

The Midlands King's Awards Network

The Midlands King's Awards Network (MKAN) is poised to become a pivotal force in driving regional economic growth and innovation. By fostering collaboration, attracting investment, fulfilling export potential and promoting sustainable development, MKAN will create a vibrant ecosystem that benefits businesses, communities and the broader economy. The focus is not just on celebrating achievements but on inspiring and facilitating action and collaboration among businesses, government representatives, investors and other stakeholders.

The Vision: to create a thriving ecosystem of innovation and enterprise that supports the region's sustainable economic growth and global competitiveness.

The Mission: to harness the collective power of the Midlands King's Awards recipients, fostering collaboration, innovation and investment to drive regional prosperity, inspire emerging enterprises and influence policy and investment decisions.

MKAN Launch Event

Tuesday | 10 September 2024 | The Great Hall & Elgar Concert Hall | University of Birmingham

MKAN will launch at the University of Birmingham on 10 September 2024, bringing up to 400 Midlands King's Awards recipients, aspiring recipients, Lord-Lieutenants and Deputy Lieutenants, civic and university leaders, investors, and government representatives together.

The event will feature a programme of panel discussions, keynote speeches and fireside interviews with preeminent business leaders, investors and senior government officials exploring the six themes below as well as exhibitions showcasing the work of Midlands King's Awards recipients.

Time	Agenda Item
10:30	Exhibitions, networking & lunch
12:30	Programme first half
14:30	Break and exhibitions
15:00	Programme second half
17:00	Drinks reception



Business

Leveraging the ingenuity and insights of our business community to understand what makes a successful Midlands businesses.



Investment

Attracting investment for business growth and thriving places.



Sustainable Development

Utilizing the net zero opportunity to spur innovation, investment and growth, addressing major societal challenges.



International Trade

Learning from businesses that have achieved global trade growth despite significant challenges



Innovation

How do we build partnerships to scale innovation, attract investment, and accelerate regional economic growth?



Promoting Opportunity

Fostering opportunity and supporting social mobility to ensure a thriving regional society and economy.

Programme Overview

Theme	Focus
Business	What is needed to help businesses succeed in the region? What do businesses need to be doing, but how also can the surrounding ecosystem of local authorities, universities, and national government support?
Investment	What is the investment and growth capital landscape for both new and established businesses in the Midlands? What opportunities are there to fund business growth and how can we better connect them to businesses?
International Trade	The Midlands is the UK's leading region for goods exports. Why are Midlands businesses succeeding where businesses elsewhere seem to be struggling? What are the fundamentals underlying our business's strong export performance? And how can we maintain this into the future?
Innovation	How are businesses partnering with universities and wider innovation ecosystem in the Midlands to stimulate economic growth? What characterises the most successful innovation partnerships? And how can we see more of these collaborations?
Sustainable Development	Net zero has been called the 'economic opportunity of the 21st century'. Why does sustainable development offer such a major business opportunity? And how is green growth driving some of our region's leading businesses?
Promoting Opportunity	How do businesses contribute to inclusive economic growth? What can businesses do to promote opportunity and generate social value for their local communities?

King's Awards in the Midlands

181 awards given to Midlands enterprises since 2019 – more than any other region outside London/Southeast.

- **103** awards for International Trade
- **58** awards for Innovation
- **13** awards for Sustainable Development
- **7** awards for Promoting Opportunity

These business recipients represent:

- **70%** are Small-to-Medium Enterprises
- **£6.8bn** in annual turnover
- **24,000** employees
- **£291m** in annual investment funding
- **£41m** in Innovate UK Grant Funding (34 grants)
- **6.3%** total estimated growth per year.
- **£74k** estimated GVA per employee.

