



## IT & DIGITAL



# NORTH EAST ENGLAND WORKS.

**As home to scores of software and tech companies doing business across the globe, by 2020 it's estimated North East England's IT and Digital cluster will be a £2.5bn industry.**

Our region has an attractive portfolio of outstanding physical space, tailor made to suit company needs along with access to technical support for new and growing businesses. This, combined with a highly skilled talent pool and five universities training the future generation of employees and entrepreneurs, North East England Works for the IT and Digital Sector.

North East England is a UK digital hotspot and the region is a driving force for digital innovation, world-class design, solid technology capabilities and a highly skilled workforce. In our region, this sector has seen the highest growth in England (up by 30% between 2013 - 2017) and our IT and Digital market is forecast to grow to £2.5bn by 2020. Why firms chose to invest in North East England.

- North East England has a high calibre talent pool, with over 51,000 students studying STEM subjects at our universities and higher education colleges
- Outstanding Grade A office accommodation, innovation hubs and collaborative working spaces which are well connected to a vast local talent pool
- Our key tech sectors include immersive technology, software development, data management, analytics, games and health tech enabling investors to access an established network of support and innovation
- The existence of an Innovation SuperNetwork, the first network of its kind in the UK. The SuperNetwork uses its unique position and overview of the region to ignite innovation and new collaborations
- The region benefits from major road and rail networks and an international airport, ensuring the region gives ready access to key business centres across the globe
- North East England is one of the least expensive locations in the UK to establish a software business. A typical 35-person software business in North East England will save £0.85m per year compared to a London base (Financial Times benchmarking study)
- North East England's fantastic quality of life and low living costs make the area highly attractive for attracting and retaining digital talent.

## A vibrant and growing tech sector

### Immersive Technology

North East England's Immersive Tech Sector has grown to one of the most significant in the UK. With a strong cluster of companies growing in the region plus a unique blend of market access and demand, ease of doing business, skilled workforce, infrastructure and cost base ensures the North East's ecosystem continues to be a hot bed for this sector.

### Video Games

Gaming companies enjoy spectacular success exporting products to the world with over 50 internationally renowned, specialist gaming companies operating in the region.

### Software Development

A wide range of software development businesses have made the decision to locate in the region. Companies benefit from access to a large talent pool, utilising the world-class facilities and innovative office accommodation.

FTSE 100 global software giant, Sage, is headquartered in Newcastle upon Tyne and is the world's third largest supplier of enterprise resource planning software.

### Data Analytics

Newcastle Helix based in the heart of Newcastle Upon Tyne is home to science, technology and digital businesses and will soon have three national innovation centres located on the site: National Innovation Centre for Ageing (NICA), National Innovation Centre for Data (NICD) and National Institute for Health Research Innovation Observatory (NIHRIO), cementing the region as a pioneer in innovation and data analytics. The new National Innovation Centre for Data (NICD)

will bring together industry, the public sector and top academics to develop the skills, ideas and resources to exploit opportunities offered by the explosion in digital data.

### Data Centres

Home to the UK's largest datacentre based at Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside.

Stellium's data centre campus is serviceprovider neutral to give clients a choice of connectivity to local, national and global fibre networks.

Stellium completed the Newcastle MAN (Metropolitan Area Network) using the latest fibre technologies to bring the North East's major business communities within easy reach of the campus. In addition, the centre provides connectivity along the MAN to major service-provider hubs to create a wide range of high-volume national data paths.

**North East England's IT and Digital market is forecast to grow to £2.5bn by 2020.**

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## Unbeatable skills availability

North East England has over **28,000 people employed** in its ICT sector and its five universities produce over **5,000 computer science students**

Five universities in North East England together with highly-rated higher education colleges who collaboratively work with private businesses, ensure the region is a hot bed for talent and skills.

With plentiful innovative and specialist IT courses, students in North East England are well positioned for a career in IT.

The new North East Futures University Technical College specialises in IT & Computing and Healthcare Sciences. It will offer innovative ways of learning for 14-19 year olds centred around specialist projects which will bring learning to life and has private sector backing from the likes of Accenture, HP and Ubisoft.

“ **There is a wealth of technology talent here in the North East, and we're pleased to offer the opportunity to develop careers with Accenture.** ”

**Mark Larsen,**  
Managing Director, Accenture Delivery Centre, North Tyneside.

## Unrivalled business networks and collaboration

North East England has a support eco-system primed and ready to welcome investors into our thriving IT and Digital sector. With worldclass businesses operating across the globe, our tech cluster collaborates with networks to accelerate business growth. Innovation SuperNetwork, Dynamo North East, Digital Union, Sunderland Software City, North East Tees Valley Digital Catapult and Newcastle's Cloud Innovation Centre offer superb networking, training and support to investors.

**PROTO - The Emerging Technology Centre**

The Emerging Technology Centre in Gateshead is a dedicated R+D and office centre for the emerging technologies of Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Robotics.

**The North East Tees Valley Immersive Tech Lab**

Gives organisations of all sizes the opportunity to experience emerging content first hand. **It helps them to understand the positive impact the technology is having, improving processes and efficiencies across many sectors.** Access to the lab also extends to academic and research institutions that are interested in collaborating with industry, to understand and advise on market growth.

## World-class properties and office space

Newcastle Helix, Sunderland Software Centre and the Northern Design Centre are just some of the specialist facilities and incubation hubs in our region to support innovation and business growth and have proved to be magnets for digital technology companies.

## KEY SPECIALIST OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH EAST

- Accenture
- Atom Bank
- Bede Gaming
- Hammerhead VR
- Hedgehog Lab
- HMRC Digital Delivery Centre
- HP
- IBM
- Nomad Digital
- Partnerize
- Sage
- Saggezza
- Sumo Digital
- Tombola
- Ubisoft
- Visualsoft
- Waterstons
- Zerolight



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