Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone
What are Enterprise Zones?

Enterprise Zones are seven areas in Wales where ongoing investment is creating the very best conditions for businesses to operate and thrive. Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone can provide the highest level of support to businesses locating here, whether you are an inward investor, start-up or an existing business. With over 99 acres (40 hectares) of development land available on a number of sites, Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone is an excellent strategic location for exploiting supply chain opportunities with good access to Welsh manufacturing industry and other manufacturing hubs in the UK including the West Midlands.

The vision for Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone is of a vibrant, world class high technology hotspot for manufacturing companies of all sizes spanning many key sub sectors, providing employment that is challenging, rewarding and valued.

“When companies consider Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone they have several locations on the edge of a national park which attracts the maximum level of State Aid. The area has a great track record of manufacturing and world class infrastructure. It does not get much better.”

Gareth Jenkins, Chair of the Board, Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone
Manufacturing a successful future
An attractive proposition for businesses

With the space and capability to accommodate a wide range of manufacturing companies, Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone in Blaenau Gwent is ideally placed to become a vibrant hotspot of Welsh-based manufacturing. The area has a long history of manufacturing and is already the base for international leaders such as Tenneco, Yuasa Battery, Continental Teves, G-TEM, Penn Pharma and Monier Redland.

Everything is in place here for your business to succeed. Ebbw Vale offers some unparalleled incentives to help businesses thrive, including discretionary business rates and access to industry-leading support. You’ll also find a skilled workforce right here on your doorstep, along with some of the most competitive labour rates available in the country.

By locating here, you could benefit from the highest level of grant aid in the UK.

With an excellent infrastructure including road and rail links and state-of-the-art broadband, Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone is a compelling proposition for any business looking to prosper and grow.
“Ebbw Vale has a strong industrial heritage which has been supported for many years by strong links with training and academic providers who offer a wide range of technical, manufacturing, management and administrative support skills. A new further education facility exists in Ebbw Vale which has been built to further support the drive to regenerate employment opportunities in the South Wales Valleys.”

David Waggett,
CEO Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
A thriving area...

Manufacturing is one of Wales’ longest established sectors and Ebbw Vale, in Blaenau Gwent, South-East Wales, is a region with a particularly long and distinguished heritage. Along with all the skills that the sector demands, the region has an inspiring track record in attracting and supporting international manufacturing businesses – not to mention a strong pedigree of nurturing successful home-grown manufacturing companies.

Ebbw Vale offers your business all the benefits of an excellent strategic location for making the most of some compelling supply chain opportunities. With easy access to a number of large contractors in the Welsh manufacturing sector as well as other manufacturing hubs in the UK such as the west Midlands, you’ll be ideally placed to thrive.

“Recent reports state that annual UK vehicle production will increase from 1.5 million units (predicted for 2013) to over 2 million by 2016. As such, Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone with its offering of support and relevant infrastructure, is well placed to be a location of choice.”

Tim Williams, Chief Executive, Welsh Automotive Forum
Circuit of Wales

Circuit of Wales is a proposed £280 million development that includes a world-class performance circuit for international calibre motor sport such as MotoGP, World Superbikes and Touring Cars.

The development will include international-standard karting, Motocross and 4x4 tracks, a technology park catering for high spec research and development, as well as a leading motor sports race academy and training facility to develop young riders and drivers, host international race schools and provide wider safety and driver education and training.

It has been projected that the development will be worth £50m to the Welsh economy annually, and attract 750,000 visitors a year to the area, creating thousands of jobs in the region, with a strong emphasis on local recruitment and training.
Blaenau Gwent has a long standing tradition and availability of manufacturing skilled labour within the area.

Thanks to the range of manufacturing companies in the area, along with the associated skills and technologies that they generate, by locating in Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone your business will be able to draw upon a highly skilled and readily-available labour pool. You’ll find some of the country’s very best levels of staff retention and loyalty, reflecting a proud community spirit.

Skills and knowledge continue to be nurtured and harnessed here. Indeed, the University of Wales’ renowned higher education system produces more than 2,000 engineering graduates each year.

By locating in Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone, your business can also make the most of innovative and successful business training solutions. To take just one example, our Pathways to Apprenticeships is an intensive training scheme for young learners aged between 16 and 24, preparing them for their future and for excellence in business success. You can also call on the resources and support of Skills Growth Wales.

Despite all the incentives and support that are in place, you’ll find that expertise never stands still at Ebbw Vale. The Enterprise Zone is host to an e-learning zone which focuses on proactively delivering the workforce skills to meet the future needs of businesses like yours, enabling your business to stay at the forefront of industry knowledge and expertise.
“During the 30 years that Yuasa have been operating at its Ebbw Vale site, we have benefited from being located in an area with a rich manufacturing pedigree which has helped ensure a steady stream of good skilled labour and local suppliers to fit in with our business needs.”

John Houmoller,
Group Human Resources Manager,
Yuasa Battery
Support and incentives for your business

“The Welsh Government assisted us in no small measure to achieve our objectives. We acquired an insolvent business with environmental issues and old machinery and have modernised the plant, resolved all the environmental issues and provide secure permanent jobs for 68 people.”

Dermot Brady,
Managing Director, AB Cardinal
Focused on your success

Ebbw Vale is already the home of a number of world-leading manufacturing companies. We are committed to the manufacturing sector, and will work in partnership with you to support your business in the long term.

A pro-business Government

As a devolved Government, we can give you easy access to key decision makers to fast track your move. We’ll listen to what you need and put everything in place to make it happen, drawing on support from a Board made up of industry specialists.

Business support

You’ll have a dedicated point of contact to take you through the unrivalled package of support available. We offer a range of support from sources of Welsh Government and external funding, support for innovation, ICT and e-business and best in class supply chain and international trade programmes.

We also offer a generous training support package to help you develop the skills and industry leaders of tomorrow. We’ll work closely with you to review and plan your workforce training and development needs, explaining the support available for recruiting and employing new staff. Our universities can deliver tailored programmes and courses to suit your specific needs, ranging from degree to work based learning.

Incentives

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) are available at Rhyd-y-Blew, which, with 32 acres (13.2 hectares) of development land, is the largest such site in the Valleys.

If you are an existing growth company or a new start, you could also benefit from a discretionary Business Rates scheme specifically designed for SMEs. Consideration will be given to job creation, business activity related to Key Sectors, increased productivity and innovation/R&D. The scheme enables you to claim rebates on business rates up to £55,000 a year or the business rates you’ve paid; whichever is lowest.

Access to finance

The whole of Blaenau Gwent is a Tier 1 area, which means that by locating here you could benefit from the highest level of grant aid in the UK. Whether you’re moving here, starting up or expanding, you can call on a range of competitive finance packages (subject to eligibility). We will be happy to take you through all the options.

You’ll also be able to take advantage of commercial finance from a range of institutions such as Finance Wales. Finance Wales backs Welsh small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) providing debt, equity and mezzanine investments of between £1,000 and £2 million at a time. SMEs located in Welsh Enterprise Zones can benefit from a two per cent reduction in the interest rates charged on new loans.

Industry-led academic research

Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone has links to world class manufacturing research conducted at Cardiff and Swansea Universities, and applied research at the University of South Wales, Cardiff and Swansea Metropolitan Universities. We will introduce you to relevant research departments to support you with industry led academic research.

Email: businesssupport@wales.gsi.gov.uk | Web: www.ebbwvale-ez.wales.gov.uk | Tel: +44 (0)3000 6 03000
Manufacturing a successful future

An infrastructure second to none

To help your organisation thrive, we are prioritising regeneration and infrastructure improvements to a number of key sites.

A Successful Future

Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone is one of the most attractive areas for businesses looking to succeed in manufacturing and associated industries.

ICT Connectivity

Whatever your business sector, cutting-edge communications are a must. As the key economic priority areas for Wales, Enterprise Zones will be among the first to benefit from superfast broadband. Consequently by locating at Ebbw Vale you can count on the very latest fibre-based technology to meet the needs of your business.

Getting the best out of ICT

With superfast connectivity guaranteed, we are keen to support businesses to fully exploit the technologies that can be at your finger tips. Utilising cloud technologies and improving your supply chain through ICT can form the basis of dedicated ICT Exploitation support to help your business maximise the benefits of improved technologies.
Room to do business

Key sites within the Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone include:

1. **Rhyd-y-Blew** – 32 acres (13.2 hectares) of publicly owned developable land. The largest strategic site available in the Zone, offering Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs). This site could accommodate larger buildings for B1, B2 and B8 uses.


3. **Bryn Serth** – 24 acres (10 hectares) of privately owned developable land, suitable for B1, B2, B8, A3 and C1 uses.

4. **Rassau Industrial Estate** – 17 acres (7.1 hectares) of privately owned developable land. This site could accommodate larger buildings for B1, B2 and B8 uses and also offers a number of existing industrial units available for immediate occupation.

5. **Tredegar Business Park** – 5 acres (2.1 hectares) of publicly owned developable land, immediately available for B1 uses.

6. **Circuit of Wales** – There is also the potential of another development site within the Zone in future, should the Circuit of Wales project succeed through its development stage.
Flexible property solutions

With over 99 acres (40 hectares) of development land available, not to mention 100% expansion space, we are already able to accommodate a wide range of projects. You’ll find a range of property solutions readily available, including temporary accommodation, modifications to existing property and speculative new build.

We are able to fast-track flexible property solutions speedily and efficiently to meet any requirements. Whether you are looking to instigate a small and discrete project or a major inward investment project, we have the expertise and the support to deliver. From speculative build projects to temporary accommodation, or even tailoring existing properties to meet your exact needs, we will work with you to deliver the best solution for your business.

If you are embarking on a speculative new build project, your dedicated point of contact can assist you in liaising with landowners, developers and key stakeholders, in order to respond rapidly to your property requirements.
Look who’s already here
Ebbw Vale has a long history of attracting and supporting world-leading manufacturing projects, both large and small. No wonder the area is already home to a number of major UK companies, including:

- **Tenneco** (automotive product manufacturing)
- **Yuasa Battery** (automotive product manufacturing)
- **Continental Teves** (automotive product manufacturing)
- **G-TEM** (automotive product manufacturing)
- **Monier Redland** (construction product manufacturing)
- **Penn Pharma** (pharmaceuticals manufacturing)
Penn Pharma has operated in the
global pharmaceutical market
for over 33 years. During most of
this time, the company has been
operating at the heart of the South
Wales Valleys, where it continues
to expand its facility, as its skilled
staff serve the increasingly complex
needs of the world’s leading
drug companies. Penn uses its
specialist facilities at Tredegar to
form drugs into tablets, capsules,
creams and ointments for both
commercial markets and clinical
trials. Its highly qualified technical
teams also carry out development
work on many of these drugs.

Penn is rare amongst service
providers in having core capability
in both human and veterinary
products at both investigational
and commercial scale. This
broad portfolio has enabled the
company to expand its client
base internationally and it has
significant experience of working
with the major regulatory bodies
in Europe, USA and Japan.

The firm finds its Heads of the Valleys
location beneficial for accessing
a range of airports to connect
with its international customers
and is also within easy reach of a
number of other Wales-based life
science companies with whom it
collaborates in product development.

With global reach through its
international sales force, distribution
network and strategic alliances,
Penn is expected to play a key role
in the evolution of life sciences
in the Heads of the Valleys.

“We’ve had excellent support from the
Welsh Government in terms of funding for
the new facility, and the local authority has
also helped us in a myriad of ways…We have
also had terrific support, on and off site,
for training our people to a very high level.
That’s really important because we are in a
regulated industry where you cannot afford
to make any mistakes.”

Richard Yarwood,
Chief Executive, Penn Pharma
Continental Teves

“The key to us being here is the high skills base which comes from this being a traditional manufacturing area. We have very high quality performance and very low absence levels. We want to continue to grow the business, and Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone is a good place to do that. The region definitely has a role to play in the future of the automotive industry. There is a great pride in this plant.”

Mark Langshaw, Managing Director and Plant Manager, Continental Teves

Braking systems are the business of Ebbw Vale based Continental Teves, but, when it comes to growth, this dynamic firm has its foot firmly on the accelerator.

Despite the recession, this long-established company has continued to build its market share and win prestigious contracts to design and manufacture brake callipers for many top-of-the-range vehicles. Its client list reads like a Who’s Who of of the world’s luxury car manufacturers, including names such as Bentley, BMW, Daimler, Jaguar, Land Rover and Rolls Royce.

As it has refined and expanded its product range, the firm has consolidated its position among these high profile brands.

The company has experienced significant growth and job creation since restructuring the business in 2009 to focus on niche and high performance products. With the capabilities, flexibility and adaptability of a highly skilled workforce drawn from this traditional manufacturing heartland, this growth is set to continue.

Email: businesssupport@wales.gsi.gov.uk  Web: www.ebbwvale-ez.wales.gov.uk  Tel: +44 (0)3000 6 03000
Manufacturing a successful future

Linked to the UK’s key manufacturing markets

The central location of Blaenau Gwent offers excellent access to markets in the North, South, East and West of the country.

Road
- Ebbw Vale is only 30 minutes away from Cardiff, Wales’ capital city, and only 2 hours drive from London via the M4.
- Ebbw Vale is also only 30 minutes from the M50-M5-M6 via the A465 Heads of the Valleys road which is presently being upgraded, resulting in further improved access to the Midlands.
- The Midlands and other key manufacturing markets are less than two hours away, ideal if you are looking to sustain flourishing supply chains.

Air
- Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham airports are all within easy reach.

Sea
- Ebbw Vale has access to key Welsh ports, including Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, Port Talbot and Milford Haven.

Rail
- An £11.5m investment in a new railway link and train station in Ebbw Vale town centre was announced in early 2013 to create more integrated transport across South East Wales, providing a further boost to the regional economy.
- The electrification of the Great Western mainline from London to Cardiff will cut rail journeys to just 100 minutes by 2018.

“Welsh Government has a project team with a private sector leader that can provide support and interventions to companies who have a need to develop their supply chain.”

Paul Lindsay
Operations Director,
Aerospace Wales Forum Ltd
Ebbw Vale is situated in the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent, known for its startling contrasts of steeply wooded valleys and open moorland. The undulating beauty of the Brecon Beacons National Park is also close by. With so much rugged terrain and stunning countryside at your fingertips, you’ll find it difficult not to be adventurous.

The area boasts a wealth of history from the Bronze Age, including a medieval legacy as well as a profusion of industrial heritage sites, just waiting to be explored.

The area is also only 30 minutes from Wales’ capital city. Cosmopolitan Cardiff offers excellent shopping, including everything from charming Edwardian and Victorian arcades to ultra-modern shopping centres such as St David’s, anchored by John Lewis’ biggest store outside of London. The city is also a key sports and cultural destination, with world class venues such as the Millennium Stadium and the Wales Millennium Centre.
Cardiff Bay at night
2 St Davids Shopping Centre, Cardiff
3 Pen Y Fan & Cribyn, Brecon Beacons
4 Bryn Bach Country Park, Near Tredegar
5 Millennium Stadium, Cardiff
“Ebbw Vale is an up and coming, vibrant and focussed area offering excellent logistics to manufacturing markets in other parts of the UK. Incentives such as the introduction of superfast broadband, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates scheme and others, helps companies like ourselves to expand.”

Brian Foster,
Managing Director, Hille Educational Products Ltd

“Ebbw Vale is an excellent location to grow a business, offering the highest level of financial assistance, support in developing company supply chains and excellent logistics to markets in the Midlands and other parts of the UK.”

David McDermott,
Managing Director, Express Contract Drying Ltd

Find out more
If you’d like to know more about the opportunities for business at Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone, please visit

Web: www.ebbwvale-ez.wales.gov.uk

Or contact the Welsh Government directly with any questions:

Tel: +44 (0)3000 6 03000
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