

WE'RE BRITAIN'S POWER HOUSE...

Latest figures show that the West Midlands continues to be the major manufacturing powerhouse of Britain.

Manufacturing is responsible for more than half the regional economy and nearly a third of the UK output, according to research for Birmingham City University. Paul Forrest, director at West Midlands Economic Forum, said: "Export performance in the West Midlands has grown by 30 per cent in the last two years which shows we're outperforming people in Germany and China."

BUSINESS NEWS



BRUM BOOSTS GLOBAL PROFILE

A new initiative is being launched to boost the region's profile in global markets. Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership has commissioned Marketing Birmingham to develop the branding strategy to strengthen the local economy. Foreign investment and visitor numbers to Greater Birmingham are at a record high, and John Lewis boss and chair of the GBSLEP, Andy Street, said: "To build on this momentum we need a step change that will herald the next stage of the area's development and reputation."



TOP DEAL: Clare Balding presented the award

OH YES, IT'S THE REAL DEAL

The letting to Deutsche Bank of Five Brindleyplace has been named as the Regional Deal of the Year at the inaugural MIPIM UK property event. Deutsche Bank took the entire 134,000sq ft building on a 15-year lease in the largest piece of inward investment in Birmingham during the current property cycle. It's also the second largest office transaction completed since the start of the economic downturn in 2008.



NEW PRACTICE OPENS

A new specialist orthodontic practice has opened in the heart of Birmingham's medical quarter. Signature Orthodontics has been launched by Dr Preet Bohgal a graduate from the University of Birmingham who undertook his specialist training at Birmingham Dental Hospital. Signature Orthodontics is very much a family practice – Preet's wife Dominika is a therapist and his sister Suky is the practice manager.