



It's been a busy month for Greater Manchester with some great news to share. [MBDA's announcement of 700 new high-skilled jobs](#) at their expanded Bolton site represents a significant £200 million investment in our advanced manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, our selection for the Government's Digital and AI Innovation Campus is fantastic recognition of our position as the [UK's most AI-ready city](#).

Yet it wasn't just manufacturing and digital that made headlines; our international connectivity received a major boost with the launch of [Manchester Airport and IndiGo's new direct service to Mumbai](#) - the timing couldn't be better with [UK-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations](#) removing barriers for Indian companies considering Greater Manchester for their European operations. Add to this the momentum building for the transformative [Liverpool-Manchester Railway](#), with both mayors joining forces in Westminster to champion the £90 billion opportunity.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for an exciting couple of weeks ahead as Greater Manchester is set to take centre stage as we head to Singapore and Japan for EXPO 2025 Osaka. Partnering with the Department for Business and Trade and the UK Pavilion, alongside Osaka City, we'll be delivering a week-long series of events engaging with political leaders, trade officials and Japanese businesses. We look forward to showcasing everything our city-region has to offer on the global stage and hope to see some of you there.

**Joe Manning**  
Managing Director, MIDAS, Manchester's Inward Agency

## Highlights & Insights



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## Wider view



Manchester is building stronger ties with India, thanks to growing trade links and better connectivity. From 1 July, IndiGo and Manchester Airport will launch the only [direct flights from Manchester to Mumbai](#), a move [backed by local leaders](#) who see it as a big step towards boosting trade, tourism, and cultural exchange. With India's economy growing fast, the new route is expected to open up fresh opportunities for businesses across Greater Manchester.

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**Manchester has been named the UK's most AI-ready city for the second consecutive year, according to new research.**

The SAS AI Cities Index 2025, evaluates cities based on criteria including AI-related job opportunities, innovation funding, education, and business activity. Manchester topped the rankings, indicating its strong position to leverage the economic and social potential of AI. SAS suggests Manchester could be designated an official AI Growth Zone under the UK Government's AI Action Plan.

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### Greater Manchester Makes Its Mark at UKREiF 2025

The Greater Manchester delegation made a powerful case for the city-region's growth potential across two days in Leeds at UKREiF 2025. The MIDAS team connected with investors, developers, and policymakers to showcase the wealth of opportunities that continue to define our city-region as a national leader in inclusive growth and innovation.

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### Manchester named one of Europe's best cities for 2025

Manchester has been named one of 'Europe's best cities for 2025', according to a new report. Described as "England's worker bee city", Manchester was praised for a "creative and economic rebirth" that has thrust it into the spotlight recently. The city ranked 36 in the list of 100 destinations to "visit, live, work and invest in 2025", according to global consulting firm Resonance.

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## Upcoming Events

Events our team will be attending this month:

- [London Tech Week](#) | 9th - 13th June
- [NHS ConfedExpo 2025](#) | June 11th - June 12th
- [HLTH Europe](#) | 16th - 19th June
- [Paris Airshow](#) | 16th - 22nd June
- [Hydrogen masterclass with Bosch, Manchester Metropolitan University](#) | 26th June



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