

Motorsport Northamptonshire

**A Study of the Motorsport
Industry in
Northamptonshire**

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1 Executive Summary

- In 2002, the annual turnover value of motorsport engineering and services to the Northamptonshire economy is estimated at £0.6 billion and employment at 4200 full time equivalent persons.
- Motorsport Northamptonshire comprises:
 - 33% of UK F1 constructors
 - 40% of world F1 engine market (and all of UK activity)
 - at least two-thirds of UK motorsport engine builder employment
 - 30% of the UK motorsport engineering Top 20
 - a significant share of the international motorsport supply chain (including particular expertise in composites and precision engineering)
 - several world class racing teams
 - the only Grade 1 motorsport circuit in the UK
 - the only 'oval' motorsport circuit in the UK
 - the premier UK drag racing strip
 - a number of world class racing schools (training and experience)
 - the largest number of international and national motorsport events in the country, including a F1 World Championship Grand Prix
 - 18% of testing world-wide by UK F1 companies
 - 42% of the *emda* region's motorsport industry
- Motorsport Northamptonshire has four distinctive capabilities:
 - **Engine builders:** The county is a world centre for motorsport engine production including a high quality share of the supply chain
 - **Circuit and venue provision:** The county has the highest quality and widest breadth of venue provision in the UK. Northamptonshire hosts the largest number of major motorsport events in the UK including a F1 World Championship Grand Prix with its major economic impact on the region.
 - **Testing infrastructure:** The circuits and venues in Northamptonshire provide a national infrastructure for testing. In F1, Northamptonshire accounts for almost all the testing undertaken by UK F1 constructors and engine builders.
 - **Road infrastructure:** Congestion in the county is limited in comparison to national standards and Northamptonshire's location in relation to major road transport routes places it at the heart of the national network.
- In summary, Motorsport Northamptonshire sits at the heart of Motorsport Valley with its combination of constructors/engine builders and motorsport events. The county's industry encompasses the apexes of the motorsport value chain and embraces breadth and depth throughout the engineering and services supply chain.

- The scale, scope, diversity and strength of the Northamptonshire motorsport industry is highlighted by the wide-ranging opportunities and threats outlined in the SWOT analysis. An overarching strategy for the motorsport industry in Northamptonshire should be driven by actions to:
 - inhibit any ‘unravelling’ of the industrial system in place
 - develop the competitive advantage of the industrial system

Focus should be placed on:

- ‘filling of gaps’
 - ‘strengthening of relationships’
- This should be achieved through activities that look beyond the county to the array of national and regional policy initiatives aimed at the UK motorsport industry and through engagement by both the public and private sector in the county.

1.1 Recommendations

Business Development

- SME development focussed on export pathways (manufacturing and services)
- Supply chain management: to embed prime companies, upgrade lower tiers and capture value added (manufacturing and services)
- SME development in to 'performance engineering' markets to retain higher value added activity and reduce over-reliance on motorsport markets

Inward Investment Promotion

- Inward investment to fill gaps in the supply chain to engine builders
- Inward investment aimed at gaps in the constructor profile (e.g. WRC)
- Inward investment opportunities centred on international/national motorsport events and utilising the venue infrastructure of county

Education and Skills Development

- Secure funding for a CoVE in motorsport and performance engineering
- Actively develop a 'cradle to grave' set of skills, education and training initiatives for the county within motorsport and performance engineering through utilisation of existing and new initiatives

Research and Development System

- Identify and map the R&D activity of Motorsport Northamptonshire and determine its fit with current science and technology policy
- Investigate further the 'distinctive capability' of testing infrastructure in the county

Physical Infrastructure

- Motorsport Northamptonshire needs to formulate a policy position on the motorsport industry and plans for expansion, especially those pertaining to circuit development

Industry Research Programme

- Completion of the Motorsport Northamptonshire database
- Develop a longitudinal analysis of the motorsport industry in the county
- Value chain analysis of the motorsport industry within the county
- A study of the R&D and innovation system of the motorsport industry in Northamptonshire