

WEST MIDLANDS MARKET VISIT TO CHICAGO MARCH 2010

West Midlands Business & Professional Services companies are invited to join a UKTI supported visit to Chicago: 1st to 5th March 2010

Lawyers, accountants, marketers, architects, educational organisations, financial services providers and business consultants from the West Midlands are invited to join a visit to Chicago from 1st to 5th March 2010. The visit will be organised and run by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce International Team. It forms part of the AWM Cluster initiative aimed at developing the international links of business and professional services companies in the region. Birmingham Chamber has a well established record in managing focused trade missions of this type.

Closing Date for applications: 31st January 2010

Objectives of the visit

The mission group will take to Chicago companies representing the business and professional services expertise of the region. The aim of the visit is to research the market place in the USA, seek new clients and to develop partner relationships, ultimately to increase export revenue to the UK. Chicago with its civic links to Birmingham and business synergies has been chosen as an ideal location for building these relationships. The British American Business Council, Birmingham Law Society, Birmingham Forward and the other professional network organisations are working with us in planning and recruiting for the visit.

Benefits of the Visit

- *Pre-visit and in market briefing & training by UKTI staff*
- *The ability for each participant to commission a programme of research and contact making through UKTI staff at the British Consulate in Chicago*
- *Excellent networking opportunities through the support of the British Consulate*
- *A Reception to which key US business contacts will be invited*
- *A highly attractive programme in market*
- *New contacts and shared intelligence within the market visit group*
- *Support of an International Trade Adviser pre and post visit*
- *Grant support for eligible companies*

Opportunities in Chicago

Chicago's economy was mainly built on steel production and manufacturing. Today, while some heavy industry remains, the City's strengths lie in ICT and financial institutions, as well as research and development, both in commercial and academic institutions. Now home to sixty-seven Fortune 500 companies, Chicago is a thriving commercial and financial centre.

Because of its strategic location, Chicago became a hub for transportation, making access to other parts of the US and the world easy. An estimated 3 million residents live within the city limits. Poised for future growth, the City offers huge potential opportunity for those British firms willing to meet the needs of Chicago's people and companies.

Eligibility

The mission is focussed on business and professional services firms as described above. Interested companies should contact the principal organiser shown below or their local International Trade Adviser. Participants are strongly urged to use the services of the British Consulate in Chicago for specific research and contact making ahead of the visit. Your local international trade team can help you with this process.

Grant

Small and medium sized West Midlands based business & professional services firms, who are actively targeting the USA, would be potentially eligible for financial support.

Travel Details

In due course we will be recommending flights and hotel.

Programme

Over the coming weeks with the support of the British Consulate in Chicago and the British American Business Council we will be developing a detailed visit programme relevant to our mission group. Although the mission briefing by the Consulate and a mission reception will be mandatory, there will be flexibility within rest of the programme to accommodate individual appointments.

Contact Details

For further information on this market visit please contact:

Steven Cunnane
Regional International Trade Adviser
Birmingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Tel +44 (0) 121 450 4205
Mobile +44 (0) 7980 567748
Email s.cunnane@birminghamchamber.org.uk

Alternatively please contact your local international team. If this is not known to you please enter your postcode onto www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk to obtain contact details.

