



SOLENT
LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

#solentadvantage

SOLENT 10:

Exciting opportunities to invest
in the world's maritime hub



HM Government



MARITIME
UK

The RAF's Red Arrows display team fly over Cunard's 'Three Queens', Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. The three iconic vessels made a rare appearance together at Cunard's home port of Southampton to celebrate the company's 175th anniversary

Picture by Christopher Ison, courtesy of Cunard

A worldwide maritime gateway

The Solent is at the very heart of the international maritime economy, sitting in the centre of Britain's south coast, 70 miles south-west of London.

Already a world leader in innovation and ground-breaking research, we are the UK's maritime gateway to trade around the globe.

The Solent is at the cutting edge of maritime innovation, pioneering revolutionary approaches to technology and trade. The UK's blue economy is predicted to grow to \$3 trillion by 2030, doubling in value from today, so we are in the unique position of offering investors an unprecedented wealth of maritime-related growth opportunities.

We've produced this portrait of the Solent to summarise ten reasons for investment and encourage you to come aboard on our success story.

1 Port of Southampton: powerhouse of international trade

The Port of Southampton is the UK's biggest export port, handling \$52 billion of British manufactured goods each year. It is also the UK's prime automotive hub, handling one million cars per year, and the largest and primary cruise port in the UK, receiving up to two million passengers a year, many on iconic ocean liners such as Queen Mary 2.

Every cruise that embarks or disembarks at the port is estimated to generate more than \$3 million for the city's economy.

The port's location and infrastructure are ideally suited to growing a strong, well connected industrial cluster that creates jobs and boosts productivity.



Port of Southampton



2 Portsmouth Naval Base: innovation in maritime engineering

Portsmouth, home of the Royal Navy, is the centre of a highly innovative defence cluster that provides 20,000 jobs across the Solent and contributes more than \$2 billion a year to the regional economy.

It is the home port of HMS Queen Elizabeth, Britain's flagship aircraft carrier, and underpins a vast supply chain of companies specialising in marine engineering and related services.

Portsmouth Naval Base
and commercial port.
Picture courtesy of
Portsmouth City Council



3 National Oceanography Centre: big science to tackle global challenges

We host one of the world's top centres of excellence for oceanographic sciences, providing the international capability and leadership for the challenges and opportunities of big ocean science.

Working closely with government, research centres of excellence and business, the National Oceanography Centre undertakes world-leading innovation turning great science and technology into advice and applications.



4 Clean growth: offshore wind turbine manufacture

The UK's offshore wind sector has grown significantly over the past 15 years and is a key strand of the government's industrial strategy for the future.

Here in the Solent, the Isle of Wight is the UK base of the global renewable energy player MHI Vestas Offshore Wind, which has ambitious expansion plans in line with the growth of sustainable power generation.

A wide-angle photograph of a massive regatta on the Solent. The sea is filled with hundreds of sailboats, their sails creating a dense forest of white and blue against the horizon. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and choppy, with sunlight reflecting off the surface.

5 Leisure marine: sailing on the Solent

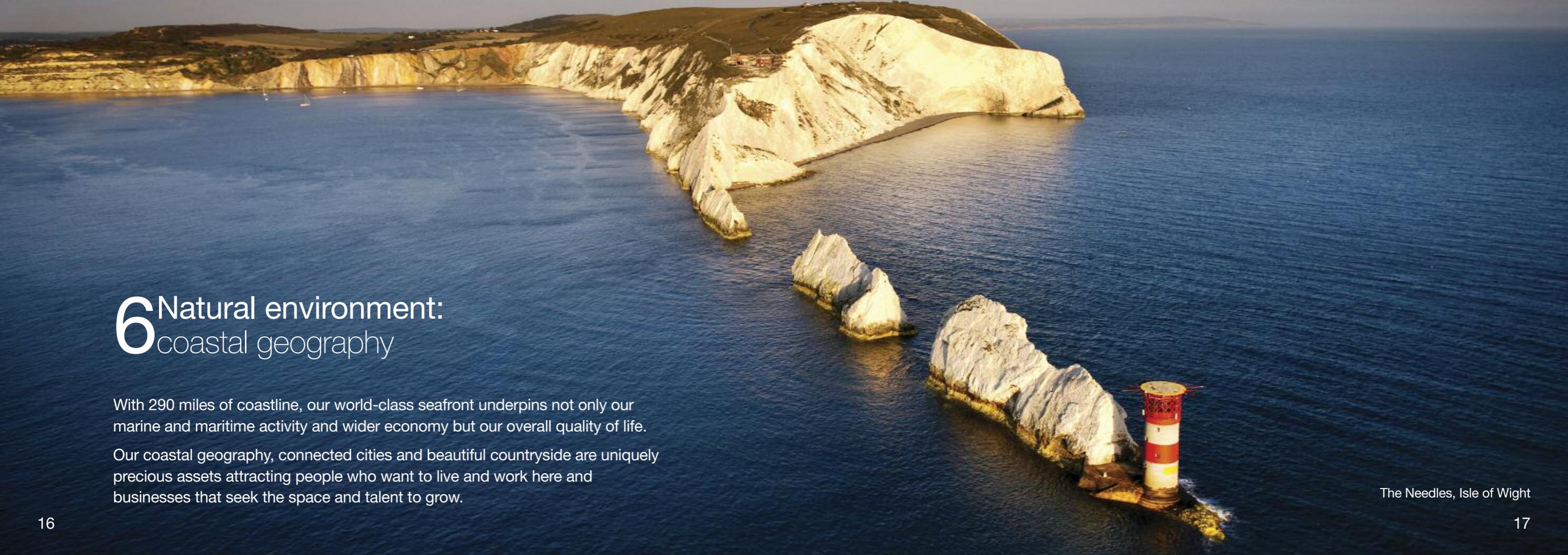
The leisure marine sector in the south east of England is worth more than \$1 billion and supports 8,500 jobs, with most of its activity concentrated in the Solent.

Southampton and Portsmouth both host internationally recognised events, including Southampton Boat Show and long-distance sailing races. Cowes on the Isle of Wight welcomes the world's racing yachts, and throughout the year the sea is filled with leisure boats and thrill-seekers enjoying all kinds of watersports.

Cowes Week, a world famous regatta on the Isle of Wight

HMS Queen Elizabeth,
Britain's flagship aircraft carrier
© Crown copyright





6 Natural environment: coastal geography

With 290 miles of coastline, our world-class seafront underpins not only our marine and maritime activity and wider economy but our overall quality of life.

Our coastal geography, connected cities and beautiful countryside are uniquely precious assets attracting people who want to live and work here and businesses that seek the space and talent to grow.

The Needles, Isle of Wight

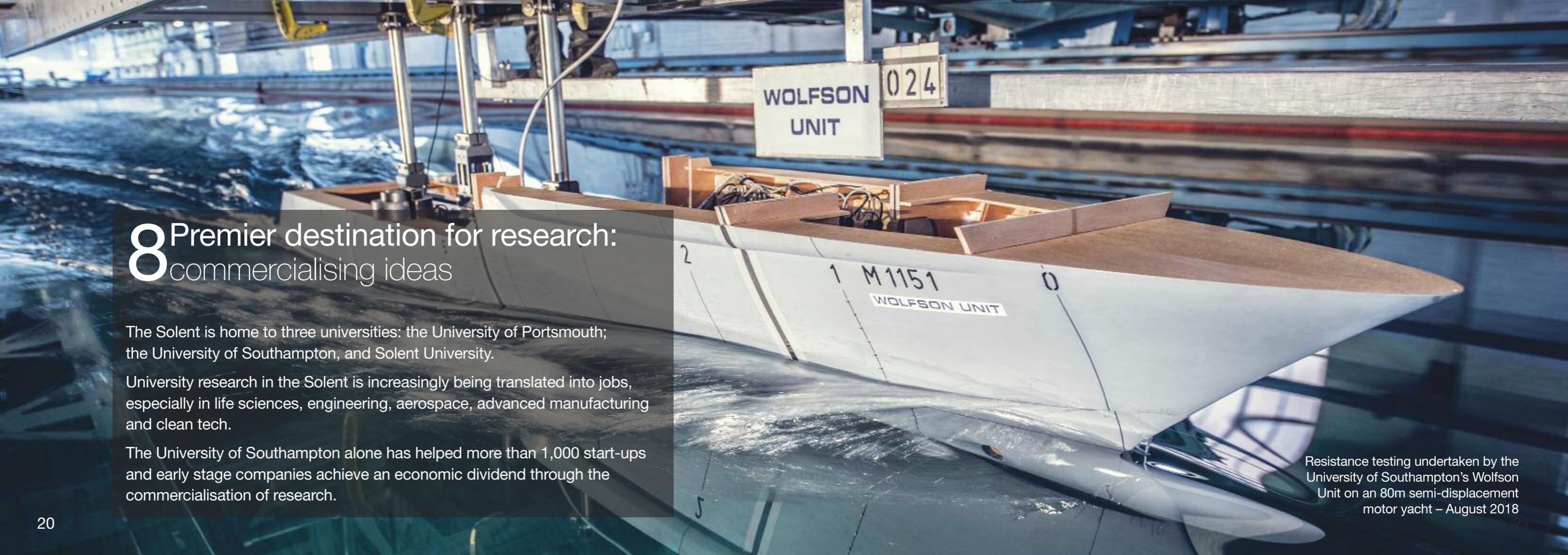


7 Mobility and the data economy: autonomous systems

A world leader in marine engineering, the Solent continues to innovate in areas such as autonomous marine vehicle systems. These will become ever more prevalent in marine operations worldwide as technology continues to develop.

Port authorities, stevedores and other private companies are among the many organisations testing and deploying specialist autonomous systems developed in the Solent.

BAE Systems delivered England's first dedicated testing service for unmanned marine systems



8 Premier destination for research: commercialising ideas

The Solent is home to three universities: the University of Portsmouth; the University of Southampton, and Solent University.

University research in the Solent is increasingly being translated into jobs, especially in life sciences, engineering, aerospace, advanced manufacturing and clean tech.

The University of Southampton alone has helped more than 1,000 start-ups and early stage companies achieve an economic dividend through the commercialisation of research.

Resistance testing undertaken by the University of Southampton's Wolfson Unit on an 80m semi-displacement motor yacht – August 2018



HMS Victory, based in Portsmouth, was Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar and one of the UK's most-loved visitor attractions

9 Visitor economy: scope for growth

The Solent's visitor economy is worth nearly \$4 billion and supports more than 60,000 jobs in hospitality, retail and related sectors.

Given the draw of the Isle of Wight, our national parks, key visitor attractions and destinations, marine heritage assets and proximity to London, there is scope for significant growth in this sector.

Sir Ben Ainslie takes the Land Rover designed steering wheel during the America's Cup leg in Bermuda



10 Skills base: scope for growth

While we are rooted in naval history and sea trade over many centuries, we look to the future. Our region boasts exceptionally creative and innovative people working in all kinds of businesses and organisations. For example, many software development companies are making the Solent their home, accelerating growth and attracting a skilled, expert workforce of 'digital nomads'.

We have a wealth of talent, continually bolstered by newcomers from all horizons. We seek further opportunities for growth and the potential to attract and retain more people.

\$100.7bn

worth of goods for import and export through Solent ports



\$55.7bn

of exports, of which 85% are to non-EU countries



2 million

cruise passenger movements from Southampton p.a.

\$26bn

GVA contributions to UK GDP



\$7.2bn am

GVA to Solent economy in 2015



Which equates to...

one fifth of Solent LEP economy



120,000 jobs linked to the maritime sector



\$597 million

direct contribution to the Exchequer

\$884m

value of maritime goods and services



Join us and be part of the Solent's success story now and in the future.

We work with all kinds of businesses keen to invest in the Solent and can provide a wealth of information and support to help guide decision making.

To discuss your requirements, please contact

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

Tel: +44 2392 688924

Email: maritime@solentlep.org.uk

INEOS Team UK (formerly Ben Ainslie Racing), Portsmouth, headquarters of the UK's America's Cup challenge



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