



Connected Innovation joins together incubators, innovation hubs, universities, research institutes and the Freeport together with business clusters across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex to create a regional innovation ecosystem in the East of England.

Facilitates collaboration:

- Between our globally leading research and our business base
- Between the innovation hubs and their innovation clusters, to share best practice and engage in new innovative activity
- Across the UK's regions, building on existing cross-cluster relationships formed around energy, maritime, space, agri-tech, and manufacturing and engineering
- By connecting the dots between innovation hubs, businesses and the region's support networks and organisations
- Through simplifying the business and innovation support landscape for businesses working closely with key innovation programmes and partners such as the Innovation Grant Mentoring Project and Innovate UK Business Growth and investor networks (e.g., Anglia Capital Group and Oxford Innovation Finance)

Drives cross-sector innovation:

- Linking up key business clusters with the innovation assets and key emerging technologies in the region to transform productivity and deliver the transition to Net Zero
- The programme links together key technologies with Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex's strategic and cross sectoral opportunities across industries including agri-food, aquaculture, biotech, creative industries, digital, fintech, health and social care, hydrogen, manufacturing, marine science, offshore wind, space and the visitor economy.



Regional capabilities

Universities /

Anglia Ruskin University, University of Essex, University of Suffolk, Norwich University of the Arts, University of East Anglia

Research Institutes /

Norwich Research Park (The Sainsbury Laboratory, Earlham Institute, John Innes Centre, Quadram Institute, BBRO, Tyndall Centre).

Catapults /

Offshore Renewable Energy, Cell & Gene Therapy, Satellite Applications.

Assets & Facilities /

Immersive Visualisation Simulation Lab, XR Lab, Gemini Facility & Quantum Optics Lab

Key clusters /

Space, Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Agri-Tech, Biotech, Fintech, Creative Industries, Digital Technology.

Our Innovation Ecosystem

Innovation Ecosystem

Norwich Research Park

Norwich Research Park provides access to a specialist skills pool, and opportunities to collaborate and win global business at a unique research campus environment, in the UK, including four specialist research institutes – the John Innes Centre, The Sainsbury Laboratory, the Earlham Institute and the Quadram Institute, as well as the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and the University of East Anglia.

A new long-term investment partnership with real estate investment experts Vengrove who are funding the construction of state-of-the-art buildings, with development underway in 2025. It is clear that the site is set to expand, attracting further high-growth businesses that can benefit from the campus' key attributes:

One of only five Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) campuses in the UK – a profile raising address and valuable R&D facility.

A unique research campus – join a powerful cluster of activity with access to a specialist skills pool and over 30 technology platforms and specialist facilities

A campus-wide Enterprise Strategy – to maximise the societal impact of research activity and support companies to spin-out, spin-in and start-up, attracting significant pre seed, seed and growth investment

An established business community – with business- to-business networking, industry events and a sports and social programme

World class facilities – New buildings with state-of-the-art lab and office accommodation and a £317.7m net zero carbon-ready laboratory and ground-breaking plant and innovation facility being built for the John Innes Centre and The Sainsbury Laboratory.

On-site amenities – include a successful nursery, restaurants and coffee bars, meeting rooms, large terrace, and an impressive 'Sportspark' managed by University of East Anglia.

Anglia Innovation Partnership – an experienced campus management organisation, co-ordinating campus-wide activity to create a global destination for businesses, enterprise and research

An on-site management team – to work alongside you and respond to your needs on a daily basis

Flexible property options – to meet your business needs now and in the future including easy in, easy out and virtual tenancies.

Great location for access to Cambridge, London and Europe – close proximity to Norwich International Airport and direct train line to London Liverpool Street.



Adastral Park

Technological innovation comes to the fore at the globally-significant science and technology campus at Adastral Park, just outside Ipswich.

A centre for technological research and innovation for 100 years, and at the heart of the UK's digital ecosystem for the last 50 years, it is currently home to BT's global R&D headquarters, numerous ICT companies, and a University of Suffolk campus.

The park's high-tech business cluster – called Innovation Martlesham – consists of companies that work either in or with the ICT/Digital sector. They range from global organisations to a diverse collection of dynamic SMEs and innovative start-ups serving a multitude of sectors.

In early 2021, the University of Suffolk and BT opened a £9.6m DigiTech centre on the park and is a Centre of Excellence

in digital skills for teaching and learning, research and knowledge exchange. More recently, a groundbreaking space sector project led by the University of Suffolk will see the creation of the UK's largest indoor free-space optical research test range and a SatComms connection from Adastral Park to the Scottish optical ground station.

Our mission is to transform cutting-edge research into real-world technologies that empower our customers and strengthen the UK's digital future – securely and sustainably.

50 years
*at the heart of the
UK's digital ecosystem*



Arise Innovation Hubs

Arise Innovation Hub (Chelmsford)

Arise Chelmsford is an innovation hub for businesses specialising in the health, performance and wellbeing sectors, and is part of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU).

It is located on ARU's riverside campus in Chelmsford, next door to the state-of-the-art School of Medicine and benefiting from the excellent amenities and facilities of this modern university.

Arise Chelmsford opened its doors in 2014 as a partnership between ARU and Essex County Council, with support from Chelmsford City Council, to promote business growth in Essex. It comprises more than 10,000 sq ft of office and innovation space over three floors and is currently home to more than 45 businesses specialising in the health, performance and wellbeing sectors.

Its business accommodation offers meeting rooms, a kitchen area, and innovation space, bringing together academics, researchers, and students, with access to supporting facilities.

Arise Innovation Hub (Harlow)

Arise Innovation Hub, Harlow opened in 2022 and is located on Harlow Innovation Park. It is ideally positioned for those wanting to be part of a growing science community that is well connected to research clusters in both London and Cambridge.

Funded by ARU and Essex County Council, with support from Harlow Council, the £6 million building provides 10,000 sq ft of office space and innovation over two floors. This includes professional meeting rooms, a welcome area, kitchenette and collaboration spaces.



Arise Harlow is also connected to ARU's academic expertise, interns, live briefs and knowledge exchange. Currently, it is home to 25 innovative and entrepreneurial businesses, specialising in the health, performance and wellbeing sectors.

It also benefits from strong community networks and high-quality digital infrastructure, as well as Harlow's rail, road and air connections. The M11 and M25 motorway networks are nearby, with London Stansted Airport less than 20 minutes away.

Space Enterprise Lab

The Space Enterprise Lab (SEL) is just one of fourteen Satellite Applications Catapult labs in the country managed by Space East.

Located in the heart of BT's Adastral Park the SEL brings communities together in a collaborative and innovative way, providing use of a large working space with full use of interactive touch screens and a virtual canvas with full connectivity capabilities.

Its innovative and inclusive services facilitate the virtual delivery of meetings, business sprints, user engagement spark sessions and other services such as virtual whiteboards and built-in video conferencing, for everyone within the UK space sector to use.



OrbisEnergy

OrbisEnergy is a clean energy business innovation and incubation hub at PowerPark in Lowestoft.

OrbisEnergy is the spiritual home for clean energy businesses in the region, providing an inspiring base and a network of energy professionals from renewable energy developers, innovative supply chain companies and the regional office of the UK's innovation and research centre for offshore renewable energy, the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (ORE).

Together with partners like the East of England Energy Group and East Wind, we provide the space, ideas and network to drive energy innovation with an overarching mission to secure a lasting legacy of sustainable jobs and a thriving business community from this intergenerational energy opportunity.



Innovation Centre Knowledge Gateway

Set in mature parkland on our Colchester Campus, since 2010 the Knowledge Gateway has been growing apace, after an initial £13m investment to build roads and infrastructure.

Today, it's the home to SME hotspot Parkside Office Village, with more than 20 resident companies and another phase underway, plus our £21m carbon-neutral Essex Business School which opened in 2015.

The Knowledge Gateway's Innovation Centre provides the space plus the vital hands-on support to help 50 start-ups and small businesses scale-up and succeed plus it is also home to a state-of-the-art creative digital studio, Studio X.

CEFAS

The UK's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) employs some 500 scientists and technologists at its headquarters in Lowestoft.

Cefas conducts innovative, world-leading research to achieve a sustainable future for rivers, seas and the ocean. Cefas provides data, evidence and advice to policy-makers in the UK government and overseas partners to inform management measures that helps us adapt to and mitigate climate change effects, including effective conservation and sustainable harvesting of marine resources.

Acknowledging that nature recovery goes hand-in-hand with food and energy security, thriving climate resilient industries and human well-being, this work links natural and social sciences with economics.

Cefas is working with local partners, including universities, to ensure the region presents a strongly collaborative marine science and research community.

Cefas' natural scientists, economists and social scientists work on tackling the world's pressing environmental problems including adapting to a changing climate, recovering biodiversity and providing safe food from water. Supporting both UK and International governments to fulfil their commitment to restoring nature for a healthier and more prosperous future.

Innovation drives their solution-driven work utilising a wide array of surveillance, mapping and sampling technologies to collect data, converting it to the diverse range of evidence needed to support their expert advice.

Whilst working with partners across the Eastern region, UK and internationally, spanning government, maritime and fishing industry, non-governmental, research and academic sectors. Increasingly, working to engage a greater diversity of communities to inspire the next generation of scientists.



EpiCentre

The EpiCentre is committed to supporting innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups to build, develop and grow.

Conveniently located at the intersection of Cambridge, Suffolk and Essex, The EpiCentre is the destination for dynamic businesses looking for office space (private, shared and virtual), lab space and meeting space.

The modern and fully serviced facilities at The EpiCentre supports tenants in sectors from gene and cell therapies, ground-breaking antiviral discoveries through to world-leading multilingual AI character avatars capable of real time conversations.

The attraction of flexible facilities and dedicated business support, in a hub that brings together like-minded individuals, is helping drive economic growth and contributing to the East of England ecosystem.

Business support is included – the resident Innovation Director is here to provide commercial guidance, development support, access to networks and business tools to the companies within The EpiCentre. There is no fixed formula to the business support and not limited by time; it is there when a business needs it, to help unblock and unlock the next stages of growth and development. The EpiCentre is run by Oxford Innovation, giving tenant companies access to the wider national network of Innovation Directors - all of whom have lived experience across different sectors.

Launchpad

Launchpad is home to a growing community of innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses shaping the future of South Essex.

Located at the heart of the Southend Airport Business Park, Launchpad provides flexible co-working and office space, fully serviced meeting rooms, and an inspiring environment for collaboration and growth.

Our community includes ambitious start-ups, scale-ups, and established organisations from a wide range of sectors, from creative industries and media through to technology, professional services, and community organisations. By bringing together such a diverse mix of businesses, Launchpad creates opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation across industries.

Wrap-around business support and access to expert advisors

As well as providing high-quality facilities, Launchpad offers wrap-around business support, including access to expert advisors, peer-to-peer learning programmes, and regular events designed to connect people and spark ideas.

We actively support collaboration between businesses, education, and the public sector, helping to create a vibrant and sustainable innovation ecosystem in Essex.

Launchpad is not just a place to work; it is a catalyst for growth and a hub for collaboration. By fostering a culture of innovation and community, Launchpad helps businesses develop, connect, and thrive.

Hethel Engineering Centre

Hethel Engineering Centre (HEC) is the flagship site of Hethel Innovation and serves as its head office.

Located near Norwich, HEC is home to around 50 innovative businesses, all operating in or supporting the engineering and manufacturing sectors. With approximately 300 individuals working on-site, it's a vibrant hub of technical talent and entrepreneurial activity.

HEC offers a variety of flexible workspaces, ranging from hot-desking and small offices to large offices and workshops. Additionally, there are bookable meeting rooms, conferencing facilities, and communal areas, including the Coffee Forum.

Conveniently accessible from Norwich, HEC is well-connected via several main transport routes and provides ample parking. Regular food vendors are on-site, and community activities are frequently organised, making it a vibrant and inviting environment for businesses to thrive.



Broadland Food Innovation Centre

The Broadland Food Innovation Centre, based on the Food Enterprise Park near Honingham is a compelling combination of space, support and community which has proven to be an effective model to help food and drink innovators scale up their operations and secure their commercial futures. The Centre has become the place for a community of like-minded businesses, food and drink entrepreneurs and buyers seeking new ideas and products.

Owned and operated by Broadland District Council, this is a secure site with 13 food grade units, sensory room and test kitchens and conference rooms. Neighbours include Condimentum and Fischer Farms and the site also benefits from connections with and proximity to, Norwich Research Park.

*Access to
advice, insights
and specialist
expertise*



Scottow Enterprise Park

Scottow Enterprise Park (SEP) is one of the key sites where Hethel Innovation supports SMEs across the region. Spanning 600 acres in North Norfolk, SEP combines industrial, office, and open spaces with unique heritage assets, including a runway and four aircraft hangars.

With a strong STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Manufacturing) focus, it is home to businesses delivering everything from large-scale film production, space and defence and clean energy generation.

*A unique
heritage assets,
including a
runway and four
aircraft hangars*



Stowmarket Innovation Gateway

Stowmarket Innovation Gateway is an international and regional hub for digital innovation and tech convergence — supporting the development of skills in AI and emerging technologies to drive sustainable growth in sectors such as clean energy, agritech, and ports & logistics.

Developed by Mid Suffolk District Council and funded through both the council and Freeport East, and operated by Hethel Innovation, Stowmarket Innovation Gateway is a new kind of hub for businesses who want to build the future—bringing together high-spec offices, hands-on innovation support, access to a broader network of business partners and a Skills Hub that readies local people for tomorrow's jobs. Whether you're starting up, scaling, exploring new technology or looking for an ideal first landing point in

the UK, Stowmarket Innovation Gateway gives you the environment, expertise, and community to move faster and go further.

Located on the Gateway 14 business park (part of Freeport East, one of the UK's leading Industrial Strategy Zones),

the Centre is working directly with educational partners such as University of Suffolk, University of Essex, West Suffolk College, Suffolk New College and Colchester Institute to deliver business-led training to upskill our regional workforce.



Below: Stowmarket Innovation Gateway

Freeport East

Freeport East is one of the UK's leading Industrial Strategy Zones and benefits from strong government backing and investment incentives. Positioned on the east coast of England and encompassing the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich, it serves as a hub for global trade and investment, as well as a hotbed for innovation.

Freeport East prides itself on building strong industry partnerships and helping ambitious domestic and international businesses of all sizes develop their footprint in the UK. It has particular strengths in priority Industrial Strategy sectors, including Advanced Manufacturing, Digital & Technologies, Clean Energy Industries and Defence. It also has a global reputation for excellence in the Ports & Logistics sectors and a bespoke freezone customs regime to support trade.

Freeport East has three main development sites that offer a suite of investment incentives. These are located at the Port of Felixstowe, Harwich International Port and Gateway 14 near Stowmarket. All are within easy reach of London, Cambridge and Norwich and several world class Universities and research institutes.

Freeport East is an active investor in new centres of innovation as well as attracting new innovation funding to the area, in sectors such as green hydrogen, offshore wind, maritime, agritech, robotics and digital. Freeport East is involved in a number of innovation collaborations that have secured millions of pounds of Government funding to progress R&D opportunities. It has also created its own Clean Growth Fund and Skills & Innovation Fund that have backed high-potential local businesses and invested in wider skills and start-up support programmes.

A hotbed
*for global trade, investment
and innovation*

The Harwich Clean Energy & Maritime Cluster builds on well-established regional strengths in offshore wind, clean fuels, maritime, logistics, and clean energy engineering. The newly-opened Freeport East Harwich Innovation Hub provides new space to support emerging demands and has attracted tenants in the energy and digital sectors. New manufacturing facilities and workshops are planned to cater for further opportunities as well as complement the proposed Green Energy Hub at Bathside Bay.

These sites will drive forward economic growth in the area whilst also attracting new investment sources and international partnerships.

Thames Freeport

Thames Freeport is shaping the Thames Estuary into a next generation growth zone, where global enterprise meets innovation. Centred on the Port of Tilbury, Ford Dagenham and London Gateway, it brings together business, research and investment to grow new industries and future skills.

The cluster drives innovation in hydrogen, low-carbon fuels, circular economy systems and sustainable construction, supporting pilots and demonstrators across Essex and London.

Through its Innovation Labs programme, Thames Freeport supports collaborations between industry, universities and start-ups to turn ideas into commercial reality, from green logistics to AI-enabled manufacturing and healthcare provision.

By investing in infrastructure, partnerships and talent, Thames Freeport is making Essex a testbed for the industries of the future, a platform for growth built to last.



King's Lynn Enterprise Park

The King's Lynn Enterprise Park is an exciting development in West Norfolk. What began as the largest brownfield site in the East of England is being transformed into a modern employment space, where high-growth businesses can achieve their potential.

The Enterprise Park is already home to the award-winning King's Lynn Innovation Centre and is part of a thriving network of Space to Innovate enterprise zones across Norfolk and Suffolk. A multi-sector site, it will build on regional strengths, skills, and supply chains in advanced manufacturing and agrifood, as well as growing areas such as medtech. This approach will encourage cluster activity and strengthen collaborations between science, research, and business.

Establishing the Park as an incubator for innovation and development will not only boost the regional economy but will also help to pioneer new ideas that benefit society as a whole. The site boasts strong road and rail connections to London, Norwich, Cambridge, and Peterborough, as well as access to global markets via the Port of King's Lynn. A new road has been installed to provide the Park with direct access, and it will also host a new multi-modal Active Travel Hub for the town.

Ambitions for the King's Lynn Enterprise Park go far beyond the traditional business park. We are building an integrated community where members can live and work sustainably and enjoy a better quality of life. There are a range of plots available across our 15-hectare site, with planning permission already secured for a mixture of general industrial, light industrial, and office units.

*Far Left: Thames Freeport
Left: King's Lynn Enterprise Park*



Innovation Ecosystem

Innovation Labs Group

The Innovation Labs Group currently have sites across Norfolk and Suffolk, with more planned locations across both counties.

Their entrepreneurial members can access all sites and the business support package that comes with their membership. This includes access to a business mentor, Business Development Manager and community expertise. The Innovation Labs ecosystem includes a number of support businesses, such as usability experts, web and graphic designers, coders and other industry specialists.

The Innovation Labs team is currently delivering the Future Tech Programme in Suffolk supporting early-stage tech founders access support, workspace and funding readiness guidance.

Innovation Ecosystem

Menta / @inc

A network of co-working spaces – including locations at Bury St Edmunds and Southwold. Encompassing MENTA's business support, @inc offers newly established creative workspaces for freelancers, small businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

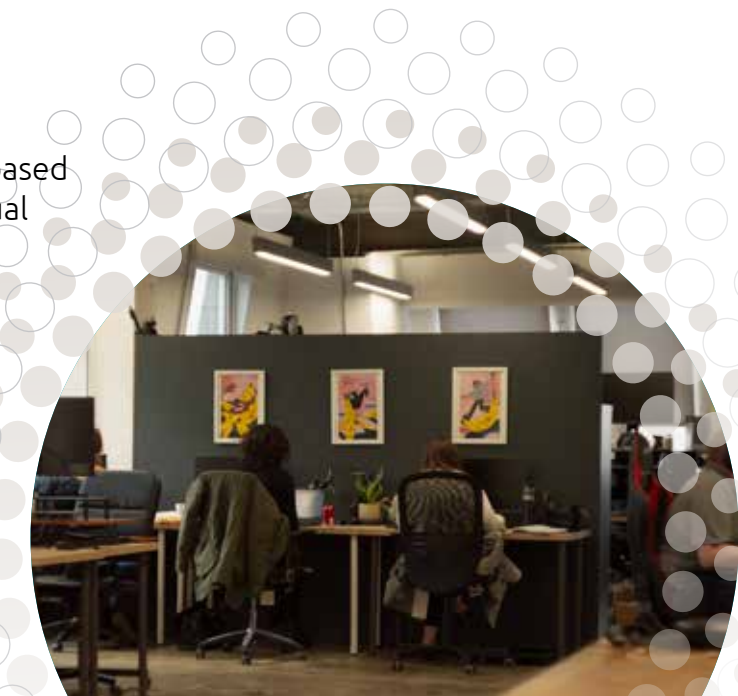
The @inc business model is all-inclusive and supports a flexible approach to doing business, whilst developing skills, enterprise, and employability opportunities.

The easy-to-use model utilises app-based technology so users can pay an annual membership fee or pay on the day for using the facilities, which have been designed to support modern working practices and feature collaborative workspaces, private 'Zoom Rooms', and Meeting Rooms for individual or small group working.

Below: Akcela, Norwich's start-up incubator

@inc Southwold introduces a unique collaboration – combining the innovative co-working @inc model with MENTA's established property units-to-let approach.

This hybrid model offers both flexible co-working options and longer-term business space, giving local enterprises greater choice in how they work and grow.



Innovation Ecosystem

Akcela Ventures

Akcela is Norwich's start-up incubator, helping founders turn early ideas into revenue and investment.

Akcela sits at the heart of the local start-up scene, providing a city-centre workspace, coaching, and a supportive community to accelerate growth. Founders benefit from practical resources and guidance in building teams, products, and sales. The incubator's team have first-hand experience in starting, scaling, and selling businesses. They help founders with defining vision and mission, achieving product-market fit, developing products, raising finance, acquiring customers, and scaling teams.

Akcela isn't just a workspace but a partner that stands alongside founders during the toughest start-up moments. With a commitment to inclusivity, it invites people from all backgrounds to join its community, collaborate with peers, and build businesses faster.

Framlingham Technology Centre

Following a transformative £720,000 refurbishment, Framlingham Technology Centre has emerged as one of Suffolk's most forward-looking business hubs.

Purpose-built to support innovation, collaboration and growth, the Centre offers more than just modern offices and unlimited internet connectivity, it's a place where ideas take root, teams connect, and local enterprise finds room to flourish.

The Centre plays an active role in research and development, with a strong focus on practical innovation. Over 50 patents have been developed by just one customer alone, highlighting the Centre's contribution to real-world problem solving and technical progress.

- **Flexible Workspaces** From serviced offices, workshops and meeting rooms to virtual tenancies, the Centre caters to businesses at every stage, whether launching, scaling or consolidating
- **FramFlex Coworking** A new offering designed for freelancers, remote workers and small teams seeking a professional, flexible base without long-term commitment
- **Reliable Connectivity** With dedicated Docklands internet circuits, tenants benefit from fast, secure connections, ideal for data-heavy operations and hybrid working.
- **Strategic Location** Situated just off the A12 and close to Ipswich, the Centre is perfectly placed for businesses linked to Sizewell C or those seeking a base in East Suffolk.

Over 50 patents have been developed by just one customer alone, highlighting the Centre's contribution to real-world problem solving and technical progress.



Designed for growth

Workspaces are available on flexible terms, allowing businesses to adapt as their needs evolve. Tenants can move between office suites with ease, and meeting rooms and event spaces are available for hire by the wider community, making the Centre a valuable resource for local organisations and networks.

Framlingham Technology Centre is built on practical support, not flashy promises. Tenants benefit from modern facilities, adaptable terms and a welcoming environment that encourages productivity and connection. It's a place where businesses can get on with the job, and still feel part of something local, grounded and forward-thinking.

Norwich Digital Hub

The Norwich Digital Hub offers a modern, welcoming space designed for technology and digital businesses.

Whether you're looking for office space, meeting rooms, or a venue to host events, we provide flexible solutions to suit your needs.

Our mission is to create an environment where people can collaborate, exchange ideas, and grow their businesses. Beyond workspace, we actively support companies by helping them connect with the right partners, access support services, and build valuable networks within the digital community.



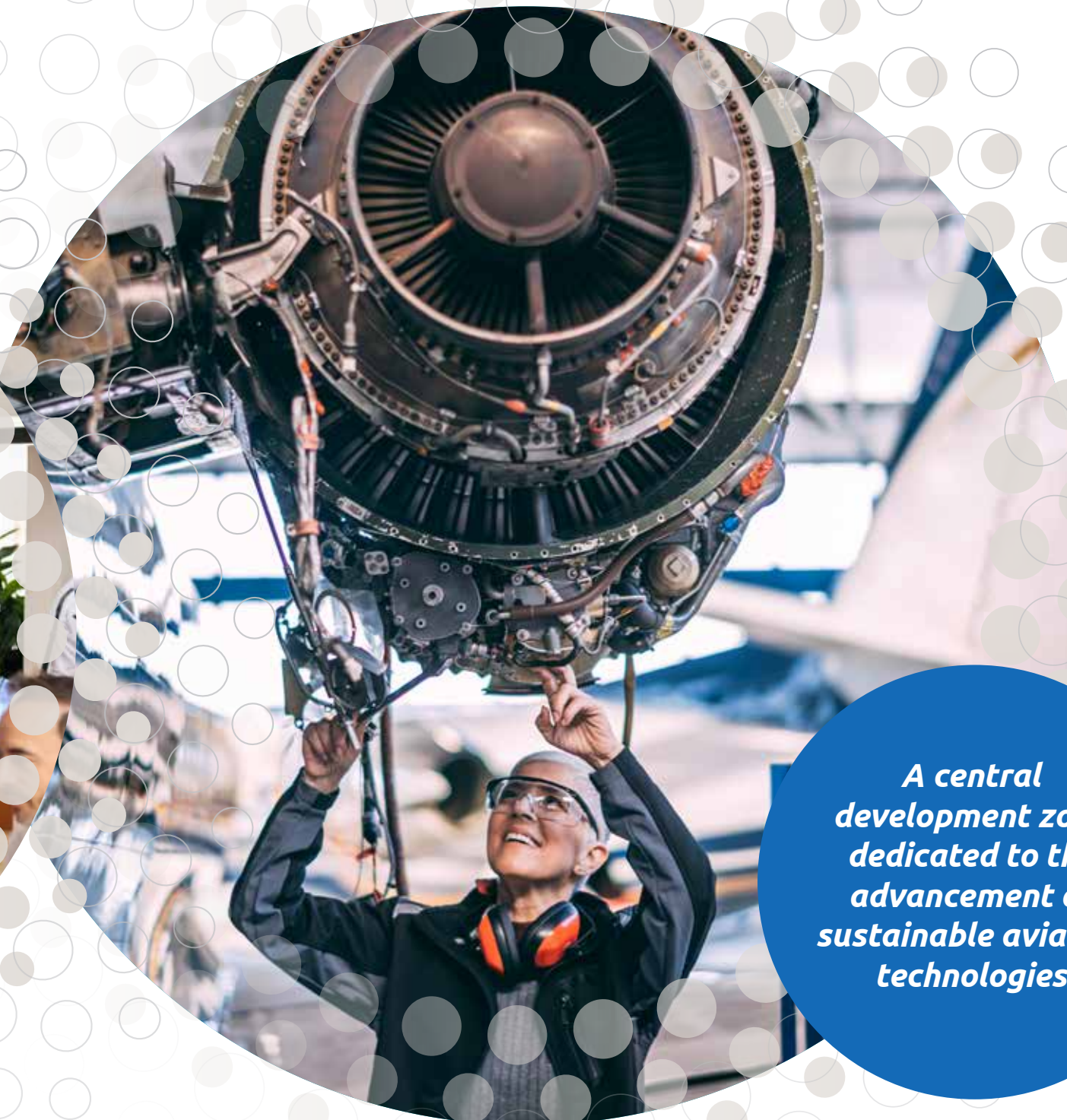
Evotech

As the region continues to grow, it faces a unique challenge: how to unlock the potential of its people, businesses, and communities while overcoming the limitations of traditional infrastructure.

Aviation has long been a transformative force, breaking down geographical barriers and connecting people and businesses in ways never before imagined.

Aviation East represents a bold new vision for the region, leveraging the power of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to create faster, greener, and more accessible connectivity solutions.

At the heart of this initiative is the creation of the Evotech Innovation Hub at Norwich Airport. This will become a central development zone dedicated to the advancement of sustainable aviation technologies, supporting new platform operators and ensuring that the region becomes a leading force in the next generation of air travel.



A central development zone dedicated to the advancement of sustainable aviation technologies

The Digital Forum

The Digital Forum is Colchester's new home for innovation, supporting digital entrepreneurs, creative professionals, tech start-ups and growing businesses.

Located in the city centre, the hub offers nine private studios, a coworking space, flexible hot-desking and designated desks for small teams. It also provides a fully equipped executive boardroom and ground floor event space.

The workspace features a 10Gbps fibre connection, high-speed Wi-Fi, video-conferencing and AV equipment, alongside comfortable breakout areas and an onsite café.

Powered by Colbea's business support expertise, the Digital Forum also hosts workshops,

networking events and digital skills development, helping businesses access advice, make connections and identify new opportunities.

Whether you are a freelancer, start-up or established digital business, the Digital Forum provides the workspace, technology and community to help your ideas grow.



Ongar Business Centre

The Ongar Business Centre is a long-established enterprise and innovation hub supporting start-ups, microbusinesses and growing SMEs in rural and semi-rural Essex. The Centre provides a flexible and affordable base for businesses across a wide range of sectors, combining professional workspace with a supportive environment that enables businesses to develop, innovate and grow sustainably.

Operated by Let's Do Business Group on behalf of Essex County Council, Ongar Business Centre offers a mix of serviced offices, workshops and meeting space, alongside high-quality on-site management and access to wider business support services. The Centre is designed to support businesses at every stage of their journey, whether they are newly established, scaling



operations or looking to diversify and innovate.

Given its central location within Essex, the Ongar Business Centre plays an important role in connecting local businesses to regional innovation assets, support programmes and networks, including access to specialist advice, events and peer-to-peer collaboration. By providing flexible space, practical support and strong links into the wider innovation ecosystem, Ongar Business Centre helps businesses build resilience, improve productivity and unlock new growth opportunities in the local economy.

The Coval Workspace

The Coval Workspace, which opened in May 2025, with Let's Do Business Group appointed by Chelmsford City Council to manage and operate the facility on a day-to-day basis. The Coval is an affordable, productive and inspiring working environment that supports business growth targeting small businesses, start-ups and independent professionals.

The Coval was designed to combine coworking facilities with smaller private offices, allowing businesses to establish themselves in a professional setting while retaining the flexibility to expand as their operational needs grow. The Workspace provides a collaborative community, encouraging interaction, networking and peer support alongside access to workspace.



Located within Chelmsford City Council's Civic Centre at Coval Lane, it benefits from a central location with strong transport links and accessibility, making it an attractive base for businesses operating within Chelmsford and the wider Essex area. The Workspace also offers affordable event and meeting spaces, hosting networking events, workshops, and coworking days that bring together local professionals, businesses, and like-minded individuals.

NAAME

NAAME (New Anglia Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering) is the recognised sector group for manufacturing and engineering organisations across Norfolk and Suffolk.

NAAME offers a free to join membership and works across the triple helix of industry, academia and civic support to help organisations achieve sustainable economic benefit. Our Manufacturing Groups provide a trusted forum where sector professionals can connect, share ideas and challenges, exchange best practice, and engage in peer-to-peer learning—within a culture of mutual support and encouragement.



Space East

Space East is the UK's newest space cluster and brings together leaders from across industry, research and Government in the East of England to develop and champion exciting new opportunities in space technology.

The applications of space and satellite technologies stretch across the region's leading industries including food and agriculture, offshore wind, coastal and marine science, health and social care, and transport and logistics.

We are already leaders in areas such as artificial intelligence, 5G communications, microgravity R&D, agri-tech, life sciences and health tech, all offering exciting potential to unlock space-related commercial opportunities.



Creative East

Creative East is an industry led investment readiness and business support programme for the creative sector in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

This free to access programme provides expert advice and guidance to help ambitious creative industry founders gain the knowledge, experience and network they need to create investment opportunities and grow their business.



EastWind

The EastWind Cluster represents and provides a single voice to operators, developers, local government, and the supply chain across the Eastern region.

As a voice for the region's offshore wind sector the cluster raises awareness of the industry and the opportunities it presents the wider community both locally and nationally.

The Cluster presents a platform for anyone interested in the sector to join and support the industry's growth.



Hydrogen East

Hydrogen East is the East of England's hydrogen cluster, convening industry, ports, infrastructure owners, local authorities, academia and innovators to accelerate real-world low-carbon hydrogen projects.

It supports its members through connection and collaboration, market and policy insight, events and working groups, and by promoting regional opportunities across production, storage, distribution and end-use. Its focus is on practical delivery, helping partners to develop investable projects, strengthen supply chains, and unlock economic growth and skills for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.



Agri-TechE

Agri-TechE brings together organisations from across agriculture, technology and science into one unique community.

We represent thought-leaders and industry drivers, cutting-edge technology developers and innovative farmers, with strong connections to policy makers, the research community, influencers, and global agri-tech clusters.



Tastebuds Collective

Tastebuds is an award-winning collective for food and drink innovators, a trade membership organisation connecting businesses with innovation and research, partnering to support growth in the industry.

Tastebuds emerged as a response to the region's growing demand for resources, networking opportunities, and commercial collaboration, aiming to unite food and drink businesses, academia and research along with the public sector under a common platform.



Tech East

Tech East supports and promotes the technology sector across Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Our mission is to help tech businesses grow, thrive, and gain national and international recognition.

We connect founders, innovators, and investors, champion the region's tech talent, and foster collaboration across tech, business, and education.



EEEGR

Launched on 29th March 2001, the East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) is a trade body representing the energy sector and its supply chain in the East of England.

With over 200 member businesses ranging from large developers spanning multiple countries through to local supply chain businesses employing just a few people, their goal is to represent the entirety of the region's energy sector across Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, no matter how large or how small.



Aviation East

As the region continues to grow, it faces a unique challenge: how to unlock the potential of its people, businesses, and communities while overcoming the limitations of traditional infrastructure.

Aviation East represents a bold vision for the region—leveraging the power of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to create faster, greener, and more accessible connectivity solutions.

At the heart of this initiative is the creation of a network of Innovation Hubs with the first site at Norwich Airport. This will become a central development zone dedicated to the advancement of sustainable aviation technologies, supporting new platform operators and ensuring that the region becomes a leading force in the next generation of air travel.



Marine Science Technology Sector Council (MSTSC)

Created for companies involved in marine, science, and technology, this council has recently expanded to cover an additional three specialist areas: agriculture, aquaculture, and space. This ensures a complete representation of the services contributing to the industry in the East of England.

The steering group is made up of industry professionals from private and public sector companies including Cefas, plus academic institutions such as the University of East Anglia.

Members of the sector council include global survey providers, world-class academic institutions, and many SMEs providing innovative and bespoke solutions to the industry.



CleanTech East

CleanTech East is a dynamic regional network of forward-thinking and game-changing organisations committed to accelerating the clean technology transition across the East of England.

We bring together innovators, industry leaders, researchers, policymakers and strategic partners to tackle some of the most pressing environmental and energy challenges of our time and to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, high impact economy in the East of England.

We champion practical collaboration across clean energy, circular economy, sustainable transport, smart infrastructure, and nature-based solutions. Our mission is to unlock regional strengths and connect the right people to deliver real-world, scalable solutions that create jobs, attract investment, and drive net-zero innovation. Together, we are building a greener, smarter, and more resilient future right here in the East.



East Regional Defence & Security Cluster (EastRDSC)

The East of England is home to a dynamic and rapidly evolving defence and security ecosystem.

EastRDSC brings together SMEs, academia, government, and industry leaders to foster innovation, accelerate collaboration, and unlock new opportunities across the region.

Backed by the Ministry of Defence and the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA), EastRDSC is your gateway to the UK's defence and security innovation landscape



Innovators of our success...



An Innovator of our success

University of East Anglia (UEA)

Innovation through development of new ideas, methods, processes and models, and their translation into meaningful outcomes for society, has always been at the very heart of UEA. We find answers and innovative solutions to some of the world's most complex problems.

Our three strategic research and innovation themes are central to the region's innovation community:

- **ClimateUEA** is concerned with our collective climate story during this critical decade for our planet. We have led the way in climate research for 50 years, breaking new ground in understanding the global climate system and its interaction with society.

UEA Ziggurats

**UEA is ranked in
the UK top 20 for
research quality, and
its research is sixth
most highly cited
in the UK.**

- **CreativeUEA** was born out of our belief that creativity is central to our human existence; it builds on UEA's longstanding culture of creativity to deliver new areas of interdisciplinary research, innovation, knowledge exchange and impact.
- **HealthUEA** is centred around our deep-rooted reputation for high quality research, innovation and impact in medicine, health and life sciences; it seeks to address crucial global health challenges and their social and economic underpinnings.

Specialist facilities at UEA

Productivity East is a state-of-the-art regional hub for engineering, technology and management. Designed to enable regional engineering and manufacturing businesses to work alongside world-class researchers and students, assisting them to discover practical solutions to productivity challenges and support the development of prototype designs and innovative products through our services including our 3D printing lab.

Scientific Analytical Lab facilities comprise 7 instrument platforms: bio-imaging, structural imaging, mass spectrometry, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), X-Ray, elemental analysis, stable isotope analysis. The labs are available for use by businesses and researchers and are available to support industry partners in agriculture, environmental monitoring, engineering, food and drink amongst others.

Our experienced team can provide an analytical service and can work with you to design bespoke methods for you.

MoveX biomechanics and physiology lab provides state-of-the-art physiology and movement analysis within our core areas of focus: research, education, clinical applications and commercial consultancy. Our team of experts is dedicated to helping individuals and organisations improve their health, wellbeing and function, by enhancing overall performance. We offer evidence-based solutions.

Whether you're an athlete looking to optimise your training regimen, a healthcare professional seeking to improve patient outcomes, or a business leader interested in reducing workplace injuries or testing and evidencing your product, our biomechanical assessments, performance tests and consultancy services can help you achieve your goals.

The Enterprise Centre

A thriving business hub on the University of East Anglia campus, The Enterprise Centre is home to a community of 175 businesses.

With a focus on start-ups and small to medium size enterprises, it has been an inspirational and supportive environment to businesses since opening 10 years ago.

High quality workspace is offered on a flexible basis. Members of the community can easily move between packages as their requirements and situation change, helping small businesses meet the demands facing them today.

Facilities are also available to the wider community and businesses for hire for meetings and events. The multi-award-winning Centre continues to secure fresh accolades and is proud to be one of the greenest buildings in Europe.

Enterprise Centre
© Denisa Ilie



**Enabling
businesses to
work alongside
world-class
researchers
and students**



Productivity East

Opened in September 2021, Productivity East is a state-of-the-art regional hub for engineering, technology and management.

Based on the University of East Anglia Campus, Productivity East was devised in conjunction with New Anglia Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (NAAME) and supported by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

Productivity East enables regional engineering and manufacturing businesses to work alongside world-class researchers and students, assisting them to discover practical solutions to productivity challenges. Together we explore new ideas to develop prototype designs and creative innovative products and services.

An Innovator of our success

Norwich University of the Arts

Norwich University of the Arts has helped implement design and creative thinking for 175 years.

It offers 27 undergraduate courses and 16 postgraduate courses specialising in art, design, creating computing, architecture, media and fashion. Norwich University of the Arts is the only creative arts university to earn a triple gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework for student experience, teaching, and outcomes.

Norwich University of the Arts drives innovation through its two institutes: the Institute of Creative Technology and the Institute for Sustainable Worlds. The Creative Technology institute explores the integration of emerging technology – such as AR, VR, Virtual Production and AI – and is home to the UKRI funded (CResCa world-class lab) facility, the Immersive Visualisation and Simulation Lab (IVSL).

Norwich University of the Arts Immersive Visualisation and Simulation Lab

Meanwhile, the Sustainable Worlds institute tackles global challenges by exploring sustainable design and ethical practices.

Together, these institutes foster interdisciplinary collaboration, blending art, science, and social responsibility to solve complex real-world problems.



An Innovator of our success

University of Suffolk

The University of Suffolk is a business embracing organisation committed to helping local companies grow through innovation, enterprise and knowledge exchange.

You can access the best in graduate talent and academic expertise here to accelerate your growth and development. We can provide access to students, graduates, apprentices, state of the art facilities, The Business Solutions Centre at University of Suffolk, meeting room hire, business networks, funding opportunities, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, CPD and short courses, events and enterprise skills development, consultancy, and collaborative research to name but some of the opportunities available when you choose to work with University of Suffolk.

The University of the Year, from WHATUNI Student Choice Awards 2025.

access the best in graduate talent and academic expertise here to accelerate your growth and development

Above: University of Suffolk

Anglia Ruskin University

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is a centre for applied research and innovation across Cambridge, Chelmsford and Peterborough. Our mission is to connect academic excellence with real-world impact — supporting startups, SMEs, public sector and community organisations through specialist facilities, expertise and collaborative research.

Our accolades include the 2023 The Times Higher University of the Year, winner of UK Social Mobility Awards and recognition of our outstanding commitment to enterprise and entrepreneurship through the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education Entrepreneurial University Award (NCEE) in 2024.

We work across three central research and innovation themes, health, performance and wellbeing, safe and inclusive communities and sustainable futures.

Addressing real world challenges to create positive outcomes for individuals and society, locally and globally.

Innovation through Facilities

ARU opens its resource base – labs, specialist equipment, and technical support – to external collaborators. Our key capabilities include:

- **Diagnostics & Life Sciences** from PCR assay development and molecular diagnostics to formulation support
- **Human Performance & Vision Science** biomechanics, motion capture, optics, retinal imaging

- **Clinical Trials Unit (CTU)** design, management and analysis of interventional and observational studies, ensuring regulatory and ethical compliance

By combining access to equipment with in-house technical and academic expertise, ARU enables partners to validate ideas, test prototypes, generate data and accelerate route to market.



Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGT Catapult)

Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGT Catapult) is an independent innovation and technology organisation committed to the advancement of the cell and gene therapy industry. It has a vision for a thriving industry delivering life-changing advanced therapies to the world.

CGT Catapult's Braintree Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MIC) is focused on supporting the development of manufacturing operations for advanced therapies. The 4,627m² facility is designed to accelerate Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) manufacturing operations for advanced therapies at clinical and commercial scales. With MHRA regulatory licensure secured in 2024, the centre offers segregated cleanroom modules, state-of-the-art equipment, and pharmaceutical-grade quality control systems, supported by a team of GMP-trained experts.

University of Essex

The University of Essex is a powerhouse of innovation and recognised as one of the leading universities for working with business and other sectors to put its research strengths into action. A world-leader in authoritative social science research, Essex is also at the forefront of developments in artificial intelligence and data science, while its life scientists are pioneering crop research to ensure future food security.

The University has a proud tradition of connecting businesses and researchers to co-create transformative solutions in fields like robotics and AI, agritech, and health and wellbeing, driving progress across the UK and beyond.

Essex's vibrant research ecosystem includes the renowned Institute for Analytics and Data Science, the Essex Plant Innovation Centre, and the newly launched Institute for Public Health and Wellbeing.



While groundbreaking partnerships include the Essex Centre for Data Analytics, which is pioneering the integration of data science into the work of Essex County Council and Essex Police.

The University is also home to key UK data infrastructure, the UK Data Archive is a world leader in research data management, data governance and ethics and lead organisation in the UK Data Service, with Understanding Society, in the Institute for Social and Economic Research, the largest longitudinal household study of its kind.

Key Innovation Programmes

Key Innovation Programme

Tech Local

The AI Talent Integration Pathway is a partnership between Tech Educators and Connected Innovation that will create 30 new AI jobs across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex by helping SMEs overcome the barriers to hiring AI talent.

Through a unique £2,000 SME Integration Fund, employer incentives, and specialist training, the programme connects diverse, AI-skilled candidates with local businesses, accelerating AI adoption, tackling skills shortages, and driving inclusive economic growth across the East of England.

Key Innovation Programme

Slush Delegations

Since 2023, Connected Innovation has supported and led delegations of ambitious, investment-ready businesses from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex to attend Slush in Helsinki, providing access to one of the most influential startup and technology gatherings in Europe.

As part of the delegation the team curate a bespoke support programme to support and prepare the businesses ahead of the event. Covering investor engagement, utilising the matchmaking opportunities and wider activities across the week.

The delegations to date have helped generate investor conversations, build international partnerships, validate products and business models, whilst providing a connection with global innovation networks and creating opportunities for inward investment.

Key Innovation Programme

Made Smarter Adoption East of England

Made Smarter Adoption East of England empowers manufacturing SMEs to embrace digital transformation.

Businesses benefit from expert-led digital roadmapping, leadership training, and match-funded grants of up to £20,000. Covering counties like Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, the programme is a strategic effort to boost productivity, innovation, and sustainability in the region's manufacturing sector.

Key Innovation Programme

Future Tech Programme

The Future Tech Programme is focused on supporting underserved early-stage tech founders with critical early-stage incubation support and advice to get the founders to MVP (Minimum Viable Product) stage and link them up with investors to take their businesses to the next level.

Connected Innovation together with Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have successfully secured the funding with delivery of the programme managed by Akcela Ventures in Norfolk and Innovation Labs Group in Suffolk.

Innovation Support

Innovation Support

Business Support Providers

The New Anglia and Ambitious Essex Growth Hubs offers free, tailored support to businesses across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex

Services include one-to-one advice, grant funding guidance, training, and access to high-growth programmes. With over £1 billion of added value to the regional economy, the hub plays a vital role in helping SMEs scale sustainably.

Innovation Support

Alternative Finance Solutions

Alternative finance is thriving in the region, offering flexible options like Innovation Loans, IP-backed lending, and non-bank debt finance.

These fintech-driven solutions are crucial for SMEs underserved by traditional banks, providing faster access to capital and tailored financial products.

Innovation Support

Angel Networks

Anglia Capital Group is a network of angel investors focused on early-stage, innovative businesses in East Anglia, having invested in over 70+ ventures

Angels@Essex, affiliated with the University of Essex, connects high-net-worth individuals with disruptive startups

UKBAA supports angel investment across the UK and collaborates with regional networks to enhance access to early-stage capita.

Innovation Support

Innovation Grant Mentoring

Led by Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex County Councils, this project offers free mentoring and bid writing support to help businesses secure Innovation funding.

It targets underrepresented applicants in the region, aiming to boost success rates and unlock more of the £638 million Innovate UK funding available to East of England businesses.



Visit connectedinnovation.co.uk/innovationprospectus
to view the latest version of the Innovation Prospectus

Email: info@connectedinnovation.co.uk

connectedinnovation.co.uk

