



Defence, Security and Space

One region. Connected strengths. Global ambition.

A collaborative region supporting advanced manufacturing, space-enabled services and next-generation activity across defence, security and space.

Invest North East England

North East Mayoral Strategic Authority | Kim McGuinness North East Mayor

TEES VALLEY

SPACE NORTH EAST ENGLAND

NE RDSC North East Regional Defence and Security Cluster

One region. Connected strengths. Global ambition.



The North East of England and Tees Valley offer a joined-up destination for defence, security and space investment.

Together, the region brings advanced manufacturing, engineering excellence and fast-growing innovation clusters. From global companies to agile small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and leading universities, businesses benefit from an environment that supports growth, innovation and delivery.

With strong transport links by road, rail, sea and air including international gateways and deep-water ports – we offer the infrastructure needed to scale.

Working in partnership across industry, academia and government, we provide a coordinated approach to inward investment, helping businesses establish, expand and innovate.

The region at a glance

5

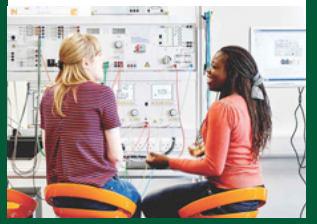
Universities



54,000+

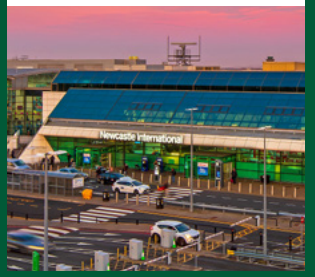
STEM Students

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)



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International Airports



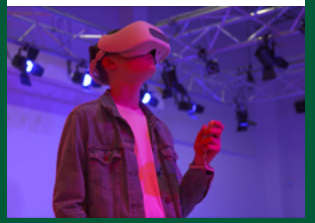
Major Deep-Water Port Infrastructure



Established and Expanding Defence and Space Sectors



Leading Research and Innovation Assets



Infrastructure, Innovation and Opportunity

Skills and Talent

54,000+ STEM students
Delivering expertise in engineering, manufacturing, digital technologies, data science and space-related disciplines.

Five universities and specialist technical education providers
Driving research, innovation and workforce development, including New College Durham, one of only four AMTEC-recognised colleges nationally.

Connectivity

Two international airports
Providing access to major UK and international destinations.

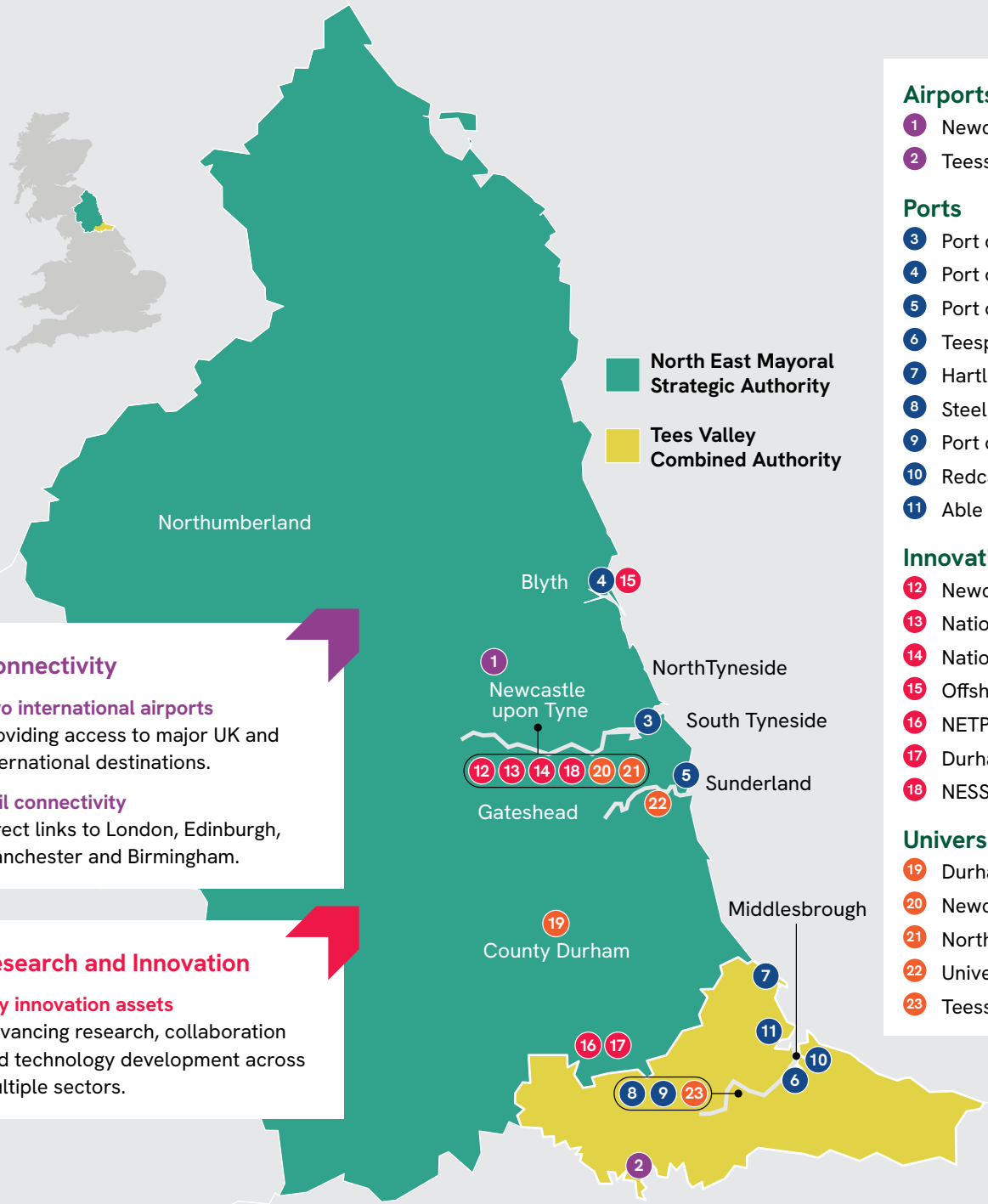
Rail connectivity
Direct links to London, Edinburgh, Manchester and Birmingham.

Maritime Infrastructure

Major deep-water port network
Enabling manufacturing, logistics, offshore industries and international trade.

Research and Innovation

Key innovation assets
Advancing research, collaboration and technology development across multiple sectors.



Airports
1. Newcastle International Airport
2. Teesside International Airport

Ports
3. Port of Tyne
4. Port of Blyth
5. Port of Sunderland
6. Teesport
7. Hartlepool Port
8. Steel River Quay
9. Port of Middlesbrough
10. Redcar Bulk Terminal
11. Able Seaton Port

Innovation assets
12. Newcastle Helix
13. National Innovation Centre for Data
14. National Edge AI Hub
15. Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
16. NETPark
17. Durham SPARC
18. NESST

Universities
19. Durham University
20. Newcastle University
21. Northumbria University
22. University of Sunderland
23. Teesside University

Defence and Security

A strong and evolving sector base

The region has a long-standing heritage in engineering and manufacturing and today supports activity across air, land, maritime, cyber and digital domains.

Global companies including Airbus, BAE Systems, Leonardo, Rolls-Royce and Lockheed Martin have a presence or active relationships across the region, supported by a strong supply chain and growing network of innovative SMEs.

Teesside Freeport strengthens UK sovereign defence capability through strategic infrastructure, industrial capacity, skilled talent and a competitive investment environment.

The region combines engineering excellence, manufacturing expertise and emerging technologies to support future growth across defence and security.

North East Regional Defence and Security Cluster

The North East Regional Defence and Security Cluster (NERDSC) forms part of a wider UK network of regional defence clusters, helping to connect businesses with supply chain, skills and innovation opportunities.





Sector Snapshot

298 organisations

Active in the defence sector through NERDSC membership

27,499 jobs supporting defence-related activity

4,000+ additional jobs forecast through sector growth

Key Strengths

- Advanced manufacturing and precision engineering
- Defence and security supply chains
- Aerospace and maritime MRO
- Autonomous systems
- Digital technologies
- Cyber security
- Export capability

Defence Innovation Assets

These significant assets are accelerating innovation, commercialisation and technology adoption across defence, security and resilience.

Centre for Process Innovation (CPI)
Supports businesses to develop and commercialise emerging technologies.

National Edge AI Hub (Newcastle University)
Advancing AI, autonomous systems and secure data technologies.

Digital Catapult North East & Tees Valley
Accelerating the adoption of AI, advanced connectivity and digital innovation.

Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
Innovation expertise with applications across maritime, energy and autonomous systems.

Newcastle Helix
A nationally recognised innovation district bringing together industry, academia and government.

Space, Data and Innovation

A space cluster with real depth and momentum

North East England is an expanding hub for space-enabled services, with strengths in satellite communications, optical communications, earth observation, space domain awareness, data applications and advanced manufacturing.

The region combines a growing industry base, skilled workforce, leading research and strong infrastructure to support the development and scaling of new technologies.

Sector Snapshot

81 organisations

1,340 jobs

£171m annual income

Industry Presence

Raytheon UK
ISOCOM LIMITED
TELESPAZIO a LEONARDO and THALES company
KRATOS
aXenic
filtronic
BOYD

SPACE NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Established in 2014, Space North East England coordinates and supports the regional space ecosystem, bringing together industry, academia and public sector partners to help drive collaboration, skills and innovation.

Research and Innovation Assets



NESST

£50m space skills, research and innovation centre led by Northumbria University.



NETPark

Science and technology park supporting high-growth businesses and innovation.



Durham SPARC

Multidisciplinary research centre supporting space science and technology.



National Innovation Centre for Data

Helping organisations unlock value through data and AI.



Sunderland Software City

Driving digital skills, technology adoption and tech talent to support innovation across high-growth sectors.



Five universities

Research strengths spanning engineering, data science, manufacturing and space-related disciplines.

Why Invest Here?

The region offers:



Strategic connectivity through a network of ports, airports, road and rail links



A collaborative ecosystem bringing together industry, academia and government



Research, innovation and technology assets that support growth and commercialisation



A strong talent pipeline through universities, colleges and specialist training providers



Development opportunities supported by strategic sites, business support and sector networks



Investment incentives available through Teesside Freeport and the North East Investment Zone

Get in touch

Want to take the next step in locating or expanding your business in North East England, or just need to find out more?

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