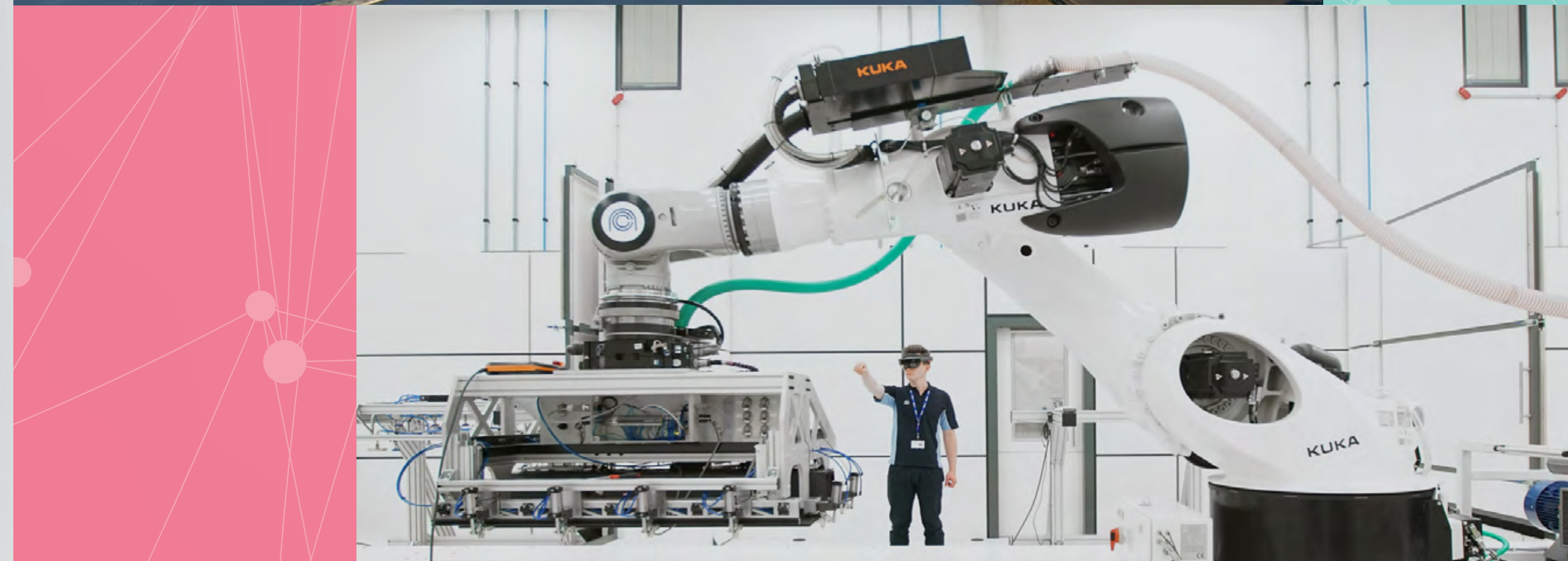


GREAT WESTERN FREEPORT

Anchored around the Port of Bristol, the UK's most centrally located deep sea port, and extending from the West of England innovation hub to the Gravity Smart Campus, the Great Western Freeport demonstrates what a modern, connected, net-zero Freeport can achieve.



WHAT IS A FREEPORT?

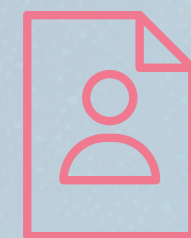
Designed to attract major domestic and international investment, areas given Freeport status will benefit from a wide package of tax reliefs, simplified customs procedures, a streamlined planning processes to boost redevelopment, and government support to promote regeneration and innovation.

These new hubs of business and enterprise will create thousands of jobs, regenerating communities and turbocharging Britain's post-Brexit growth.

OUR REGION

With a deep-sea Port at its heart, the Great Western Freeport is perfectly placed to become a national hub for global trade and investment. It would lead to regeneration and thousands of new jobs, helping us achieve inclusive growth and levelling up across our region, by investing in, and targeting support, at areas of higher deprivation.

We estimate The Great Western Freeport could create up to 50,000 jobs in the region and 90,000 nationally, bringing an economic return of almost £6 billion each year to the UK.



50,000

ESTIMATED JOBS CREATED
IN THE REGION, 90,000 JOBS
NATIONALLY



£6bn

ESTIMATED RETURN
PER YEAR



The Prime Minister Boris Johnson
on a visit to Bristol Port

CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Great Western Freeport will see our area become a national hub for green manufacturing and trade.

It will help us deliver our aspiration for green and inclusive growth, our sustainability goals and ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The West of England is recognised nationally and internationally as a region that leads and drives innovation. We are home to innovative engineering excellence in areas such as aerospace and advanced engineering, nuclear, food and environmental technologies, Modern Methods of Construction and automotive transformation. We also have several world-class universities.

A Freeport would allow us to build on these strengths, bringing huge opportunities to businesses, communities and residents in the West of England, the wider south west and the UK.

By providing transport and digital links between customs, tax and other industrial sites, and improving access to education, training and job opportunities, our approach will ensure all our residents regardless of their background, can benefit.

It will benefit businesses and their supply chains as well as attracting businesses to grow and locate here, creating more jobs and skills opportunities for residents across our urban and rural communities. The Great Western Freeport would support regeneration of currently underdeveloped land in key strategic locations, creating crucial employment space for commercial activities.

Our bid will provide the catalyst for significant local, national and international growth in green manufacturing and trade, playing a vital role in the UK's recovery from Covid-19.



The benefits of the Great Western Freeport have the potential to extend well beyond its boundaries, across the wider south west region, creating an economic focal point of national and international significance.

BRISTOL PORT

Advance customs site and digital maritime port including wind turbines for generating its own power

AVONMOUTH & SEVERNSIDE

Advanced manufacturing, energy, and environmental technologies, circular economy

JUNCTION 21

FoodTech and innovation, manufacturing, modern methods of construction

GRAVITY

Smart Campus, XXL advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure and storage

HINKLEY POINT C

National College for Nuclear

GRAVITY

AVONMOUTH AND SEVERNSIDE ENTERPRISE AREA

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE & STROUD COLLEGE

EMERSONS GREEN ENTERPRISE AREA

BRISTOL PORT

FILTON ENTERPRISE AREA

UWE

BRISTOL & BATH SCIENCE PARK

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

TEMPLE QUARTER ENTERPRISE CAMPUS

BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

BATH COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE

BATH ENTERPRISE ZONE

BRISTOL AIRPORT

WESTON COLLEGE

JUNCTION 21

FILTON ENTERPRISE AREA

Area for advanced aerospace research and development including the groundbreaking new eVTOL aircraft

BRISTOL & BATH SCIENCE PARK

National Composites Centre - part of High Value Manufacturing Catapult, researching advanced materials and manufacturing techniques. Institute of Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS) - pioneering advancements in automotive propulsion



KEY

CUSTOMS SITE

TAX SITE

EDUCATION SITE

R&D HUB

Map locations are all indicative

CASE STUDIES

VERTICAL AEROSPACE

Bristol-based Vertical Aerospace is leading the world in innovation of all electric vertical take-off and landing air vehicles. These have the potential to be adopted for widespread global use to cut journey times and eliminate fossil fuel use.

Having recently won funding from Innovate UK to develop and conduct live flights and test the feasibility of air taxi services, the company is well on its way to achieving certification in 2024 with initial commercial services starting soon afterwards.

Vertical Aerospace has the potential to accelerate economic development in our region by fully leveraging the customs, tax and regulatory measures of a Great Western Freeport.

The company, which currently employs over 100 engineers, plans to expand its R&D operation, moving through to aircraft assembly and development of local and national supply chains. With huge export potential, this opportunity could propel the UK to global leadership in this emerging market segment, creating thousands of new jobs.

This opportunity could propel the UK to global leadership in this emerging market segment.

HINKLEY POINT C

Is the first in a new generation of nuclear power stations in the UK, providing low-carbon electricity for around six million homes. This has led to over £1.67 billion being invested in our region, benefiting businesses and creating new jobs.

- £130m has been invested in infrastructure and skills to create jobs and grow the supply chain.
- 10,000 jobs have been created including 644 trained apprentices

Vertical Aerospace VA-1X.



- A National Welding Centre, National College for Nuclear, Energy Skills Centre and Construction Skills and Innovation Centre of excellence have been established to address skill gaps.
- For every pound spent, £2.27 of regional value is being created.

It is anticipated that securing a Great Western Freeport will benefit our region in the same way.

OUR PLANS

The Great Western Freeport would allow us to further accelerate our innovation ambitions as set out in the West of England's [Local Industrial Strategy](#) ⑤ spreading these benefits and inclusive growth with a clear focus on sustainability, inclusivity and collaboration across sectors. This approach will ensure our region remains a thriving, successful place for the future where the environment is protected for future generations.

Alongside this, we have developed an [Employment and Skills Plan](#) ⑤ which seeks to create new pathways into employment and ensure our residents can reach their potential, whatever their background or circumstances.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the need to innovate and adapt the way we live and do business. [Our Recovery Plan](#) ⑤ – developed with industry – recognises the crisis also presents opportunities to find new ways of doing things.

Our bid also supports the Heart of the South West [Local Industrial Strategy](#) ⑤ and its ambitions for clean and inclusive growth.

LEARN MORE

Support us

We're keen to speak to businesses who want to know more about how a Freeport might work and how it could support their ambitions to grow and export. If you want to know more please get in touch at

freeport@westofengland-ca.gov.uk.

The UK Government is taking applications for 10 freeports by 5 Feb 2021.

⑤ <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/freeport/>



IMAGE CREDITS

Above. Copyright Airbus.

Vertical Aerospace VA-1X. Used with permission of Vertical Aerospace.

Bristol Port. Copyright Bristol Port Company.

Lab. University of Bath.

Robotic arm. Image courtesy of NCC.

ABOUT THE BID

This bid is being led by the West of England Combined Authority working with public and private sector partners, including large-scale businesses across the aerospace and nuclear sector, the region’s universities and colleges, innovation centres, local authorities and business networks.



PARTNERS

