# UK Photonics Industry
## 2019 Update

### UK photonics output grows to £13.5bn per annum, with productivity of £76,400 GVA per employee.

Analysis of the latest company data shows UK Photonics output has grown to £13.5 billion at a like-for-like growth rate of 8.4% over the last 2 years.

Employment in the photonics industry has increased to 69,000 people, with productivity at an average of £76,400 gross-value-add per employee, significantly higher than the UK average of £67,000 per manufacturing employee.

The industry's total gross-value-added contribution to the economy now exceeds £5.3 billion per annum based on profit, employment numbers and total employee benefits reported to Companies House*.

The photonics industry is equivalent in size to the pharmaceutical, fintech or space industries in the UK. The continued growth of the industry reflects the critical role light plays in making current and next-generation products and manufacturing competitive.

Embedded in a huge range of products, photonics already provides the back-bone of the internet, the key to many digital manufacturing processes and the sensors at the core of many defence systems. Significant further growth is anticipated as photonics becomes embedded in autonomous vehicles, provides targeted health diagnosis and treatment, connects the 5G network and is increasingly vital to keeping us safe and secure.


* UK Photonics industry output is based on data publicly reported to Companies House and amalgamated by Dun and Bradstreet. Reported data lags by up to 18 months and represents the output of the industry on average between mid-2017 to mid-2018. The full list of organisations included in the analysis is available at www.photonicsuk.org

# UK Photonics Industry
## 2019 Regional Update

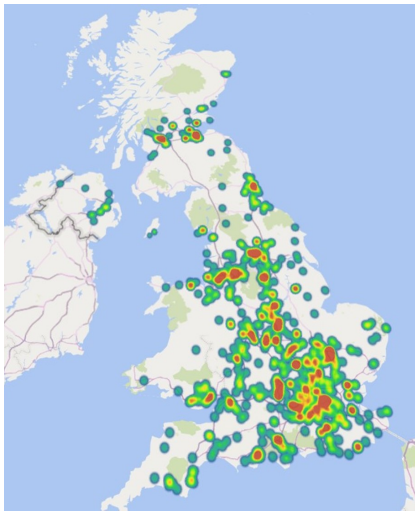
### Seven UK regions have a photonics output of ~£1 billion a year.

The latest PLG analysis has fully reviewed companies operating in and around photonics, ensuring that only the most relevant UK-based companies were included.

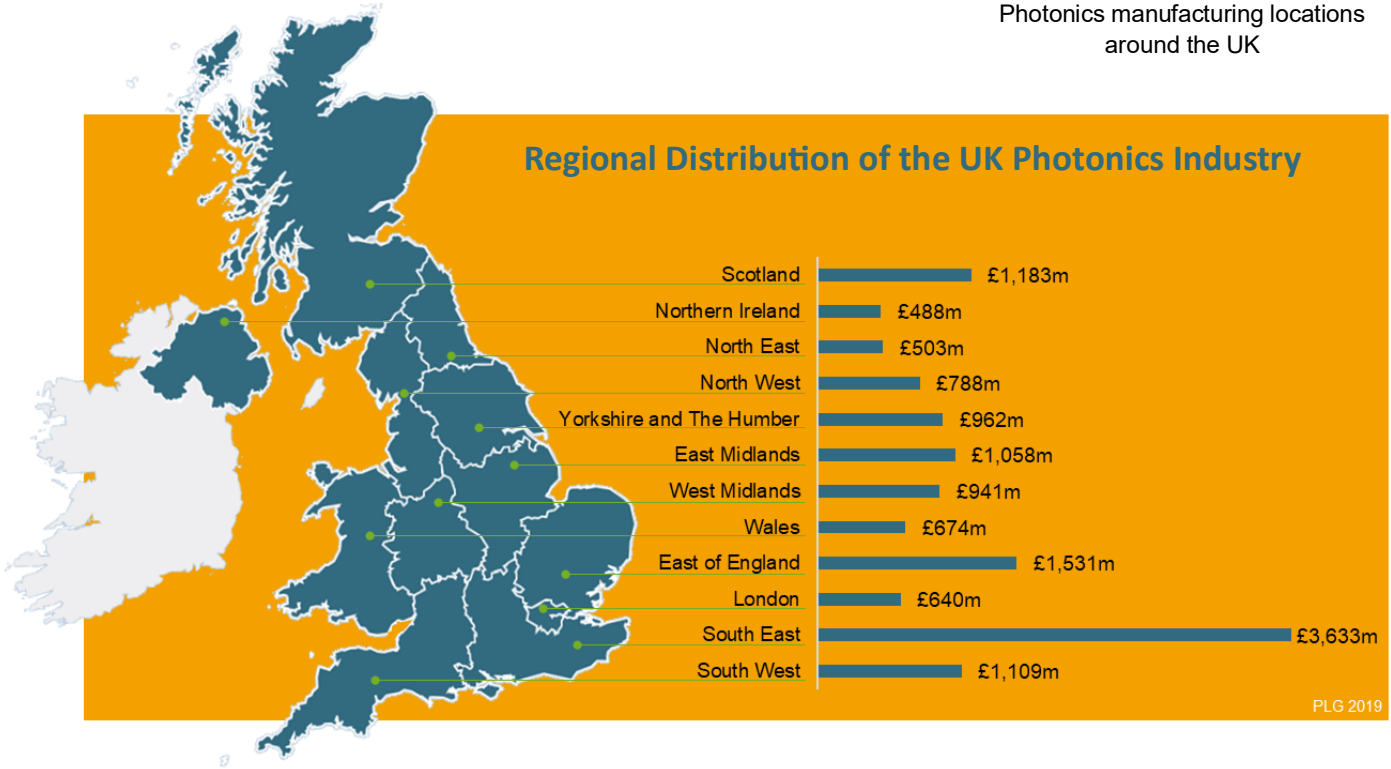
The 2019 analysis drew data from 930 separate organisations made up of 1,030 legal entities with 1,100 operating locations.

Focusing on identifying actual manufacturing and operating locations, rather than the registered offices used previously, has also revealed the true regional distribution of the industry.

Seven UK regions can now be identified as having a photonics output of ~£1 billion a year, reflecting the wide distribution of manufacturing sites around



Photonics manufacturing locations around the UK




The 2019 methodology repeats that used in **UK Photonics: The Hidden Economics Engine**. Combining the output of SMEs with a fraction of the output of the large and highly diversified companies that produce photonics products this methodology is globally recognised as accurately capturing the size of key enabling technology industries.