



by business editor Trevor Sturgess

Kent businesses will be in Calais tomorrow at a jobs fair that could accelerate the number of cross-Channel workers.

The first-ever Transmanche event of its kind is being held at Calais Frethun International Station. It has been prompted by the prospect of a cross-Channel commuter region united by a metro rail service.

It will underline the close links between Kent and Northern France and open up employment opportunities on both sides of the Channel.

A possible metro service could signal rapid growth both in the number of people living in Kent and commuting to Northern France and people who live there working daily in Kent.

Ten companies from the UK, France and Flanders are expected to take part in a fair that will also feature workshops on the pros and cons of cross-Channel job mobility.

Ashford-based SBE UK, a telecoms repair, logistics and after-sales business, is among the exhibiting firms.

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Organiser Thadde Segard said: "The jobs fair is about giving visibility to cross-border employment. This will be an opportunity for UK companies to recruit employees who may reside in France and work in Britain. We want to showcase our pool of highly skilled talent to companies based in the south east of England, and to emphasise the point that the Channel is only a psychological barrier."

Catherine Fournier, Mayor of Frethun, and Olivier Cadic, a Canterbury-based representative of French businesses in Kent, are due to attend. During a visit to Kent, Mme Fournier added: "It's not only about jobs, it's also for students who want to do work placements."

More information at [www.jobstransfrontaliers.eu/en/exhibit.html](http://www.jobstransfrontaliers.eu/en/exhibit.html)