

# NETWORK



Issue 36 | DECEMBER 2024

Horizon Works delivers design support for the NEAA's 10 year anniversary celebration

Interview of the Quarter: Green Ports: The Port of Tyne's Growing Sustainable Innovation Ecosystem

UK Shared Prosperity Fund supports delivery of leadership course for Sunderland businesses



## NEAA EXPO HAILED ANOTHER SUCCESS AMID LANDMARK £10 MILLION INVESTMENT IN FUTURE SKILLS

Double celebrations at this year's Expo, commemorating ten years of the NEAA and revelling in the recently announced £10m investment in to the next generation of skilled workers in the automotive sector.

# Contents

3. NEAA News
7. Member Feature
8. NEAA News
9. Member Collaboration
10. Interview of the Quarter
13. Skills
14. Business Resilience
15. Innovation & Technology
16. Member News
17. Member Collaboration
18. Member Introductions



# CEO CORNER

And to think I thought 2023 went quickly!!! 2024 has once again been another challenging and transitional year for the UK automotive sector. To date production figures for the sector are 10% down on 2023 figures as manufacturers prepare for future with all-new electric models.



Manufacturers are committed to the 2035 target set by the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate in 100% of all new car sales to be EV. Indeed, there are now 125 BEV models now available in the UK - 38% more than at the start of the year. However, the market has not moved at the same pace as OEMs. Manufacturers have moved to adapt strategies on current and new models to ensure they have the product mix demanded by consumers. This makes the incremental early ZEV targets stated this year challenging.

We must remember that the ZEV mandate consultation took place at a point in time when the ICE ban was expected to be 2030 and the new Euro 7 standards were expected to be much tougher. The move in September 2023 by the UK Government to bring the UK in line with our European counterparts in banning ICE in 2035 is regarded by many as the right decision, given 70% of all UK made vehicles end up in UK/EU but the impact on EV sales was not considered in the context of the incremental ZEV mandate targets. The recent Stellantis announcement to close its Vauxhall van-making factory in Luton, said the rules imposed to speed up the transition to electric vehicles (EV) in the UK partly drove the decision.

More must be done to support this transition. The early ZEV targets need to be lowered to consider consumer demand and more must be done to inform and incentivise consumers about the benefits of EV motoring – as a recent convert myself I cannot speak highly enough about the joys of electric vehicles. The huge discounts available from dealers are great but this is not sustainable – over £4bn of private and business buyer incentives on vehicle discounts have been done this year alone. Furthermore, should the Government think about a support package that delivers EV motoring, home charging and solar panels – all of which would help deliver our NetZero ambitions?

We've also seen a significant change in the political landscape. In May we saw the launch of the North East Combined Authority and a newly elected Mayor for the region in Kim McGuinness. Work has started in earnest across the region to set out the plans for the North East region. In July, Labour won the general election and have set about their plans for growth for the UK. In both instances the NEAA in ensuring the voice of the regions' automotive sector is heard.

Our work continues in delivering the North East Local Skills Improvement Plan (NELSIP), working with sectoral employer representative bodies, training providers and stakeholders to deliver systemic changes to ensure the future skills needs of employers are understood and met. The recently announced £14.6m MADE NE project will create a world leading training centre to support the regions advanced manufacturing sector and will play a major role in delivering the NELSIP for the advanced manufacturing sector.

As we approach the end of 2024, the North East continues to be a leading location for automotive manufacturing and vehicle electrification. 2025 looks to be an exciting and challenging year for the North East automotive sector. I look forward to working with the team, board and members to make sure we maximise the benefits for the North East.

Have a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025.

**Paul Butler / CEO / NEAA**

## NEtwork Editorial & Advertisement Contact Details

**Laura Gage** PR & Marketing Manager  
**Email** [lgage@northeastautomotivealliance.com](mailto:lgage@northeastautomotivealliance.com)  
**Phone** 0191 516 4400

Send us your news and editorial for consideration in the next quarterly issue!

### Editorial & Advertising

**Inside Front Cover** £1,000 +VAT  
**Outside Back Cover** £1,200 +VAT  
**Half Page Advert/ Editorial** £500 +VAT  
**Full page Advert/ Editorial** £800 +VAT

### Sponsorship

**Network Sponsorship** £1,500 +VAT  
- includes sponsor logo on every page  
and full-page feature on page 3



# NEAA AWARDS TO RETURN IN MARCH 2025 AS SECTOR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STEM LEARNING

Mark your calendar as the NEAA Annual Awards will return on Thursday 27th March 2025 for a night of recognition and inspiration.

Held at Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham, this prestigious event celebrates the achievements of leading companies and individuals in the automotive sector, including future leaders, growing SMEs, and internationally recognised organisations.

This year's awards ceremony will recognise the unwavering resilience and commitment of the automotive sector to actively champion career opportunities, boost sector attractiveness and pave the way for a flourishing automotive workforce.

The NEAA is honoured to welcome back celebrated national journalist and skills campaigner, Charlie Charlton, as the host for the 2025 event.

With the generous support of sponsors and partners, the NEAA Annual Awards have made significant contributions to STEM education and future talent, raising over £76,000 since 2018 to nurture the next generation of automotive professionals.

The NEAA is proud to share that funds from the 2024 awards have been utilised to support a variety of STEM initiatives. Notable examples include the participation of Wardley and Bill Quay Primary Schools in the prestigious World VEX Robotics competition in the USA, the acquisition of additional STEM resources for Bernard Gilpin Primary School and the start-up of a STEM lunchtime club at Washington Academy. Egglecliffe School and Sixth Form College has utilised the funds to strengthen its robotics club and participation in the F1 in Schools programme,

whilst Benfield School has used the donation to support a girls in STEM event allowing female students to feel empowered to have a career in STEM. Hermitage Academy has bolstered its STEM provision, specifically investing in Lego Spike Prime and Picobricks robotics kits to enhance the school's extracurricular STEM club.

The NEAA now invites all members to participate in the 2025 awards. By submitting an entry, your company can enhance its reputation, motivate employees, attract top talent, and expand its customer base.

This year's NEAA Annual Awards categories and sponsors are:

- Geoff Ford MBE Apprentice Award, sponsored by Gateshead College
- Graduate Award
- Innovation Award, sponsored by Newcastle University
- Digital Transformation Award, sponsored by Hitachi Digital Services
- Environmental & Sustainability Award, sponsored by Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK
- Employer of the Year Award, sponsored by Education Partnership North East
- SME of the Year Award, sponsored by North East Institute of Technology
- Outstanding Contribution Award, sponsored by Sunderland City Council

A drinks reception is sponsored by long-time supporters Smart Manufacturing Solutions and SMS Technology and the awards brochure sponsor is international B2B marketing agency, Horizon Works.

The awards application is a simple way to highlight your achievements. Don't miss this opportunity to recognise your business and employee success. Applications and further information can be found at:

[northeastautomotivealliance.com/events/neaa-annual-awards-2025/](https://northeastautomotivealliance.com/events/neaa-annual-awards-2025/)



# NEAA EXPO HAILED ANOTHER SUCCESS AMID LANDMARK £10 MILLION INVESTMENT IN FUTURE SKILLS

The NEAA and its members enjoyed double celebrations at this year's Expo, commemorating its ten-year anniversary and revelling in the recently announced £10m investment in to the next generation of skilled workers in the automotive sector.

North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness, addressed a record-breaking 820 delegates back in September, on the importance of the recently announced investment in MADE North East (Manufacturing, Automation, Digitalisation, Electrification) and, importantly, said further funds would be made available, if required.

MADE NE is a collaborative effort led by Nissan, along with key partners, to establish world-class training facilities across two locations within the International Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Site (IAMSS) in Sunderland. The landmark investment is set to forge a new generation of skilled local workers specialising in electric vehicle (EV) and battery technology, crucial for the industry's future.

The North East Automotive Expo is recognised as one of the most influential events of its kind within the region and the wider UK automotive supply chain. This year, the event attracted over 800 delegates and featured more than 110 exhibitors, providing an unparalleled platform for industry professionals to showcase innovations, exchange ideas, and discuss the evolving landscape of the automotive sector.

Paul Butler, chief executive of the NEAA, said: "This year's Expo not only commemorates a decade of achievement for the NEAA but also represents an exciting time of opportunity for the future of the automotive sector in the North East.

"64% of our members have planned significant investment over the next two years but skills shortages remained a top concern for a number of years. The announcement from Mayor Kim McGuinness, of £10m investment in the MADE NE initiative, could not have arrived at a better time to quell these concerns and this was evidenced by the positively electric atmosphere at the Expo. It is clear to all, including government, that the North East Automotive industry is thriving, and this investment will only help to accelerate growth further.

"As the automotive industry continues to evolve, the NEAA remains committed to supporting its members and the wider community through initiatives focused on skills development, innovation, and sustainability. The Expo serves as a cornerstone for these efforts, uniting businesses, educational institutions, and government bodies to foster collaboration and growth.

"The NEAA looks forward to future Expos and continued partnership with stakeholders committed to championing the North East as a leader in automotive excellence."

North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness, said: "The car industry is synonymous with the North East and represents what our region is about, with a proud manufacturing heritage, a talented and productive workforce, and inventive cutting-edge businesses creating the vehicles and technologies of the future.

"Almost two-thirds of automotive businesses in the North East plan to increase investment over the next two years. That's fantastic news and a massive vote of confidence in our region. As Mayor, I am determined to help our sector thrive and go even further.



"That's why I've already approved £10m investment in MADE North East to train the next generation of skilled workers in electric vehicles, battery technology and advanced manufacturing. I will go further to ensure the industry has the skills its needs to grow – so we can unlock even more jobs, training and opportunity for the North East."

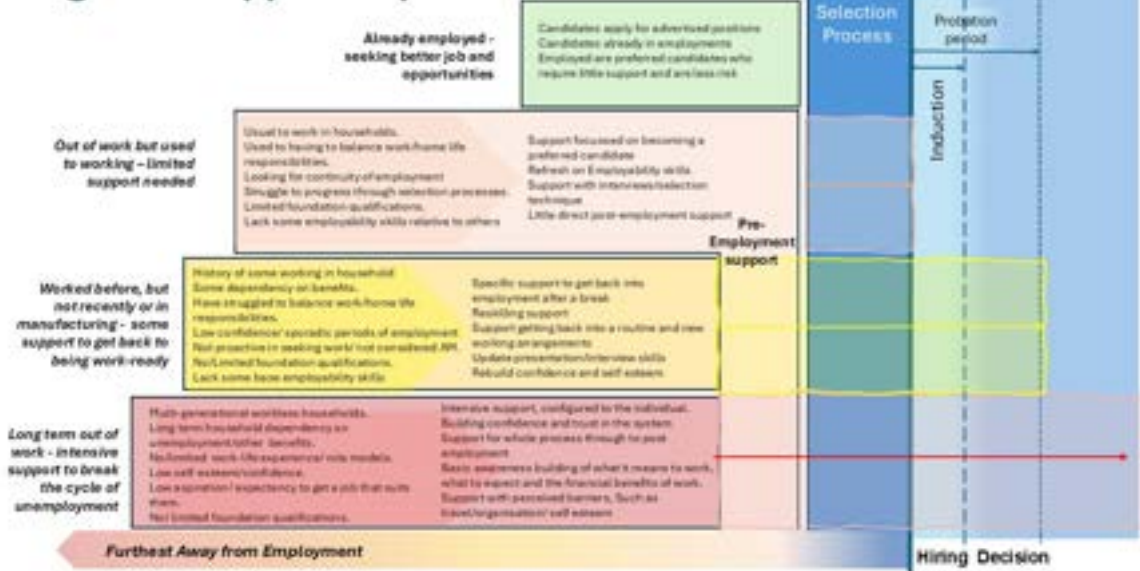
The Expo was supported by headline sponsor, Sunderland City Council, Partner Sponsors, Invest South Tyneside, TR Fastenings and Hitachi Digital Solutions, lunch sponsor, Masfix, stage sponsor UK Independent Medical, skills lounge sponsor,

Education Partnership North East, breakfast sponsor, Jabil, refreshments sponsor, SOS Industrial, registration sponsor, CMYK | Business Technology, meet the buyer sponsor, Prospot, technology showcase sponsor, Manosun and expo guide sponsor, Horizon Works. A 10 Year anniversary drinks reception was sponsored by SMS Smart Manufacturing Solutions and SMS Tech.

A date for the 2025 Expo has already been agreed, and companies should mark their calendars for Thursday 25 September 2025, when the North East Automotive Expo will return, once again, to Sunderland.



## The further from employment, the deeper, and longer the support required



# LOCAL INCLUSION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS A GAP BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND MANUFACTURING JOBS

A recent study has shed light on the barriers preventing South Tyneside residents from accessing advanced manufacturing jobs locally.

Preliminary research conducted as part of a project to enhance local employment opportunities in South Tyneside’s advanced manufacturing sector has identified a complex relationship between unemployed residents and employers. Despite high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity, employers often report that it is difficult to fill manufacturing operator jobs with local people.

The Inclusive Pathway into Advanced Manufacturing, South Tyneside (IPAM-ST) project, delivered by the NEAA and part funded by South Tyneside Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, seeks to facilitate increased access to employment opportunities within the advanced manufacturing sector for local residents of South Tyneside.

The project’s initial phase, drawing on insights from local stakeholders and relevant research, has uncovered valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the local manufacturing sector.

The project investigated the historical and socio-economic factors that have contributed to long-term unemployment, particularly in the context of industrial decline. A key finding emerged: a misalignment between the perceptions of employers and residents, hindering employment opportunities.

A complex relationship exists between advanced manufacturing employers in Washington and unemployed residents in South Tyneside. This relationship is characterised by a mismatch between the skills and aspirations of local residents and the requirements of employers.

While entry-level manufacturing roles typically require minimal formal qualifications, focusing primarily on basic employability skills, South Tyneside continues to experience high levels of unemployment. This incongruity highlights a disconnect between the needs of employers and the capabilities of local residents.

It is imperative that the North East solves this employment dilemma and break the cycle to ensure residents in South Tyneside access and retain the good jobs that are available in advanced manufacturing locally.

Employers are required to manage employment risk – they recognise a challenging local social context, but can perceive unemployed residents as unreliable or lacking in motivation. Meanwhile those residents often view the sector as a risky employment proposition as it’s difficult to access and offering unsecure temporary employment.

By implementing strategies to build trust, enhance job attractiveness, and provide tailored support, this can facilitate the integration of local residents into the advanced manufacturing workforce, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and prosperous future for South Tyneside.

**3 UNITS  
REMAINING  
AVAILABLE NOW**

**TO LET**  
3 GRADE-A INDUSTRIAL  
WAREHOUSE UNITS  
**63,396 - 298,621 SQ FT**

**AT INTEGRA 61**  
**CONNECT**  
**DURHAM**



**DURHAM'S PREMIER HUB**

Connect at Integra 61 is a premier industrial and logistics hub consisting of 5 Grade A institutional specification units situated at J61 of the A1(M) where Amazon, Costa, and Greggs are located.

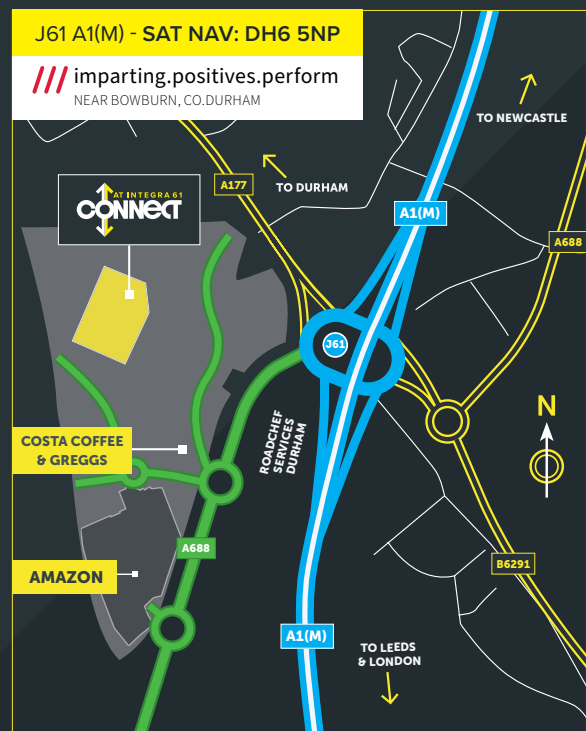
**SPECIFICATION INCLUDES**

- Eaves of 11-15m
- Dock and level loading doors
- Extensive yards with HGV and car parking
- First floor offices
- 50kn/m2 floor loading
- EPC rating of 'A' and BREEAM 'Excellent'

**DRIVE TIMES**

Location	Distance
Durham	4.4 miles
Sunderland	12 miles
Newcastle	22 miles
Nissan	11.5 miles

[connectintegra61.co.uk](https://connectintegra61.co.uk)



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE AGENTS

**AVISON  
YOUNG**

**ROBERT RAE**  
07860 398 744  
robert.rae@avisonyoung.com

**DANNY CRAMMAN**  
07796 993 750  
danny.cramman@avisonyoung.com

**CBRE**

**DAVE CATO**  
07983 388 939  
dave.cato@cbre.com

**Naylor's  
Gavin Black**  
Commercial Property People

**KEITH STEWART**  
07796 302147  
keith@naylorsgavinblack.co.uk

**DUNCAN CHRISTIE**  
07841 764765  
duncan@naylorsgavinblack.co.uk

A JOINT DEVELOPMENT BY

**SUNRISE**  
REAL ESTATE

**CITRUS**  
DURHAM

# DURHAM MBA STUDENT CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON NAVIGATING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN AUTOMOTIVE



Durham University Business School MBA student, Pritish Das, has conducted a research project for the NEAA, exploring digital transformation strategies within the Northeast automotive sector. The research was used to develop a digital roadmap, guiding NEAA members on their digital transformation journey.

The study focussed on two key research questions: the comparative benefits and drawbacks of adopting tried-and-tested digital strategies versus pursuing continuous digital evolution, and the challenges and opportunities companies face during automation.

The research combined in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and a literature review to examine themes such as the importance of starting small and scaling gradually, cost management, balancing off-the-shelf and customised solutions, integration challenges with legacy systems, skill development, data-driven decision-making, and change management.

The automotive sector in North East England is at a crossroads, facing the dual pressures of technological advancement and global competition. For companies in this region, the decision between adopting a tried-and-tested digital strategy and pursuing digital evolution is critical.

The study provided important insights into the digital transformation journeys of various companies in the North East. The findings from the research indicated that tried-and-tested digital strategies, such as the Digital Transformation Framework (DTF) and Digital Maturity Models (DMM), helped companies in the early stages of digitalisation achieve quick wins, but more mature companies benefit from digital evolution and continuous innovation.

One of the most critical challenges identified in the findings was the shortage of digital skills within the workforce. This is further supported by the findings from the North East Local Skills Improvement Plan, which identified six high level priorities, of which providing essential digital skills at the appropriate level was one.

## Pritish identified the following key recommendations:

- Companies should start with small, scalable projects, as an effective way to ease into digital transformation, particularly for SMEs with limited resources. This might include high-impact areas, such as energy management or specific production inefficiencies, which can deliver quick wins.
- Companies should adopt a hybrid approach that leverages off-the-shelf solutions for core systems while customising only where necessary for competitive advantage. This balance allows businesses to control costs while ensuring flexibility where it matters.
- Companies should prioritise digital systems that are modular and designed for future integration.
- Companies should establish continuous learning programs that focus on digital literacy, data analytics, and the practical use of emerging technologies.
- Companies should invest in robust data infrastructure that ensures data is collected, stored, and analysed effectively across all systems.
- Change management should be integrated into the digital strategy from the very beginning. This involves clear and transparent communication from leadership, regular training for employees at all levels, and the creation of a culture that encourages experimentation and innovation.
- Companies should ensure that their digital initiatives are closely aligned with their long-term strategic goals. Digital projects should be evaluated not only on their immediate ROI but also on their potential to contribute to the company's competitiveness and resilience over time.

Pritish Das said: "By fully embracing digitalisation and automation, the North East has the potential to unlock unparalleled growth, establishing itself as a leader in innovation, resilience, and excellence within the UK automotive sector and on the global stage."





# HORIZON WORKS DELIVERS DESIGN SUPPORT FOR THE NEAA'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

International B2B marketing agency, Horizon Works, becomes the NEAA's creative partner for its tenth anniversary.

## Background

Horizon Works is one of the founding members of the NEAA and has delivered design support to the organisation, as well as workshops, webinars and support programmes for its members.

October 2024 marked the NEAA's tenth anniversary and the NEAA wanted to celebrate at its annual North East Automotive Expo, which takes place every September at the Beacon Of Light in Sunderland. It needed a creative partner which could deliver a suite of integrated assets to highlight the cluster's achievements over the last ten years, bringing the NEAA's first decade to life, and promoting the strength of North East England's automotive sector.

## Approach and Solution

Horizon Works started the project by creating a tenth anniversary logo which could be used on all marketing materials. It then designed a tenth anniversary timeline graphic, featuring key highlights from ten years of the NEAA, for application to an 11 metre long stretch of wall at the Expo venue, and for use in a special 10th anniversary flyer and the expo event guide.

Horizon Works' in-house creative team then animated the timeline for use in social media and exhibition screens, and integrated videos into the animation to create a striking longer-form film marking the cluster's anniversary.

The team created an interactive tenth anniversary timeline for use on the NEAA's website, which integrated video content and links. In addition, Horizon Works project managed and designed a 64-page Expo Guide, featuring key event information, an exhibitors'

directory and a speaker section. It also designed exhibition materials, including a banner and panel, highlighting the tenth anniversary messaging.

## Outcome and Advantage

- The tenth anniversary wall, animations and flyers were seen by more than 800 visitors at the North East Automotive Expo 2024, and were amplified by extensive social media coverage.
- The film was used as part of the presentation by Paul Butler, CEO of the NEAA and at a special 10th anniversary drinks reception.
- The NEAA now has an extensive suite of assets to promote the cluster's achievements over a decade, which can be used across social media, presentations, further events and its website.

## Testimonial

"The NEAA has worked with Horizon Works from the outset when they came onboard as a founding member, and we have always found them excellent at what they do. This made the decision even easier when it came to working with a creative partner for our special 10-year anniversary materials.

"The whole process from start to finish was professional, creative, and thoroughly enjoyable, and the outcome was exactly what we wanted to achieve from the brief. The team are a dream to work with and always go the extra mile to support our needs. I would have no hesitation recommending them to others."

**Laura Gage / Marketing Manager / North East Automotive Alliance**





# GREEN PORTS: THE PORT OF TYNE'S GROWING SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

The Port of Tyne in South and North Tyneside continues to be a vital economic driver for the North East, celebrating a year of significant growth and innovation.

As the UK's second-largest car export hub, handling up to 600,000 vehicles annually, the Port holds a strong reputation within the automotive sector.

Fresh from Maritime Innovation Week 2024, dedicated to advancing sustainable innovation in the maritime industry, the NEAA caught up with representatives from the Port of Tyne to discuss their ambitious Tyne 2050 strategy. This forward-thinking vision and transformation is leading the way in key areas such as environment and technology, as well as collaboration and innovation. The Port's Innovation Hub plays a pivotal role in supporting these initiatives and positioning the North East as a leader in the maritime sector.

**Firstly, can you tell us more about the Port of Tyne and outline its key services and markets?**

There has been a port on the River Tyne for over 2,000 years. Today, the Port of Tyne is one of the UK's major deep-sea ports – delivering bespoke solutions for the green energy sector, supporting world leaders in the automotive transition, handling specialised bulk and containerised products, alongside delivery logistics, and assisting growing passenger numbers via the regionally important International Passenger Terminal.

Overall, the Port of Tyne adds £720 million to the North East economy, supporting 11,000 jobs directly and indirectly and. As one of the UK's largest trust ports, the port is entirely self-financing and runs on a commercial basis, reinvesting all its surpluses back into facilities along the River Tyne for the benefit of the North East and all its stakeholders.

**The Port of Tyne is committed to a cleaner, greener future and the ambitious Tyne 2050 is a key part of this; can you tell us more about this vision?**

Tyne 2050 is a long-term strategic vision that is guiding the Port of Tyne to see the River Tyne become a gateway to help transform both the region and the maritime industry.

With a set of intentionally ambitious goals, it is fully aligned to the Government's Maritime 2050 strategy and to the North East

Economic Plan. These include the Port being carbon neutral and a smart port by 2030, by becoming a test bed for clean energy, an all-electric port.

### What is the 2050 Maritime Innovation Hub and how is this partnership supporting the Northeast region?

The UK's first Maritime Innovation Hub is here in the North East at the Port of Tyne, providing a test-bed for new technologies, where best practice is shared to benefit the entire maritime industry.

In 2019, the then Government laid out its aim to set up a cross-sector innovation hub in a UK port by 2030. 11 years ahead of schedule, the 2050 Maritime Innovation Hub opened its doors.

The Hub is one of the region's premier innovation assets. Used as a clean energy testbed, the Hub provides a place for businesses to test and develop new products before bringing them to market.

### How is innovation and technology driving the transformation and modernisation of the Port?

The Port of Tyne is undergoing a significant transformation driven by innovation and technology, guided by its Tyne 2050 strategy.

Key developments include the adoption of smart port technologies, automation, AI and the internet of things to optimise operations, reduce costs and improve efficiency. The Port uses digital twin technology for predictive maintenance and planning, alongside 5G connectivity to enable real-time data sharing and rapidly developing autonomous systems.

Sustainability is a core focus, with renewable energy integration, electric and hydrogen-powered equipment, and advanced environmental monitoring supporting the Port's sustainability initiatives.

These advancements position the Port of Tyne as a leader in sustainable, tech-driven maritime operations.

### The Port of Tyne was one of the first organisations to sign up to the South Tyneside Pledge, a commitment to think locally on procurement, recruitment, and more. Why is the local supply chain important to the Port?

As a trust port, the Port of Tyne's commitment to the South Tyneside Pledge, was a logical step forward and reflects our dedication to supporting the local community and regional economy.

A robust local supply chain is vital to the Port and its customers, as it builds economic resilience, reduces environmental impact and strengthens ties with the surrounding area. By sourcing goods and services locally, the Port not only ensures faster, more reliable supply channels but also contributes to the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in South Tyneside.

This approach aligns with the Port's sustainability goals, minimising the carbon footprint associated with transport and supporting regional development. Additionally, investing in local talent through recruitment builds a skilled workforce rooted in our community.

### What is the biggest challenge facing the Port of Tyne today?

Planet, people and planning. The Port of Tyne is a growing hive of activity in support of the green economy and its associated industries, from offshore wind to alternative fuels. However, our ambitions are large and demand for skilled people continues to grow, alongside our need for land and quay preparation to support the growth of the region's target industries.

### What is the Port of Tyne doing to inspire the next generation and ensure the maritime sector has a sustained workforce in years to come?

The Port of Tyne is inspiring the next generation and ensuring a sustainable maritime workforce through education, outreach and skills development initiatives. Collaborating with schools, colleges, and universities, the Port provides hands-on experiences, including site visits and work placements, to give young people real-world insights into port operations and the wider maritime sector.





A key initiative is the Port's Change Makers graduate programme, designed to develop future leaders by immersing participants in critical areas such as sustainability, innovation and operational excellence. This programme equips graduates with the skills and experience needed to drive change and thrive in a rapidly evolving industry.

By fostering collaboration with local communities and industry partners, the Port of Tyne is creating a diverse, skilled talent pool, ensuring the region's success for years to come.

**How has the Port of Tyne benefitted from its involvement with the NEAA and other cluster members?**

As the region's vehicle import/export terminal of choice for Nissan, VW and others, the Port of Tyne continues to benefit from its collaboration with the NEAA.

As a strategic logistics hub, this partnership has enhanced the Port's role in supporting the region's automotive sector, particularly by streamlining supply chains and improving efficiency, as the sector drives its transformation forward.

This collaboration promises to support new opportunities for investment in battery manufacturing and other technology developments at IAMP and elsewhere, contributing to regional growth and reinforcing the Port's position as an enabler for automotive manufacturing and exports in the North East.

**What can the Port of Tyne offer to the NEAA cluster?**

As a vital trading hub for the region, the Port of Tyne has emerged as a centre for sustainable innovation. Backed by a dedicated innovation team and 5G digital connectivity, our smart port initiatives provide a test bed for technology development, ensuring the region's supply chains remain fit-for-the-future.

For further details on the Port of Tyne, visit: [www.portoftyne.co.uk](http://www.portoftyne.co.uk)



# UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND SUPPORTS DELIVERY OF LEADERSHIP COURSE TO SUNDERLAND BUSINESSES



Thanks to funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through the Local Automotive Business Support - Sunderland (LABS-S) project, the NEAA has offered a leadership and management programme to automotive businesses in the Sunderland region.

The LABS-S project, funded through Sunderland's Shared Prosperity Fund Programme, is delivered by the NEAA and provides a package of tailored support for Sunderland businesses wanting to grow and thrive within the automotive sector.

In November, participants from seven automotive businesses attended a two-day course delivered by Dale Carnegie Training, an industry leader in professional training and development. This practical and interactive session catered to a diverse group from OEMs and first-tier suppliers, focusing on enhancing critical retention-boosting skills such as employee engagement, communication, and leadership.

Developing strong leadership is crucial for employee retention, especially in today's competitive talent market. Studies show a 25% increase in retention rates for companies investing in

leadership programmes. This course provided a vital tool to sustain and grow the region's automotive sector.

The programme covered various elements of a high performing team including understanding leadership style, relationships, authentic leadership, sharing best practice, types of communication, honesty and integrity, collaboration and minimising conflict, influencing others, coaching and the power of recognition.

The session received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Participants reported not only skills and knowledge development but also a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Participants commented that the course helped them to be more focussed about their career and career goals, it helped them to step outside of their comfort zone, taught them to give more time to listen to people and carefully chose questioning and it helped to improve their team building skills.

Due to the success of this programme the NEAA is looking to host more of these courses. To learn more about the skills development support offered by the NEAA or take advantage of future initiatives, please get in touch with NEAA Skills Manager, Mark David on [mdavid@northeastautomotivealliance.com](mailto:mdavid@northeastautomotivealliance.com) or +44 (0) 7955 316 418.





# SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP OFFERS A COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM FOR AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESSES

A group of NEAA members took part in an inaugural sustainability workshop in November to review how the automotive sector in the Northeast is addressing the numerous sustainability requirements.

Facilitated by Gareth Kane of Terra Infirma, seven members took part in the session which looked at the benefits of a collaborative approach towards key sustainability drivers.

Gareth Kane is one of the UK's foremost sustainability and corporate social responsibility practitioners. He is the author of five books on sustainability including *The Green Executive* and *Green Jujitsu*.

With Government Net Zero targets and the moral obligation of businesses to recognise the impact of their activities on the planet, sustainability is becoming vital but the ability to navigate, initiate and conduct sustainability activity is varied.

The purpose of the half-day session was

to give members a better understanding of the changes required to formulate their ambitions, and more importantly how to make them. It also offered a platform to share best practice and understand how other businesses within the network are operating.

The first discussion explored the business drivers on the individual companies to embrace sustainability. Legislation is currently at the top of the agenda with a number of far-reaching new regulations coming into force (eg CBAM, EUDR and CSRD) causing the most concern.

The group also looked to understand priority areas, challenges, opportunities and solutions. It's important to concentrate on the vital few things that can benefit a collaborative approach. The group acknowledged that sustainability, while an objective, needs to be balanced with other business needs.

It is also clear that the NEAA is well-positioned to lobby local and national government for policies that promote sustainability and mitigate the impact on businesses.

Moving forward, it was felt that a permanent sustainability focus group could facilitate collaboration on the following:

- Sharing best practice including the efficient deployment of measures
- Compliance with legislation including lobbying
- Circular economy solutions
- Collaboration e.g. Industrial Symbiosis, energy synergies, joint procurement
- Culture change/education (inc. Green Jujitsu)

The NEAA intends to further its collaboration with Terra Infirma to incorporate sustainability into its strategic vision.

This inaugural workshop was supported with funding from the NEAA's UKSPF Local Automotive Business Support - Sunderland (LABS-S) programme.

If you would like to get involved in any of the Business Resilience working groups, please contact Stuart McGivern, Project Manager at the NEAA on [smcgivern@northeastautomotivealliance.com](mailto:smcgivern@northeastautomotivealliance.com)

# HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF EMBRACING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION ON THE JOURNEY TO INDUSTRY 4.0



Digital transformation is more than just a buzzword; it's a critical shift that enables businesses to leverage technology to improve efficiency, productivity, and reliability in an ever-evolving and highly competitive industry.

In the automotive supply chain, embracing digital transformation is key to unlocking significant benefits, from streamlined operations to enhanced data management and more.

On 9th October, the NEAA hosted an online webinar that brought together industry experts to discuss the critical role of digital transformation in the automotive sector. The event featured thought-provoking presentations from Dionysios Demetis, Programme Director at Hull University, and Ian Loughlin, Head of Engineering, DX & IT at Vantec Europe.

Dionysios delivered a presentation that delved into the philosophical aspects of digital transformation. He discussed the paradoxical nature of technology adoption and the importance of critical thinking in managing these changes. Dionysios highlighted the ambiguity in technology use within different cultural contexts and the impact of digital transformation on organisational complexity. He also cited a Harvard Business Review survey that found 70% of digital transformation initiatives fail to meet their goals, emphasising the need for a robust and strategic business plan and thoughtful implementation.

Ian shared his educational journey, including the MSc in Digital Transformation from Hull University Business School, which has facilitated Vantec Europe's digital transformation. He emphasised the alignment of digital strategies with business goals and highlighted

key projects, including the development of a transport management system and the implementation of data lakes for better data management.

Ian also discussed the critical role of cybersecurity in digital transformation, detailing Vantec's efforts to improve cybersecurity awareness and reporting. His presentation underscored the importance of understanding the social aspects of technology adoption and strategies for overcoming resistance to change. The NEAA can share the webinar notes and slides should these be of interest. Please contact Chris Appleby, NEAA's Innovation Manager, at [cappleby@northeastautomotivealliance.com](mailto:cappleby@northeastautomotivealliance.com).

The NEAA Digitalisation Working Group has also been working closely with digitalisation specialist, Dr. Michael Bainbridge.

He says: "Digital transformation requires a clear strategic intention and a structured approach, much like baking a cake. It's not just about implementing technology for its own sake, but about selecting the right ingredients and following a specific recipe to achieve the desired outcomes. Without these basic steps, businesses risk fragmented returns and isolated improvements. A robust strategy and roadmap are essential for unlocking the full potential of digital transformation."

Embracing digital transformation is vital for organisations looking to capitalise on the opportunities presented by digital solutions. Courses and best practice sharing opportunities like those discussed in the recent webinar are essential for unlocking the full potential of digital transformation and ensuring organisations stay ahead in the competitive automotive industry. The NEAA will remain dedicated to facilitating these activities for the benefit of the membership.

## AUTO-SCAN CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY - WITH NORTH EAST OPERATION APPROACHING TWO DECADES

auto-scan has supported manufacturers by identifying, resolving, and preventing defects and issues in their production processes and supply chains for 25 years! Over that time, the business has worked with manufacturers of all shapes and sizes on projects worldwide – with a key part of the operation based in the North East.

### The beginning

Founded in 1999 by John Birch and Les Brown, auto-scan began life when the two ex-members of the armed forces met while working for a major OEM. They soon identified that there was no structured, third-party quality containment operation within the UK, with a perception that it was not a vital service for a successful manufacturing operation.

John and Les utilised their military backgrounds to implement a rigorous, process-driven system for inspections to be completed. Influenced by the RAF's aircraft maintenance 700 series documentation system and adapting it for the automotive sector, auto-scan developed a fully traceable, job number-based process.

The business also sought to professionalise the service. It introduced a distinctive green uniform and all necessary PPE, to ensure the team operated safely and stood out.

### The North East

From 2006 onwards, the business saw new work increasingly



coming from the North East. With several major manufacturers in the area, the need for a permanent base of operations within the area became clear.

A regional team was recruited, an office was set-up and by 2008, auto-scan North East was fully operational. This gave customers access to the people, skills and services they needed. Crucially, it also allowed auto-scan to continue to provide its solutions-led service on a local basis.

Darren Ellis, Director of Northern Operations, commented: "The work in the North East has played a pivotal role in auto-scan's success since it started in the area almost 20 years ago. Since opening we have built strong relationships with many manufacturers and proudly continue to serve them today.

"Looking to the future, we are proud of our ISO27001 Information Security Accreditation and will continue to develop our services, embracing technological advances including how we further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of inspection processes using Artificial Intelligence."

## UKIM TO DOUBLE WORKFORCE AMID EXPANSION

A fast-expanding health services company is set to double its workforce within the next two years, creating significant employment opportunities.

UK Independent Medical (UKIM), based at Rainton Bridge Business Park in Sunderland, has announced plans to increase its headcount by 180, growing to 360 employees by 2026.

Founded in 2003, UKIM initially specialised in independent medical assessments but has since diversified into occupational health services, catering to sectors including sport and manufacturing.

Ian Scanlan, managing director of UKIM, said: "Occupational health is about enablement, about supporting employers to work with their team and ensure they're well enough to remain in the workplace.

"While it is commonplace to have this service in larger firms, it's tended to be out of reach for SMEs. We can see an opportunity to create services and support which changes that – and with that,



we are looking to grow our own business."

Recent growth has been fuelled by the acquisition of two occupational health practices in Carlisle and Northamptonshire, alongside the launch of an on-demand occupational health solution aimed at supporting SMEs. The innovative service allows smaller businesses to access occupational health support as and when needed, reducing barriers to implementation and fostering economic growth.

Alan Ballard, UKIM partnership director, added: "It's an exciting time for the business, as we continue to bring ground-breaking mental health and workplace wellness products to the market."



# POSITIVE ABOUT INCLUSION PARTNERS WITH NISSAN SUNDERLAND PLANT TO SUPPORT THEIR DRIVE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



North East diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) consultancy works with Nissan Sunderland Plant on a range of initiatives to enhance workplace inclusivity and a sense of belonging.

## Background

Positive About Inclusion is a North East based consultancy and training provider who deliver a range of services to embed a sense of belonging, helping organisations to attract and retain the very best talent.

Having established a project team to progress their DEI commitments Nissan Sunderland Plant was recommended to work with Positive About Inclusion to support the project team to shape their priorities and deliver their initiatives.

With significant experience in supporting organisations to establish their baseline position and prioritise the actions required, Positive About Inclusion were ideally placed to work with Nissan Sunderland Plant.

## Approach and Solution

From the outset Nissan Sunderland Plant held a strong desire to do the right thing and is committed to embedding a sense of belonging throughout the workforce.

Following an initial scoping meeting, Positive About Inclusion were commissioned to deliver an in-person workshop for the project team at the Sunderland plant. This enabled them to clarify their starting position and to articulate and prioritise the next steps required. These included their approach to data collection and monitoring, training for line managers and supervisors, awareness raising amongst employees and inclusive recruitment practices.

Positive About Inclusion were further commissioned to support the delivery of a number of these priorities.

## Outcome and Advantage

This has been a very successful partnership to date with a range of bespoke initiatives delivered by Positive About Inclusion including:

- In person DEI training for over 400 line managers and supervisors – equipping them with the practical tools and techniques to enhance belonging at Nissan.
- Bite size employee awareness sessions as part of a celebration day.
- Specific reviews of Nissan Sunderland Plant recruitment practices including direct, indirect and apprentice recruitment, presenting the findings and recommendations in written reports which identified opportunities to maximise best practice.

Throughout this partnership Positive About Inclusion has been a trusted advisor and critical friend, providing ad hoc advice and guidance when required.

## Testimonial

"It's been a pleasure to work with Lucy and Karen, the two Directors of Positive About Inclusion, on supporting our DEI journey. They have been so easy to work with and have helped us to translate what can be a complex subject into practical and tangible actions."

**Lauren Scattergood / HR Talent Manager / Nissan Sunderland Plant**

"We are delighted to have established this partnership with Nissan Sunderland Plant, it has provided us with the opportunity to understand them and the automotive sector. We are proud to have supported the team at Nissan Sunderland in the delivery of their DEI ambitions and aspirations."

**Lucy Malarkey / Director / Positive About Inclusion**



## Preston Technical

### Innovators in Adhesive Tape Conversions

We are proud to say that Preston Technical is a family-run business specialising in adhesive tape conversions. We excel in creating bespoke solutions for various industries, with a strong focus on the UK automotive sector. Known for our innovative approach, including the development of TabTech, we streamline processes with tailored adhesive tape solutions.

#### Leading the Way in Bespoke Conversion Solutions

Since our founding in 1991, we've established ourselves as one of the UK's leading adhesive tape converters. Our dedication to bespoke solutions means we work closely with clients to understand their unique challenges and deliver tailored products that exceed expectations. From initial consultation and design to manufacturing and delivery, we provide comprehensive services at every step. Our customer-focused approach has helped us build lasting relationships with businesses of all sizes, enabling them to achieve exceptional results.

#### TabTech in the Automotive Industry

Our strong connection with the UK automotive industry has made us a trusted partner in this key sector. We've solidified our reputation for innovation with TabTech, offering precisely die-cut lengths of acrylic foam tape in a unique roll form. This format includes a groundbreaking method for removing the product's release liner, simplifying assembly for operators. This innovation leads to significant cost savings in manufacturing processes.



#### Why Choose Preston Technical?

Innovation, precision, and flexibility are at the heart of everything we do. We continually invest in advanced technologies and build strong collaborations to ensure our clients receive the most cutting-edge solutions. Whether it's the automotive sector or other industries, we aim to be more than just a supplier—we're a partner in your success.

Experience the Preston Technical difference - where expertise meets innovation to deliver exceptional adhesive tape conversions.

#### For more information, please contact:

Email: [sales@prestontechnical.co.uk](mailto:sales@prestontechnical.co.uk)

Tel: +44(0)1772 653 356

[www.prestontechnical.co.uk](http://www.prestontechnical.co.uk)



## Ashgarth Engineering

### Ashgarth Engineering are a North East based Precision Engineering business specialising in CNC milling and turning.

Established in 2017 Ashgarth Engineering have built a reputation for supplying high-quality, precision-engineered components for a diverse range of industries including but not limited to automotive, medical, rail, agricultural, oil and gas, subsea and yellow goods.

Our mission is to deliver exceptional machining solutions that exceed customer expectations through service, quality, and reliability. With a commitment to continuous improvement, we utilize state-of-the-art CNC technology and advanced software to ensure precision and efficiency in every project.

Ashgarth Engineering offers a comprehensive suite of services, including CNC milling, turning, and multi-axis machining. We have the capability to manufacture both small prototype batches and also large volume production with fully automated bar fed mill/turn lathes, Sliding head machines and multi-pallet horizontal milling machines. This gives us the ability to operate 'Lights out' and compete with lower cost options when there are sufficient volumes.

Our target market includes established OEMs and SMEs looking for reliable partners in precision machining. We have built a strong reputation for delivering on-time, high-quality products, which has fostered long-lasting relationships with our clients.



Looking to the future, here at Ashgarth Engineering, we aim to expand our capabilities through further investment and continuous staff training. We are dedicated to maintaining our position as a trusted leader in the CNC machining industry.

#### For more information please contact:

Email: [sales@ashgarth-engineering.co.uk](mailto:sales@ashgarth-engineering.co.uk)

Tel: 01207 655656

[www.ashgarth-engineering.co.uk](http://www.ashgarth-engineering.co.uk)



# Baltic Recruitment

## Why Baltic Recruitment is the Trusted Partner for Northeast Businesses

With over 15 years of experience, Baltic Recruitment has built a strong reputation in the Northeast for connecting businesses with top talent. Headquartered in Newton Aycliffe, we specialise in recruiting for automotive, manufacturing, and other sectors including:

- Engineering & Technical
- Commercial & Operational
- Warehouse & Distribution
- Education & Training

We provide tailored recruitment services that offer businesses access to highly qualified candidates for temporary, interim, and permanent staffing needs. Our approach is always customised to meet the unique demands of each sector.

### Sector-Specific Expertise

At Baltic Recruitment, we understand the specific needs of each industry. We focus on providing the best talent for:

- **Automotive & Manufacturing:** We are the trusted recruitment partner for tier-one automotive organisations, offering both short- and long-term staffing solutions. Our onsite offices help ensure a seamless, effective recruitment process.
- **Engineering & Technical:** We specialise in sourcing skilled professionals in fields like mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and project management to support operational excellence.
- **Warehouse & Distribution:** As e-commerce and supply chain demands rise, we connect businesses with professionals who can efficiently manage logistics, inventory, and warehouse operations.
- **Commercial & Operational:** We help businesses find talent in business development, supply chain management, and



- operations, ensuring growth and streamlined processes.
- **Education & Training:** As industries evolve, so does the demand for skilled educators and trainers to drive workforce development.

### Ethical, Honest, and Effective Recruitment

What sets us apart is our ethical approach to recruitment. We focus on building lasting relationships based on transparency and integrity. Our methodology combines industry expertise, stakeholder mapping, and quick access to qualified candidates to deliver solutions that work for both clients and candidates.

### Looking for a recruitment partner with deep industry expertise? Contact Baltic Recruitment today.

Email: [HQ@balticrecruitment.co.uk](mailto:HQ@balticrecruitment.co.uk)  
Tel: 01325 731061

[www.balticrecruitment.co.uk](http://www.balticrecruitment.co.uk)



# Apex Time Critical

## Leaders in time-sensitive logistics solutions

At Apex Time Critical, we are leaders in time-sensitive logistics solutions, providing 24/7 emergency and urgent delivery services across global markets.

Our focus on precision, reliability, and customer service excellence has established us as a trusted partner for industries where timing is crucial, including automotive, aerospace, marine, and fashion sectors.

We offer a comprehensive suite of services, including air freight, dedicated express vans, European full and part load transport, ocean freight, on-board courier services, and in-house customs clearance.

What sets us apart is our ability to mobilize resources quickly, with vehicle collection available within 2 hours from most European postcodes and our global network of partners ensuring worldwide coverage.

Our service portfolio is backed by state-of-the-art tracking systems, providing real-time visibility and peace of mind for our clients. Our in-house customs team facilitates smooth border transitions, while our dedicated account managers ensure personalised service and swift problem resolution.



With our team of experienced professionals available around the clock, we position ourselves as more than just a service provider – we are logistics problem solvers, dedicated to keeping our clients' operations running smoothly through reliable, efficient, and time-critical delivery solutions.

### For further information, please contact:

Carl Thompson | Managing Director  
Tel: +44 (0) 191 500 2234  
Email: [carl@apextimercritical.com](mailto:carl@apextimercritical.com)

[www.apexon.com](http://www.apexon.com)



# Tyneside Training Services

Tyneside Training Services provide a comprehensive range of Transport and Logistics training and development programs, tailored to meet the needs of individuals and businesses.

Our delivery programme currently includes award winning driver training, vocational warehousing and logistics qualifications, health and safety courses, and professional development workshops. All of our programs are designed to enhance skills, improve performance, and ensure compliance with industry standards. With experienced instructors and a commitment to quality, Tyneside Training Services helps every learner achieve their goals and advance in their careers.

Whether you're looking to gain new skills or refine existing ones, our innovative approach to education ensures that each learner receives personalised attention and support. TTS's courses are flexible, accommodating various schedules and learning styles, making it easier for both participants and employers to balance educational pursuits with other commitments. Tyneside Training Services also collaborates with industry partners to ensure that their curriculum remains relevant and aligned with current market demands. Having a proactive strategy not only enhances the employability of our graduates, but also empowers businesses to maintain a competitive edge by equipping their workforce with the latest knowledge and skills.

We are thrilled to join the North East Automotive Alliance, to support the collective interests of the automotive sector in the



region. As a new member, we are eager to contribute our expertise in training and development to support the growth and innovation within the automotive industry. Our commitment to all NEAA Members is to provide your staff and company with the highest of quality, bespoke training solutions that meet the evolving needs of businesses and individuals alike. We look forward to collaborating with fellow members to drive progress and excellence in the North East's automotive landscape.

**For more information, please contact:**

Kayleigh Wilkinson | Head of Business Development  
 Email: Kayleigh.Wilkinson@tynesidetrainingservices.co.uk

[www.tynesidetrainingservices.co.uk](http://www.tynesidetrainingservices.co.uk)



# Kenect Recruitment

Kenect is a proud multi-award-winning recruitment agency with national coverage that offers temporary & permanent staffing solutions to clients.

We understand that finding the right job can be a time-consuming process and you may often find yourself hitting dead ends countless times. We aim to remove the burden by getting to understand exactly what our job seekers are looking for and position you in a place to be successful.

**TAILOR MADE SERVICE**

By understanding both our clients and each of our candidates, we ensure to find you the best fit by providing a tailor-made service to everyone. It's important to our business that we continue with our trend to provide clear and honest direction to our clients and to you!

We are your local recruitment agency and have a range of jobs with various shifts, hours, pay and locations to give you the best chance of finding something that really satisfies your needs and to ensure that you feel comfortable and happy in your new work environment.

**OUR MISSION**

Kenect's mission is to be the FIRST choice in fulfilling the needs of our job seekers through a caring, quality and professional service. The more you can tell us, the better we can be at



finding you the right job. Contact us today and let us know what you need to get you started.

**For more information, please contact:**

Email: sunderland@kenectrecruitment.co.uk  
 Tel: 0191 406 6200

[www.kenectrecruitment.co.uk](http://www.kenectrecruitment.co.uk)



# CustomerX Consultants

CustomerX specialise in providing strategic consultancy service to the automotive manufacturing industry.

Chris Brown heads up the consultancy and has spent most of his career in the automotive manufacturing industry, particularly in the engine and powertrain sectors.

Having worked across almost every commercial segment - from automotive, bus and truck, to power generation, rail, marine, industrial, construction, and defence, his broad experience spans sales, marketing, and distribution.

Over time, Chris has developed a specialisation in the aftermarket where he has led several regional and global aftermarket businesses and functions. These include remanufacturing, service parts, logistics, service operations, brand & channel strategy, new product, warranty, and customer support - all at the critical end of the supply chain.

In his experience, one question consistently arises in conversations with customers: "How are you going to support me?" This question highlights a vital element of business success. Addressing it effectively can become a significant competitive advantage.

There are many facets to achieving industry standards and delivering world-class customer experience. At CustomerX Consultants, its mission is to help businesses excel, not only in customer satisfaction but also in overall performance. Whether you



are a B2B OEM, a supplier, or a B2C, operator or asset owner they are here to help and support your journey.

If you are interested in learning more about how they can enhance your customer experience, business performance, productivity and efficiency please reach out using the contact details below.

**For further information, please contact:**

Chris Brown | Managing Director / Consultant  
Email: Chris.A.Brown1@outlook.com  
Tel: +44 7838 387 409

[www.customerxconsultants.com](http://www.customerxconsultants.com)



# Kammac

Empowering Automotive Innovation with Kammac:  
Proud to Join the NEAA

Kammac is thrilled to join the North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA), bringing a global perspective and extensive expertise to one of the UK's most dynamic regions for automotive innovation. As a trusted third-party logistics (3PL) provider and part of the worldwide Elanders Group, with sister companies spanning North and South America, Europe, and Asia, we deliver highly flexible and agile supply chain solutions tailored specifically for the automotive industry.

Our ever-expanding UK network of warehousing and transport hubs positions Kammac to seamlessly handle the complex logistics involved in the automotive supply chain. We excel in managing the storage and consolidation of crucial materials, including lithium-ion batteries and high-value fragile items. We ensure smooth operational flow from pre-assembly to line feeding, just-in-time, and just-in-sequence deliveries.

In 2025, Kammac will double our warehousing capacity in the Northeast, with an aim to have 1 million sq ft in the future, reflecting our bold vision for growth and our unwavering commitment to supporting the region's automotive manufacturers. This expansion will offer unparalleled flexibility, scalability, and efficiency, helping our partners navigate the complexities of an evolving market.

Joining NEAA, we are eager to collaborate closely with industry leaders to drive innovation and shape the future of the automotive



supply chain. We believe in building robust, long-lasting partnerships that empower businesses to thrive. Together, we will deliver sustainable, cost-effective solutions that keep our clients at the forefront of industry advancements.

We encourage NEAA members to contact Kammac and discover how we can optimise your logistics and accelerate your growth through a special member discount rate. Together, let's lead the future of automotive innovation.

**Book a consultation today!**

Ged Carabini  
Mob: 07919 321352  
Email: Ged.Carabini@kammac.com

[www.kammac.com](http://www.kammac.com)



## GEM Partnership

GEM Partnership (founded in 2009) are a recruitment and training provider offering a full 360 degree service that provides exceptional service for clients, candidates and learners.

Our capabilities and services have grown significantly within this time including the launch of our training division in 2017 (which is rated 'Good' by Ofsted) to further cement our position as a provider of complete workforce solutions.

We develop a partnership approach that allows us to get to know you and your business, also becoming an extension of your HR and L&D departments. We speak your language ensuring we can link to the workplace and contextualise the environment.

Being consultative in our approach allows us to bring ideas and solutions to address business challenges and use our expertise to share best practice and help you think outside the box.

We deliver training that's innovative and engaging that helps you upskill your workforce, embedding improvement projects that add value to the delivery and provide a return on your investment.

With strong ties to the Automotive and Manufacturing industry we are incredibly proud of the partnerships we have formed with a range of top tier companies across the North East, providing volume temporary recruitment with a number of onsite offices providing a fully managed service to our clients.



We strongly believe in the recruitment and training partnership and ensure a pre-employment training model and onboarding service is offered helping long term retention for our clients. In addition we supply permanent recruitment, apprenticeship delivery and fully bespoke training designed to maximise the return on investment.

**For more information, please contact:**

Kelly Lee | Training Director  
Email: Kelly.Lee@Gempartnership.com

[www.gempartnership.com](http://www.gempartnership.com)



## Sustainable Business Services

### Our vision is to be a leader in sustainable business

Our sustainable business services will support, co-create and inspire our people, clients and stakeholders to collectively develop sustainable, innovative business practices to drive collective impact and financial performance consistently.

We provide a structured The SBS Net-Zero Programme enabling business to set credible net-zero strategies, aligned to internationally recognised standards ISO14064-1, PAS2060, The GHG Protocol and the UN Race to Zero Campaign.

Backed by market leading software we adopt a more than just software approach, our programme provides business, an outsourced environmental manager service (EMS), working to deliver detailed carbon footprint report, annual certification, net-zero strategy, planning, training and team engagement.

**Our services include:**

- Net-zero reporting, training and management
- Outsourced environmental manager
- Environmental training and workshops

Fundamental to our business ambition is supporting businesses over the long term to, reduce cost, consumption and carbon emissions whilst delivering on their business and environmental goals.



This is why we have created a Sustainable Business Community, a FREE platform for businesses to collaborate and support each other to net-zero.

We work with several regional local authorities providing a range of fully and part funded services to businesses across our region and beyond.

**For more information, please contact:**

James Gordon Staniforth  
Email: James@sbs.eco

[www.sbs.eco](http://www.sbs.eco)



**sustainable**  
business services

# Nippon Express (UK) Ltd

## Driving Business Growth in the Northeast | Tailored End-to-End Supply Chain Solutions by NX Group

The NX Group is a world-leading logistics provider established in Japan in 1937.

With over 73,000 professionals in 50+ countries and regions, the NX Group is renowned for its global presence. Our holding company, NIPPON EXPRESS HOLDINGS, is listed on the Prime Market, the highest tier of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Distinguished by its unwavering commitment to excellence, the NX Group holds a strong market position in air, sea, rail, and truck transport as well as contract logistics, offering high-quality end-to-end supply chain solutions that seamlessly integrate information technology.

As a partner that goes beyond simply transporting goods, the NX Group is committed to creating sustainable and environmentally-conscious supply chains. We strive to co-create our customers' future by providing innovative solutions.

At Nippon Express UK, we have built a robust service network specifically designed to address the diverse needs of the mobility and industrial sectors in the Northeast of UK. Our network efficiently



handles all types of freight, customized to meet the unique conditions of each customer. We are committed to creating optimal transportation solutions to support your mobility and industrial business expansion.

### Explore tailored logistics solutions for your business - contact us today!

Nippon Express (UK) Ltd.

Unit 16 Brooklands Way Boldon Business Park, Boldon Colliery NE35 9LZ

Email: [NEUK-NCL.Sales@nipponexpress.com](mailto:NEUK-NCL.Sales@nipponexpress.com)

Tel: +44 (0)191 519 7964

[www.nipponexpress.com](http://www.nipponexpress.com)



# Pro-Ad

## Pro-Ad: Your Partner in Sustainable Branded Merchandise

At Pro-Ad, sustainability isn't just a trend; it's our mission.

We believe that if your brand has a good story to tell, then, so should your branded merchandise. That's why we offer a range of responsibly sourced products, all designed to reduce your environmental impact.

### We work with factories that:

- Manufacture products from recycled materials
- Manufacture products from organic materials
- Offer a variety of specialist British-made products
- Use innovative materials to replace or reduce virgin plastic

Pro-Ad is setting new standards to help our clients better understand and measure their sustainability efforts. To make this easier, we offer sustainable alternatives for each product on every proposal.

Partnering with Ecologi, we plant trees and offset carbon with every order.

### Book Your Eco Audit

Ready to reduce your environmental footprint?

Schedule an eco-audit of your current merchandise and we can help you switch to sustainable options for your future



campaigns. To learn more, or book a 1-to-1 with the Pro-Ad Solutions team, contact us at [solutions@proad.co.uk](mailto:solutions@proad.co.uk).

### Further Contact Details:

Tel: 01670 518928

[www.proad.co.uk](http://www.proad.co.uk)



# BE PART OF OUR NETWORK

