



Last month was jam-packed with visits from delegations from across the globe, including Japan, Estonia, and China - strengthening Greater Manchester's key international relationships.

With World Expo 25 in Osaka officially open and as we eagerly anticipate the Manchester Day in Osaka in June with a Greater Manchester delegation attending, the Japanese-Manchester alliance continued to deepen with a visit from Ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki, which even captured the attention of national media. It was a pleasure to welcome them to our city-region for the first time.

Yet it wasn't just Japan that made an impact; we welcomed an Estonian business delegation as they continue to connect with UK industry in advanced manufacturing, defence, automation, and digitalisation – sectors where Greater Manchester excels.

Meanwhile, our productive engagement with the Tianjin, China delegation included roundtables with our key partners, and sessions at the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre, before culminating in productive talks between Tianjin's Vice Mayor and our Deputy Mayor Paul Dennett.

Looking ahead to activity this month, I'm excited to announce that MIDAS will be attending UKREiF 2025 in Leeds this May for another year. Together, we'll position our city-region as a leading destination for business and investment.

If you're planning on attending, please join us as we continue to put Greater Manchester on the map and demonstrate why our city-region remains at the forefront of innovation and economic growth. I look forward to seeing you there.

Joe Manning

Managing Director, MIDAS, Manchester's Inward Agency

Highlights & Insights



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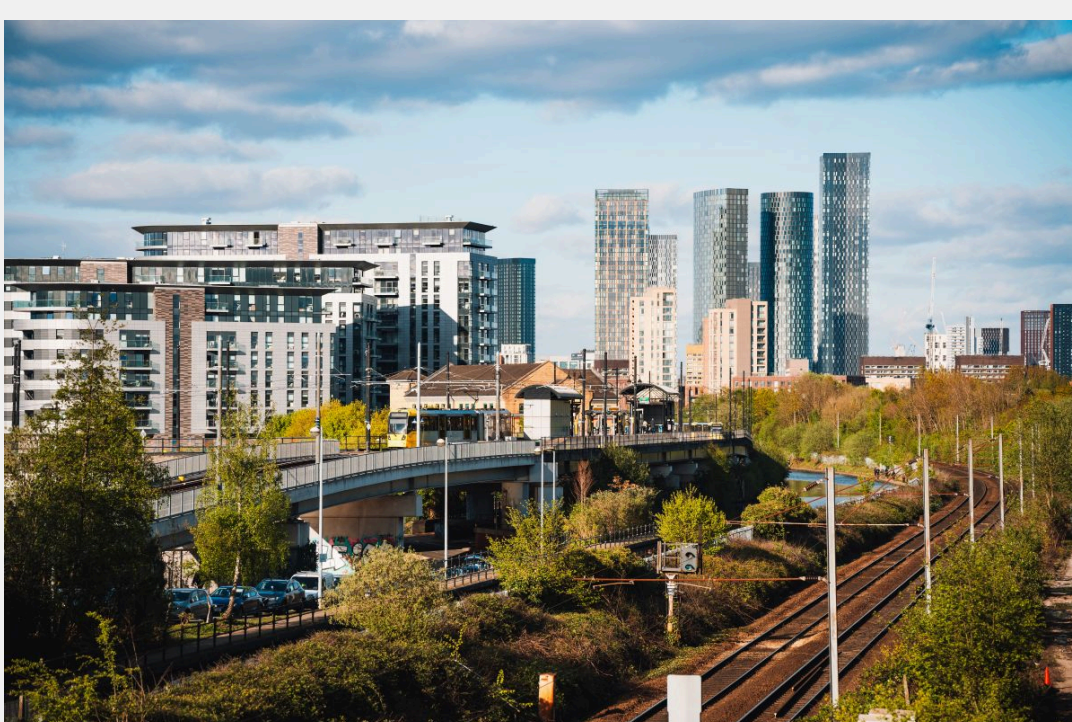
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Wider view



From April 8 to April 9, Manchester welcomed His Excellency Ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki for a visit that celebrated the city's longstanding and growing ties with Japan. Over the course of two days, Ambassador Suzuki engaged with key figures from Greater Manchester's business, academic, and cultural spheres, reinforcing the dynamic relationship between Japan and the region.

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Report says Greater Manchester on course to become European leader in AI innovation

Greater Manchester's AI companies are now valued at £3.14bn, more than five times their 2020 valuation, and the city region is on a path of considerable growth, according to a new report from the Turing Innovation Catalyst Manchester.

The report also highlights that, with the right support and investment, the city region's AI ecosystem has the potential to be worth £11.2bn by 2035, increasing

the number of AI jobs to 25,000 and achieving an economic impact contribution of £18.67bn gross value added.

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Upcoming Events

Events our team will be attending this month:

- [VECS 2025](#) | Sweden | 5th - 6th May
- [Cyber UK](#) | Manchester | 6th - 8th May
- [BIBA Conference 2025](#) | Manchester Central | 14th -15th May
- [UKREiiff](#) | Leeds | 22nd May
- [Dublin Tech Summit](#) | Ireland | 28th - 29th

Did you Know...

Manchester was the first city to host the Commonwealth games twice



Manchester first hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1934, followed by the 2002 edition, which was one of the most successful ever.

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