DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Welcome to the Thames Valley - the best-connected region in Europe. Neighbouring London, the Thames Valley is a prosperous, healthier, and greener location, known for being one of UK's most productive, innovative, IP-rich and forward-looking communities.

WHY THE THAMES VALLEY

The Thames Valley is considered a hub for the UK technology market and one of the largest tech clusters in the world, which caught the eye of established brands, such as Cisco, Microsoft, Oracle, and Vodafone, alongside many recent high growth companies, including datacentres operators Equinix, CyrusOne and Yondr.

The UK's IT sector is valued at over $1 trillion. We are the UK's leading digital tech cluster, contributing over £10 billion to the UK's technology economy. Conservatively, we estimate the region is home to over 8,000 digital tech companies, over 6,000 digital tech specialists and some of the world's leading research and development expertise.

In 2025 the Thames Valley becomes the home to the UK's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Growth Zone at Culham, Oxfordshire – home to the UK's Atomic Energy Authority and some of the brightest scientific minds in the world.

KEY REGIONAL ASSETS

- Three of the world's top 10 communications giants call the Thames Valley home, including Telefonica, Verizon and VMED O2 UK (formerly Vodafone and O2).

- 2nd largest global datacentre cluster in the world - the driving force behind the UK's critical infrastructure network. The Slough Trading Estate, alone, currently hosts over 35 DCs with a wider number located in the immediate vicinity and beyond.

- Established tech clusters 'roundtables', centred on Oxford and Reading, driving supply chains and development.

- Robotics - Much of the earliest pioneering work in this field has been carried out in the Thames Valley (notably Oxfordshire) and we continue to lead the way today.

- Direct access to the most internationally connected airport in the world – London Heathrow.

- Home to one of the largest concentrations of connected disruptive AI and transformational tech clusters, with the largest number of tech start-ups and spinout companies in the UK.

INVESTABLE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- UK datacentre market generated U$D 7,921.6m in 2023. During 2024-2030, the DC market will grow at 2.4% (CAGR) and reach a value of over U$D 9,324m in 2030.

- Price differential – with rents in the Thames Valley often quoted at up to 50% cheaper than central London.

- A Thriving cyber-security eco-system featuring a critical mass of research and innovation talent, scientific facilities and leading academic institutions, including RHUL's Centre for Doctorate Training in Cyber Security.

- Artificial Intelligence: At the forefront of a sector expected to add £654bn to the UK's economy by the year 2035. Thames Valley technology companies are driving innovation, notably across AI in healthcare, cyber intelligence, digital security and data visualisation software and machine learning applications.

- A global connectivity hub, home to Slough Internet Exchange (INX), close to London INX. Making the Thames Valley one of the world's largest and best-connected internet exchange points.

HOW WE CAN HELP

With over 20 years of expertise in supporting UK and foreign owned companies across international trade and inward investment services, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce offers a full range of initial non-chargeable services and introductions to commercial partner expertise to help you make informed decisions that support your initial investment and future growth here in the region.

Learn more about the Thames Valley and our inward investment centre of excellence at: https://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/inward-investment/