

1 Choose an ideal geographical position

Lying an hour south of Paris and three hours from the major European economic hubs, the Centre region is ideally located in logistics terms: at the centre of France and heart of the European market (the 4th French market in terms of surface area, the Centre region covers six counties).

The Centre region provides you with:

- * Close access to the international airports in Paris.
- * North/South/East/West motorway access thanks to nine motorways connecting the region to the main French economic centres
- * 370 regional trains daily, plus 1 TGV line
- * One international passenger airport: Tours Val de Loire
- * One international freight airport: Châteauroux-Centre



4 Choose an ideal context for R&D activities

You'll benefit not just from the presence of 200 public research laboratories (including INSERM, INRA and CNRS, etc.) but also a concentration of private research centres based in the Centre region. There are many research themes being carried out in the Centre region: materials, power electronics, physics and chemistry of the living organism, wind, photovoltaic and geothermal energy or connector technology and systems.

5 Choose an exceptional recruitment and training potential

The Centre region offers you a pool of highly qualified employees, researchers and students. It trains 60,000 students in:

- * 2 universities: Orléans and Tours
- * 5 engineering schools
- * 7 university technology institutes
- * 4 business schools

6 International leaders in industry have chosen the Centre region

You'll be rubbing shoulders with a dense fabric of industrial businesses, characterised by large groups and SMEs working in synergy. The Centre region is home to almost 500 foreign businesses and a wide diversity of activity sectors represented by MBDA, Michelin, Thales, Daher, Hutchinson, Faurecia, Sealed Air, Isobox, Shiseido, Guerlain, LVMH, Philips, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis, John Deere and more.

7 Choose a healthy economic environment

- * A lower unemployment rate than the national average
- * An available and qualified young workforce
- * Lower salary costs than the national average
- * 15,000 jobs created in 10 years by new investments
- * A higher GDP per inhabitant than the average of French regions
- * A diverse land and real estate offer

8 Choose one of the most competitive corporate real estate costs in Europe

You'll have immediate site availabilities in an approximately 39,000 km² area in dedicated activity zones: industries, logistics, services, technology, etc. A warehouse estate and commercial premises are immediately available, as well as a wide range of sites. And the cost of offices to let is much lower than in the Parisian region.

9 Choose a high-quality living environment to live and work

Controlled real-estate prices including in such large urban areas as Orléans and Tours. By moving to the Centre region you'll have high-quality housing to choose from thanks to sustained levels of new construction and stepped up renovations of existing housing. The region has an estimated 85,000 vacant housing units. An appealing region through its exceptional natural and cultural heritage: the Loire châteaux, good food, wine and no fewer than 686 listed monuments. The Loire is the last wild river in Europe - and listed as a Unesco World Heritage. Popularity: the Centre region is one of the most popular destinations for French and foreign tourists alike: the variety of landscapes and growing areas, cultural vitality (2 national theatres, 63 museums, several theatres, etc.) and protected nature spots (Sologne, Perche, Brenne, etc.).

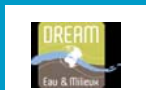
2 Choose from industrial and technical partnerships

As the 6th industrial region in France, the Centre region boasts countless clusters of excellence, making it one of the leading regions in a wide array of sectors:

- * No.1 region for the production of medicines and Perfumes-Cosmetics: Pfizer, Sanofi, Servier, Ipsen, Novo Nordisk, Christian Dior, Guerlain, etc.
- * No.1 region for industrial rubber activity and 3rd region for the tyre industry: Michelin, Hutchinson, Paulstra, Sacred, Pulflex, etc.
- * 2nd region for electricity generation: 4 nuclear power plants and the highest generation of electricity from wind power in France.
- * 3rd region for plastic packaging and 4th for plastics transformation: Sealed Air, Tupperware, Plastivoire, Mark IV Automotive, Rehau, etc.
- * 5rd region for industrial subcontracting: motor vehicle industry, aeronautics, etc.

3 Choose your competitiveness cluster

- * Cosmetic Valley / Beauty and Well-Being Sciences
- * DREAM / Water Sustainability Associated with Millieus
- * Elastopole / Rubber
- * S2E2 / Sciences & Systems of Electrical Energy



9 reasons why you should choose the Centre region

Expand your business in the Centre region, the region of customised industry



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A regional fabric made up of industrial multinationals and innovative and reactive SMI's











As the 6th industrial region in France, the Centre region stands out through the diversity of its economic fabric in which the automotive sector is the leading employer, followed by electronics. The health, cosmetics, aeronautics and food processing sectors also feature among the leaders in the Centre region. These are all sectors that help subcontracting businesses to expand for such industries - particularly automotive and aeronautics - call more frequently than others on your subcontracting proficiencies.



Successful setups and developments

With some 1,150 companies and 27,500 employees, subcontracting holds a key place in the Centre region's economy. It accounts for almost a fifth of industrial jobs in the region and concerns most of the industrial sectors: from mechanical engineering to electronics, including the plastics industry, printing activity, packaging and pharmaceuticals.

Setting up in the Centre region will bring you into contact with major French and foreign companies that have already chosen our region. What's more, several of them are top-ranking in their activity sector worldwide: Delphi, Valéo, STMicroelectronics or Hutchinon.

| Company | Activities |
|---|--|
|  HUTCHINSON | Industrial rubber |
|  MECACHROME | Mechanical engineering for industry |
|  DELPHI | Motor vehicle equipment |
|  STMICROELECTRONICS | Manufacture of electronic semiconductors |
|  PVL - PLASTIVOIRE | Technical parts in plastic materials |
|  FCI AUTOMOTIVE | Technical parts in plastic materials |
|  MSL CIRCUITS | Electronic boards |
|  DAHER LHOTELLIER | Technical parts in plastic materials |
|  MONTUPET | Components in cast aluminium for the automotive industry |
|  COOPER CAPRI | Screw cutting |

Innovation at the heart of business

In the Centre region you'll find the technical and scientific skills you need for your research and development projects. Regional laboratories are vastly proficient in the fields of electronics, mechanical engineering and materials.

Several technology transfer centres support companies in their research and innovation projects: including CETIM-CERTEC, ICERMA, Plasticompo, Protocentre and CRESITT Industrie.



The Centre region boasts countless advantages for developing subcontracting industries

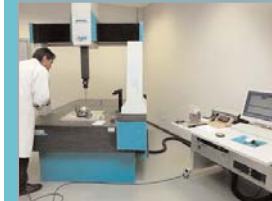
Industrial subcontractors are decisive links in the industrial value chain. By helping local subcontractors to enhance their skills, the Centre region brings contractors and service providers closer together and helps to improve the performance of its industry.



Diversified activities geared towards cutting-edge technologies

Our subcontracting companies work in a wide range of fields geared towards the most modern technologies: precision mechanics and mechatronics, materials (rubber, elastomers, composites, etc.), electronics and in such innovative sectors as aeronautics, defence, space, the nuclear industry or health.

Successful adaptation to contractors' requirements



Subcontracting in the Centre region has focused on speciality subcontracting by drawing on the excellence of its know-how. It now offers an extensive range of cutting-edge skills such as high-precision mechanics and mechatronics.

Some regional companies have progressed from their role as subcontractor to that of equipment manufacturer. Others have diversified their business with the production of specific products.

Subcontracting manufacturers have gradually developed more independent sales strategies and modernised their technological tools. Today, the main French and foreign contractors put all of their trust in subcontractors from the Centre region.

Excellence clusters to support your expansion

Industrial subcontracting - rooted in innovation - is organised around regional excellence clusters including:

- * PICF, Pôle Industriel Cœur de France, which pools the skills of its members with a view to responding to the increasing requirements of contractors - particularly in the aeronautics sector.
- * Pôle Automobile federates stakeholders in the automotive sector and promotes regional skills
- * Pôle d'Excellence Régional AéroCentre synergises regional expertise with the aim of capturing international markets.



Training programmes tailored to your needs

Higher education programmes in the Centre region encompass a broad range of industrial subcontracting professions with courses in mechanical engineering, electronics, computer-integrated manufacturing or materials for example, in:

- * numerous vocational sixth-form colleges dispensing renowned courses in mechanical engineering, electronics and electrical engineering
- * the Universities of Orléans and Tours and their campuses in Blois, Bourges, Châteaoux and Chartres (a complete university degree in electronics, computer-integrated manufacturing, materials, IT and energetics)
- * 3 engineering schools (Polytech'Orléans, Polytech'Tours and the Bourges ENSI): Electronics, Optics, Mechanical engineering, Materials, Energetics, Computer-integrated manufacturing, IT, Risks, Network safety, etc.

