

Getting the right translation service

Midland Technical Translations (UK) Ltd

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There are a wide variety of services available in the translation market. This guide gives you an overview of what MTT offers and why it's right for you.

Professional Translation Service

This is our most widely used level of service.

A professional translator with suitable experience and qualifications is chosen to translate your text into their mother tongue. They will then proofread this text themselves, before returning it to our project management team, where a final layout check is carried out (checking numbers, formatting, layout etc.).

This level of translation is ideal for internal documents, documents for information only or non-critical texts.

You should allow a sensible amount of time to have your translation done - usually a translator can produce about 1500-2000 words a day of translated and checked work if the format is editable and the text is continuous.

For documents where the text is non-continuous, for example software strings, parts lists or where the document format is not editable, additional time may be needed.

Professional Translation with Proofreading Service

This service is more suited to documents where complete accuracy is critical especially where documents are going to be published. For example, it might be an operating manual for a piece of heavy machinery, a medical instruction leaflet, or a safety data sheet.

Translation is carried out as for our Professional Translation service, then a second qualified linguist will proofread the translation before it is returned to our project management team for the final layout checks. The second linguist should have the same level of skill and experience as the first translator and should also work with the same background materials and glossaries available to the first translator.

Just as if you were preparing a text to go on your website, you would have someone else check it over first – this is a second check to ensure accuracy and understanding. It may be that you have someone within your organisation who is able to do this if they understand both the source text and the translation. This option is available if that's not the case or your contacts don't have the time or linguistic ability.

It's worth remembering that this level of service will require additional time – a professional proofreader can work at a rate of about 4000 - 6000 words a day, depending on the project. There will also be an additional cost, but for documents where proofreading is vital to mitigate against errors, inaccuracy and imprecision this is worth considering when faced with the alternatives of risking injury, loss of life or damage to company reputation.

Technical translation

Technical translation is a highly specialised skill, and it's what we do best. Over half our workflow is for engineering, manufacturing or technical companies so our team is highly experienced in handling these types of documents.

Over the 40 years we have been in business, we've built up a team of professional linguists with real, hands-on experience in engineering roles, qualifications in engineering and scientific subjects and plenty of technical translation experience.

These professional linguists understand what makes machinery work, what makes a drive different from a motor and how best to translate technical software for an engineer on the shop floor.

They'll ask sensible questions to understand your product properly, occasionally even highlighting issues with the original source text. Where appropriate we have even arranged visits to look round facilities and see products firsthand. This gives our translators unrivalled knowledge of how to prepare the best possible translations, and you get to meet the people who actually produce your work.

We've plenty of experience too in handling the various file formats that technical translations involve, from drawing files, software strings, app resource files and html formats to pdfs, notes and scans.

Marketing translation

Translations for marketing clients, especially concerning technical subjects, form a large part of our workload. As part of the Marketing + Technologies Group of companies, we work closely with international marketing teams, providing translations of press releases, case studies and articles on a daily basis.

Other services include translation support for business cards, flyers, exhibition panels, brochures and catalogues. We can provide a translation-only, translation with proofreading or translation with full multilingual typesetting (through to production ready artwork) service. *Please see our Guide to multilingual typesetting.*

We're also happy to translate websites and assist with international SEO. We can arrange video voiceovers and subtitling to internationalise videos on your website and provide support for companies looking to make a convincing approach to overseas markets.

Legal translation

With experienced legal translators in many languages, we're pleased to work for some of the big names in the legal profession. Our services include translations for court, certification of translated documents for embassies and passport offices, expert translations for evidence in court, transcriptions of interviews, NRPSI court interpreting, contract translation and more.

With ex-lawyers and linguists specialising in legal translations, we have an enviable record of providing accurate translations for legal purposes in all languages.

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Progress House, Midland Road, Worcester WR5 1AQ

Tel.: +44 (0) 1562 748778

Web: www.midlandtechnical.co.uk