in Eastern Europe, India, the US and other major offshore locations.

With a wealth of readily available experienced staff, outsourcers are able to provide a wide choice of activities and functions for their clients. A variety of affordable property is available across all key employment sites, meaning the city region has a facility to suit every size and cost base.

In recognising the strength of the outsourcing sector in Manchester, the National Outsourcing Association (NOA) has worked closely with MIDAS to support the industry as it grows and consolidates in Manchester.

