

# Cornwall surpassing major cities when it comes to innovation

By wbchris | Posted: May 30, 2015

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CORNWALL is leading the likes of London, Manchester and Birmingham according to a new map documenting innovation  $\mathbf{k}^{n}$  in the UK.

The county has a higher proportion of firms creating new  $\underline{\text{cutting-edge}}$   $\square$  goods and services than several major cities, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> out of 45.

Top of the pile Oxfordshire, followed by Greater Cambridge and Peterborough and South East Midlands.

The research also shows the UK has a clear 'arc of innovation' stretching from Cambridge through the South-East Midlands and along the M4 corridor to take in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.



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Professor Stephen Roper, who led the ERC research, said firms' ability to <u>innovate</u> ☑ played an important role in sustaining growth and competitiveness, with economic implications for whole regions:

"For the first time, this research gives us a picture of which localities of the UK have the highest proportion of firms introducing new products and services. The findings run counter to the dominant narrative of a country dependent on London, with innovation being much more dispersed across the country than was previously thought.

"Innovation is strongly linked to growth, exporting and productivity - all areas in which the UK economy needs to improve I if we want to boost our international competitiveness.

"The significant variation between different parts of the UK suggests that some localities are succeeding in creating a more innovation-friendly environment than others.

"Policymakers and researchers need to examine the local factors that could be contributing to this so that we can create the conditions for firms to become more <u>innovative</u>  $u^n$  – creating jobs and growth - in every corner of the UK."



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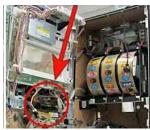


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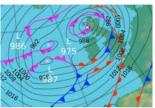
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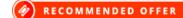


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cweatherhill | May 30 2015, 10:31AM

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