

# MANUFACTURING PRIORITIES

## FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands manufacturing sector accounts for  
**£21 BILLION OF OUTPUT**



Providing **310,000 JOBS**



**AVERAGE WAGES 13% HIGHER**  
than the rest of the economy in the region



1.

**Support the ever growing industrial diversification** of the region through policies which allow the transformation of the manufacturing sector to take advantage of the vibrant new and emerging industries throughout the West Midlands, embracing Net Zero, digitalisation and upskilling employees. Driving success for both multinational and SME manufacturers.

2.

Support manufacturers in the region to **deliver the jobs of the future** through the development of regional skills programmes. Initiatives such as apprenticeships can provide manufacturers with the skills they need and can launch the career of students in a high paying exciting sector.

3.

Help **promote exports** by providing in-market support and advice. West Midlands manufacturers have performed well on the international stage despite post Brexit challenges, but with advice and support we can create the next generation of exporters.

# MANUFACTURING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT **36.4%**

METAL PRODUCTS **15.4%**

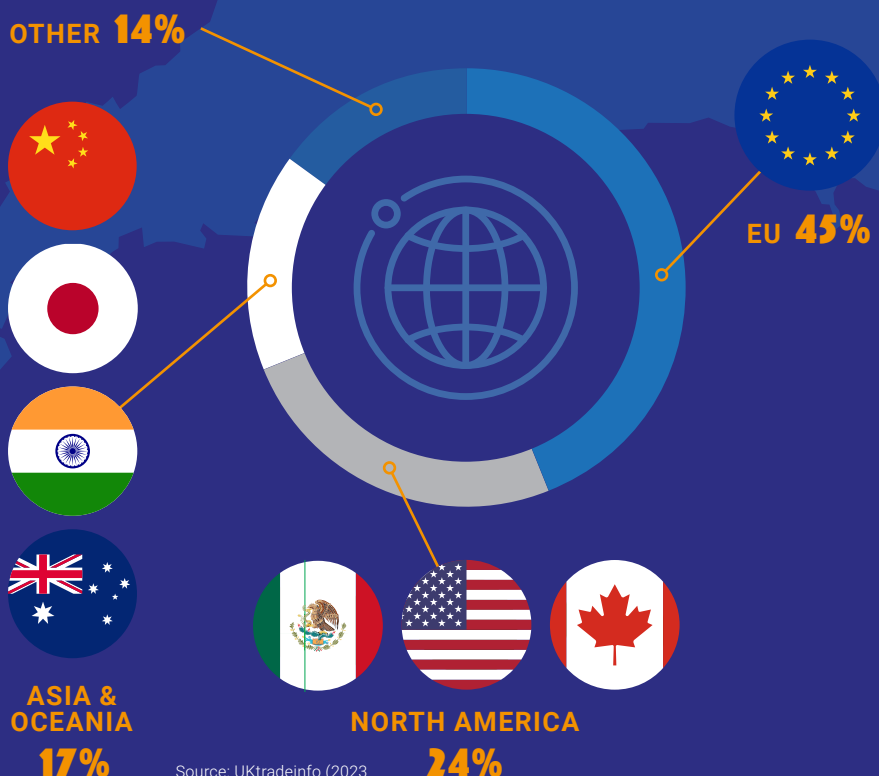
MACHINERY EQUIPMENT **10.6%**

OTHER  
MANUFACTURING\*  
**37.6%**

\*The sum of subsectors not included in the top 3

Source: ONS (2019)

## WHERE WEST MIDLANDS EXPORTS GO



MANUFACTURING  
ACCOUNTS FOR  
**14%**  
OF THE WEST MIDLAND'S  
**TOTAL OUTPUT**

THE WEST MIDLAND'S  
**OVERALL  
PRODUCTIVITY**  
IS THE  
**6<sup>TH</sup> BEST**  
IN THE UK AT  
**88.9%**

# WHERE MANUFACTURERS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS ARE PLANNING TO INVEST IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



**1. EXPANSION  
OF PRODUCTION  
CAPACITY**



**2. SUSTAINABLE  
AND GREEN  
TECHNOLOGIES**



**3. EXISTING WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

# WHERE MANUFACTURERS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS SEE THE BIGGEST NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE NEXT DECADE



**1. ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND  
ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS**



**2. ADVANCED  
MATERIALS  
(E.G. GRAPHENE,  
CARBON FIBRE)**

**3. DEFENCE  
AND SECURITY  
TECHNOLOGIES**



# CHRIS CORKAN, MAKE UK REGION DIRECTOR – MIDLANDS AND EAST OF ENGLAND

Manufacturing has always had a crucial presence in the economy of the West Midlands, and it's vital to continue building on the region's strength.

Manufacturers in the West Midlands can drive growth by creating well-paid, skilled jobs, and it is vital that future opportunities provided through the shift to net zero are taken.

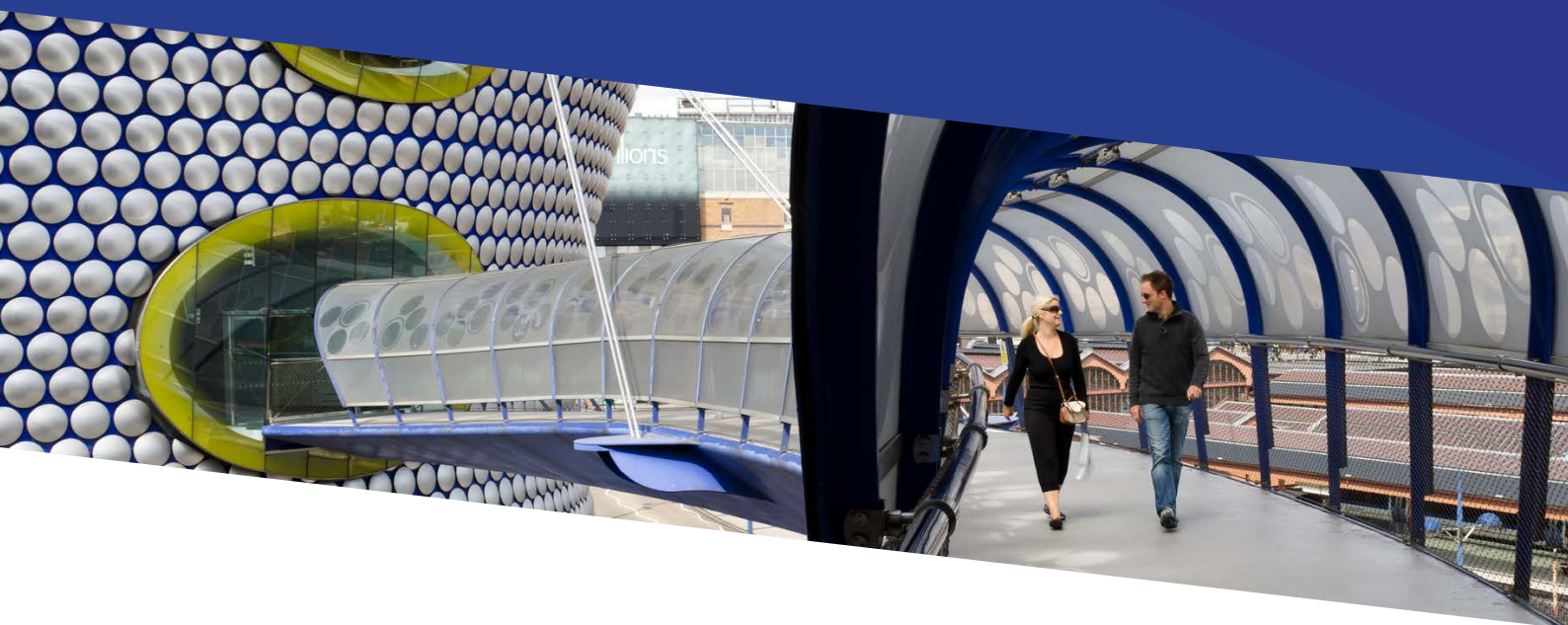
Building upon this, regional infrastructure and skills programmes must be improved. Greater collaboration between business, education, and government agencies will be essential in encouraging innovation and providing manufacturers with the skills they need to take advantage of emerging industries throughout the West Midlands.



**Christopher Corkan**

07785337234

ccorkan@makeuk.org



Make UK is backing manufacturing – helping our sector to engineer a digital, global and green future. From the first industrial revolution to the emergence of the fourth, the manufacturing sector has been the UK's economic engine and the world's workshop.

The manufacturers we represent employ 1.2 million people who have created the new technologies of today and are designing the innovations of tomorrow. By investing in their people, they continue to compete on a global stage, providing the solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

Together, manufacturing is changing, adapting and transforming to meet the future needs of the UK economy. A forward-thinking, bold and versatile sector, manufacturers are engineering their own future.

**makeuk.org**

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For more information please contact:

**Christopher Corkan**

Region Director – Midlands and East England  
ccorkan@makeuk.org

**Tom Burdon**

Stakeholder Engagement Advisor  
tburdon@makeuk.org

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