

bruntwood
SciTech

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2019-2020

A YEAR TO REMEMBER



2020 has undoubtedly been an unprecedented year. It started with a new Prime Minister; a Brexit deal; and a budget focussed around levelling-up, together with a commitment to increase spending on R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027. But that rapidly shifted. Covid-19 has changed the way we live and work forever, to what extent no one really knows, but what we have seen is innovation come to the fore, the importance of partnership, and the need to adapt at speed.

One of the highlights of the year for me has to be the establishment of the Lighthouse Lab at Alderley Park, one of the UK government's national testing centres at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19. It took just 5 weeks from discussions with Alderley Park-based Medicines Discovery Catapult to the first samples being tested, a project that would normally take 6 months. The megalab can now process up to 65,000 samples per week, providing much needed diagnostics capability and capacity in the North West. We also saw many other businesses from across the Bruntwood SciTech network pivot and adapt in the face of adversity: Place Dashboard quickly switched their GPS technology to measure social distancing, whilst companies such as Dicey Tech, Blueberry Therapeutics and Energym all turned their 3D printing equipment to producing much needed face shields for the NHS.

There has of course been a number of other highlights too: the opening in February of the new 150,000 sq ft, £30m redevelopment 'Glasshouse' at Alderley Park, the Practical Completion of Citylabs 2.0 in July which will be home to QIAGEN's new Global Centre of Excellence for Precision Medicine, and most recently the start of our new partnership with the University of Birmingham to develop Birmingham Health Innovation Campus, providing additional life science infrastructure for the region. We were also proud to pick up a number of awards this year, being named Property Company of the Year by Property Week and being awarded Workspace of the Year by Estates Gazette for Circle Square.

2020 is also a year tinged with sadness as I announced my intention to step down as Chief Executive, ready to pursue a portfolio career. I leave buoyed by the opportunities ahead, not only for me on a personal level but for those of Bruntwood SciTech; including the integration of Liverpool Science Park into the Bruntwood SciTech network and the ongoing development of No.1 & No.2 Circle Square, Enterprise Wharf, Base and Citylabs 4.0 as our network of thriving innovation districts continues to expand and grow.

Phil Kemp
CEO - Bruntwood SciTech

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECOND YEAR

OCTOBER

- New coworking lab launches at Alderley Park in partnership with GE Healthcare Life Sciences (now Cytiva)
- No. 1 Mereside launches at Alderley Park

DECEMBER

- Bruntwood SciTech supports the West Midlands Tech Awards

FEBRUARY

- Glasshouse launches at Alderley Park in partnership with bluedot
- Northcoders launch at Manchester Technology Centre
- Bruntwood SciTech supports UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- Alderley Park hosts Bioinfect conference in partnership with Bionow
- Bruntwood SciTech shortlisted for Property Week 'Company of the Year' award
- Planning permission granted for No.3 Circle Square

APRIL

- Bruntwood SciTech joins UKSPA
- Bruntwood SciTech supports UN World Health Day and UN World Innovation and Creativity Day
- Lighthouse Lab opens at Alderley Park
- Planning permission granted for Enterprise Wharf at Innovation Birmingham
- £18m Strength in Places funding for infectious disease awarded to NW consortium including Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, AMR Centre and Bruntwood SciTech

JUNE

- HS2 launches innovation accelerator at Innovation Birmingham
- India-based Sai Life Sciences sets up European HQ at Alderley Park

AUGUST

- Base, Alderley Park, WM5G and BHIC all supported by Government's "Getting Building Fund"

2020

2019

NOVEMBER

- Mills & Reeve announce 15,000 sq ft pre-let at No.1 Circle Square
- New gym and sports complex opens at Alderley Park
- The Bright Building welcomes Tech UK's Supercharging event

JANUARY

- Planning permission granted for 91,000 sq ft redevelopment of Base at Manchester Science Park to become a new hub for energy technology, light manufacturing and computer engineering

MARCH

- Accenture announces 5,000 sq ft move to No.2 Circle Square
- Hilti announces 42,000 sq ft move to No.1 Circle Square
- Bruntwood SciTech supports TechSheCan 2nd birthday
- Bruntwood SciTech supports Digital City Festival, hosting Digital Leaders Dinner in Manchester
- Planning permission granted for Citylabs 4.0
- '5PRING' 5G Accelerator launches at Innovation Birmingham

MAY

- Bruntwood SciTech signs Sciontec Liverpool partnership deal
- Deb Hetherington joins Bruntwood SciTech as Head of Innovation in Leeds

JULY

- Citylabs 2.0 reaches practical completion
- Bruntwood SciTech publishes 'Place Matters' report

SEPTEMBER

- University of Birmingham appoints Bruntwood SciTech to masterplan and develop new Birmingham Health Innovation Campus
- Bruntwood SciTech supports National Coding Week

ALDERLEY PARK



ALDERLEY PARK

There have been many highlights for Alderley Park over the last 12 months, none more so than being selected by the UK government as the location for one of its 'Lighthouse Laboratory' official Covid-19 testing centres, the launch of Glasshouse and the opening of a new open access lab in partnership with Cytiva Life Sciences (formerly GE Healthcare Life Sciences). Managing Director Dr Kath Mackay explains more.



Dr Kath Mackay

"It's been a milestone year for Alderley Park and on a personal level a thoroughly exciting first year as managing director. The first half of the year was marked with launches and openings including the official launch of Glasshouse, our first space for innovative tech businesses. The convergence of digital technologies with drug discovery is one of the most radical trends in life science of recent years and our unique approach to locating tech businesses in close proximity to our Mereside life science campus will help to drive the collaboration needed to inspire the developments and discoveries of the future."

"The second half of the year brought challenge and opportunity for the Park as Bruntwood SciTech supported the fight against the global pandemic. Our networks and team efforts have never been more important than during this period and I feel very proud that we have been able to make a difference in the fight against Covid-19. Seeing our teams come together in unprecedented circumstances has been a personal highlight; from our construction teams leading on delivering the infrastructure at an extraordinary pace, through to our operations teams ensuring a safe environment for the valuable skilled volunteer scientists. It's been a true team effort."



Chemistry Lab

"It is now vital that the diagnostics capability and capacity that has been created at Alderley Park through the establishment of the Lighthouse Lab is maintained and expanded for the future."

"2020 has been an exciting year for our ecosystem of over 200 companies. We've welcomed a host of new innovators including Indian-based contract development and manufacturing organisation Sai Life Sciences, digital interaction experts Lokulus, proteomic-data science and diagnostics company Kinomica and mass spectrometry experts Sciex."

"We've also celebrated and supported existing customers on their growth journeys. Particular highlights include Gentronix announcing their plans to double in size following a £750,000 investment; Gendius' raising just under £400,000, smashing 600% of their crowdfunding target; watching Evotec and BBI Europe scoop up Bionow Awards; Redx agreeing a £13m deal with AstraZeneca and The AMR Centre, now known as Infex Therapeutics announcing a new international collaboration, this time with Massachusetts-based clinical stage biopharmaceutical company Microbiotix."



1.5m

Tests processed as of September 2020

Lord Bethell, Minister for Testing:

“Alderley Park showcased the finest diagnostic science available”

Professor Sir John Bell, UK Life Sciences Champion stated:

“The Alderley Park Lighthouse Lab has been crucial for our testing program. With it operating at this level we have a testing program that will help with any second wave. Their performance has been exemplary.”

LIGHTHOUSE LAB NATIONAL COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE

Back in March, Alderley Park-based Medicines Discovery Catapult, was approached by the UK Government to coordinate the establishment of one of three national ‘megalabs’ for the testing of COVID-19. Just 3 weeks and 3 days from the initial call on the project, the first clinical sample was screened at the Park.

The Lighthouse Lab at Alderley Park forms part of the biggest network of diagnostic testing facilities in British history. Establishing this was only possible because Alderley Park has the infrastructure and network of expertise needed by Medicines Discovery Catapult to launch this critical facility at an unprecedented scale and pace.

The Bruntwood SciTech team designed and delivered the facilities in a completely new way providing a range of expertise from project management, construction and operations, to scientific and health and safety support in order to effectively respond to this vital national need.

Chris Molloy, CEO of Medicines Discovery Catapult explained that collaboration was at the heart of the creation of the new ‘megalab’.

“The lab is now home to over 500 scientists who have processed an incredible 6m samples since April. When you walk into the Lighthouse Lab and see everyone from diverse organisations and various sectors of the drug discovery community working together as one Lighthouse Lab team it’s utterly humbling.”

“The Lighthouse Lab really is going from strength to strength and we’re looking forward to continuing to support in the fight against this global pandemic.”



Cytiva Life Sciences Lab launch

NEW ONCOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LAUNCHES

This year we launched our Oncology Development Programme which brings together global leaders in cancer research to find and develop innovations that improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Led by Bruntwood SciTech, the Oncology Development Programme at Alderley Park is being funded by Innovate UK and Cancer Research UK. As part of Cancer Research UK's Entrepreneurial Programmes Initiative, it aims to develop and nurture an entrepreneurial culture amongst cancer researchers in the UK.

It is also backed by a collaboration of AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, GlaxoSmithKline, Roche, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Medicines Discovery Catapult and the Manchester Cancer Research Centre who will support researchers and start-ups with the aim to develop their early-stage innovations into fully validated, timed, costed, project plans with delivery partners in place, giving them a high likelihood of attracting future investment.

VALIDATION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

In August, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) recognised Alderley Park with £5m from its "Getting Building Fund" to establish a Validation Centre of Excellence.

Capitalising on the success of the Lighthouse Lab, the new Validation Centre of Excellence for innovative diagnostics, biomarkers and complex medicines will help to develop the UK's onshore diagnostic capability and capacity and the associated supply chain. The Centre will include a range of new specialist laboratories, including a Category 3 biosafety facility for the testing of new diagnostics, biomarkers and therapeutics for highly-infectious pathogens, including respiratory viruses such as COVID-19 and national biobank.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH CYTIVA LIFE SCIENCES (FORMERLY GE HEALTHCARE)

October 2019 saw the launch of our new partnership with Cytiva Life Sciences (then GE Healthcare) in the form of a new open access lab at Alderley Park. The lab builds on our coworking lab offer and allows SMEs to gain access to a fully-equipped lab with the latest Cytiva Life Sciences technologies.

GLASSHOUSE

2020 was also the year that Glasshouse opened.

The new 150,000 sq ft hub for tech and forward-thinking businesses provides a range of coworking, serviced and leased offices and is already home to a rapidly expanding AI cluster, alongside companies working in digital animation, software development and digital health.

The official launch included a keynote speech on all things tech from Jeremy White, editor of Wired magazine, and a dynamic light show orchestrated around Luke Jerram's floating Earth artwork 'Gaia'.

150,000

sq ft hub for tech and forward thinking businesses

WINNER

Glasshouse - Insider North West
Commercial Development of the Year



UKRI COMMITS £19M TO INFECTION AND DISEASE RESEARCH

£19m

Funding awarded to progress research into AMR, Infection and disease over the next 5 years

Following a successful bid to UK Research and Innovation's Strength in Places fund, a consortium based in Liverpool and Alderley Park, led by Liverpool School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, INFEX Therapeutics, Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Evotec (UK) Ltd, Unilever Plc, and University of Liverpool with support from Bruntwood SciTech was awarded £19m funding to progress research into AMR, infection and disease over the next 5 years.



Dr Peter Jackson,
Executive Director of the AMR Centre

Dr Peter Jackson, Executive Director of INFEX Therapeutics explains the importance of the funding:

"There is a revolution coming that will radically change the pathway to market for new antibiotics, drugs, vaccines and public health insecticides for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. While the problems of infectious disease control remain high nationally and internationally, with antimicrobial resistance (AMR), it's many other infections and diseases that still make the headlines, the model for bringing new products to market is no longer fit for purpose.

"The timely formation of this expert consortium will help establish the North West as the national and international centre for developing and providing industry with access to a progressive repository of methodologies and improved models for product development for infectious disease prevention and treatment. This will be delivered through a specialist CRO network, which is closely linked to the academic and industrial bases of the region, creating jobs and increasing industrial productivity."

A further £50,000 of seedcorn funding was also announced earlier this year by UKRI for the development of a complex medicines hub in the Cheshire and Warrington region. The project will include the creation of an innovation launchpad to spin out and grow businesses working in biologics, nanoparticles and nucleotide therapies.



**PART OF THE UK LIFE
SCIENCE ECOSYSTEM...**

Long recognised as a world-class life science campus, Alderley Park plays a key role in the UK life science ecosystem.

Geoff Davison CEO of Bionow, the membership organisation for life science businesses in the North explains:

“What makes Alderley Park really tick is the connectivity which exists there and this has been even more obvious during a challenging year for everyone. It’s been great to see so many of our members located at Alderley Park support the fight against Covid-19 through collaborating with each other. The Park has world leading scientific facilities and it’s exciting to watch our members succeed and expand whilst also contributing to the wider ecosystem.

The cherry on the top is that Alderley Park is in a fantastic rural setting with so much space. Previously it’s been an easy decision for us to host our events at its world class conference centre and now there is ample space to allow safe engagement with our clients. So whether it’s attending scientific conferences or opportunistic encounters, there’s always something or someone to discover at Alderley Park. For me, and many others, Alderley Park has all the ingredients of a 21st Century life science cluster.”



...AND PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Alderley Park continues to play a vital role in the local community.

This year over 500 participants took part in the inaugural Run North West trail race, the new gym and sports facilities opened with over 600 members and we held 'Microdot' - a mini-version of the famous 'bluedot' festival which takes place each year at the nearby Jodrell Bank observatory.

Microdot at Alderley Park



Run North West Trail race

The Churchill Tree, the new village pub and restaurant located in the grade II-listed Tenant's Hall also opened this year.

The Churchill Tree was named after the sweet chestnut tree planted by a young Winston Churchill in Alderley Park in the early 20th century.



The Churchill Tree

LEEDS



LEEDS

It's been over two years now since the Tech Hub opened at Platform and rapidly became regarded as the 'home of tech' in Leeds.

Now home to over 80 digital and tech businesses, the Tech Hub continues to connect companies with opportunities to access finance, skills, talent and new markets.

Craig Burrow, Director - Leeds, explains how the city has transformed in recent years:

"Leeds' rapidly growing digital and tech scene continues to go from strength to strength. Largely regarded as one of the leading UK cities when it comes to legaltech, fintech and medtech, Platform plays an important part in developing and growing that city-based ecosystem. With big names such as Channel 4 and Skybet having chosen to make Leeds their home, it's a city that definitely punches above its weight."

Tech Hub at Platform



FUNDING FOR GROWTH

At the heart of Yorkshire's digital and tech ecosystem, Leeds is fast becoming a magnet for fintech, legaltech, AI and big data.

This year's Tech Nation report - UK Tech for a Changing World, outlined the impact of the sector on the city region and highlighted one of the key challenges as early stage seed investment, with many companies having to go to London to find it.

Helen Oldham, Founding Board Member of Platform-based investment company NorthInvest explains:

"We've been bringing together an ever-growing community of active investors from across the North of England and have a strong pipeline of credible founders and startups, raising more than £2m for northern-based start-ups in the first quarter of the year. This includes a £150,000 equity investment, which was match funded by Innovate UK, in Manchester Technology Centre-based Recourse (formerly aiPatient), the Health and EdTech platform, training medical practitioners and students through AI-powered virtual human patients."

"NorthInvest is dedicated to closing the gender investment gap and seeing a growth in the number of female investors and women in senior positions within investment organisations."

DEB HETHERINGTON JOINS THE TEAM

Formerly Business Innovation Manager at Leeds Beckett University, Deb brings a wealth of experience in business engagement and innovation projects to the Bruntwood SciTech team in Leeds.

Deb is also co-founder of WILD (Women in Leeds Digital) - a community-led organisation aimed at encouraging women and under-represented groups into digital roles, and sits on the steering groups for Leeds Digital Festival and Leeds Business Improvement District as well as being a digital board member of both the LEP and Leeds Tech.

Deb explains more about the digital and tech sector in Leeds and what her new role means:

“Collaboration between businesses and partners is vital if Leeds is going to flourish as a leading UK hub for the digital and tech community. Many of the companies based at Platform are at the forefront of disrupting their industry, so it’s really important that they receive the help and support they need to achieve their business goals and ambitions. That could be anything from providing connections, to unique opportunities to access finance, talent, markets, our partners or other companies from across the Bruntwood SciTech network”.

“Partnership is key, working seamlessly with the city’s public, private, academic and clinical institutions including the universities - providing over 21,000 STEM graduates per year, NHS trusts and city council to help create high value jobs for the sector and drive the economic growth of the city”.

Deb Hetherington



DISRUPTING THE NORTH

There's still a north-south divide when it comes to digital and tech. Publishing company DisruptionHub moved north from London in 2017 with a simple mission - to remove that divide.

Through their Disruption North series, DisruptionHub have highlighted northern-based digital and tech businesses such as Zenzium, Lucid Innovation and Shopper.com and recognised the impact they are making on the sector.

"After five years of running DisruptionHub, I've met hundreds of exciting individuals and companies working in digital innovation. But I'm always frustrated at how little exposure companies outside of London receive when there's such an abundance of talent, particularly in the North. Whilst the capital plays host to some of the world's largest, and most innovative tech companies, this doesn't tell the whole story...look outside of London and you'll find a wealth of inspirational regional businesses changing the game in their respective fields. The reality is there's so much going on here and it's a really great environment for growing digital businesses."

"It's time to swivel the spotlight towards the cities in the North of England, and with that in mind, we wanted to launch a programme to shine a light on the fantastic examples of digital innovation in the cities across the North of England."

"The aim is to highlight not just the plethora of talent in the North, but to demonstrate the value for businesses that find a home in these cities. There's collaboration, the huge talent coming out of the universities, a sense of community, not to mention a real buzz and positivity around disruption and innovation."

Rob Previt
Founder of DisruptionHub and Disruption North



Here's just a selection of some of the companies from across the Bruntwood SciTech network to have been featured by Disruption North.



MANCHESTER



MANCHESTER

Manchester Science Park, Citylabs and Circle Square, all located in the heart of the city's Oxford Road Corridor innovation district, continued to grow at scale and pace.

Citylabs 2.0 reached practical completion and will be the new home of global molecular diagnostics company QIAGEN and their Global Centre of Excellence for Precision Medicine, whilst No.1 and No.2 Circle Square, part of Manchester's new city centre neighbourhood also reached the final stages of completion this year.

The next phase of the masterplans for these developments also moved forward with planning permission granted for No.3 Circle Square, the 91,000 sq ft redevelopment of Base at Manchester Science Park, and the £35m development of Citylabs 4.0 - part of the Citylabs genomics, health innovation and precision medicine hub.

No.3 Circle Square



Citylabs 2.0

CIRCLE SQUARE

Circle Square has developed at pace over the last 12 months, reaching several key milestones and remaining on course to open its first main phase in the new year.



Tom Renn, Managing Director - Manchester, explains:

"It goes without saying that this year has been one of the most challenging for the city's economy, but as the world slowly starts to recover from the effects of Covid-19, it's promising to see how resilient the science and technology sector has been and the important role it is likely to play in helping to bring the city's economy back on track."

"This year we've seen significant pre-let activity at Circle Square with the likes of Mills & Reeve, Accenture, Hilti and Northcoders joining the cluster of over 40 digital and tech businesses at Circle Square; a reassuring sign that tech businesses are still looking to invest in one of the fastest-growing tech cities in Europe. Having witnessed such high levels of demand, we were able to accelerate our plans for the development of No.3 Circle Square and received planning approval in February to bring forward the build of a 225,000 sq ft commercial building."

"From a wider neighbourhood perspective, it's always been our ambition to create a place that would bring people together and that would become part of the fabric of the city. Somewhere tourists and innovators would see as a must-visit when coming to Manchester and this year we've really started to see this come to fruition. We welcomed two new leisure operators to Circle Square, each bringing a brand new offer to the city."

"Over the next 12 months we have lots to look forward to as we officially open the first main phase of Circle Square which includes two new commercial buildings No.1 & No.2 Circle Square, over 600 new homes, a multi-storey car park, hotel and Symphony Park - Manchester's first and largest new city park for generations. It'll certainly be an exciting year ahead."

WINNER

North West Insider
Placemaking Project
of the Year Award 2020

Estates Gazette
Workspace of the
Year Award 2020





No.2 Circle Square Workspace

Christopher Gray, Managing Director for Accenture North West comments on their move to Circle Square:

“Accenture works with clients across the UK and the North West on supporting their innovation and transformation journeys. By relocating over 500 of our employees to Circle Square, we will be better able to connect to our clients, as well as collaborate as part of Manchester’s ever-growing ecosystem of technology start-ups and major players. Accenture’s expertise in digital transformation, cyber security and Industry 4.0 are particularly relevant to the North West economy and our new location provides the opportunity to better showcase these to our clients.”

“The North West is a region of growth and working with Bruntwood SciTech has given Accenture the support we need as our office space and our community grows.”

Matias Järnefelt, Managing Director of Hilti in Northern Europe and Great Britain, outlines the reasons Hilti chose to relocate to Circle Square:

“The move marks our commitment to Manchester with its international airport, reputation for innovation, thriving construction industry and great universities. We considered many office locations, but none met our requirements better than No.1 Circle Square. Our new working environment will feature spacious open areas, encouraging communication and allowing for more flexible, collaborative and modern working.”

A CITY OF ANGELS

Peter Lusty, founder and chief exec of the Manchester Tech Trust, connects early stage businesses with angel investors to support and accelerate their growth.

Founded in 2014, the mission was clear from the start - to create a joined up strategy for promoting tech in Manchester, six years on Manchester Tech Trust is delivering exactly that. An experienced mentor network comprised of some of the region’s most well known and successful digital and tech entrepreneurs and a network of high net worth angels focussed on seed investment and early stage funding makes for a unique proposition for the city’s start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Peter explains: *“It’s all about matching the right people with the right investment. I have regular drop in clinics across the city, including one in the Tech Incubator at Circle Square. It’s through these individual 1-1s that I can really understand their business, what they need and who is best placed to support them in achieving their goals and ambitions.”*

The first investment that the Manchester Tech Trust Angels made was for £350k in biomedical AI company, Biorelate, based at Manchester Science Park. Peter explained:

“We had known Dan for some time and were pleased to provide a substantial proportion of the investment in his latest round. Biorelate appealed to our angels because of its highly innovative technology that solves problems in a complex and mature industry.”



CIRCLE SQUARE WELCOMES TWO MANCHESTER FIRSTS

A NEW CANVAS

A new UK-first retail and leisure concept for Circle Square 'Canvas' was announced this year. The new lifestyle venue is made of 3 unique elements: Canvas Kitchen - a 100 seater day/night restaurant, Canvas Club - a members only lounge and Canvas Events - a flexible subterranean events space for up to 400 people delivering a vibrant programme of music, comedy, theatre, art, wellness and networking events.

Dean James, Chairman of BeSixth, describes their new concept and why they chose Circle Square:

"With Canvas Manchester we want to introduce a brand new lifestyle concept that will bring people together and offer something new and exciting to those living and working in the city. With a rich and diverse cultural scene, Manchester was always going to be the first city we looked to when we made the decision to expand outside of London but we didn't think we would find anything like the site at Circle Square."

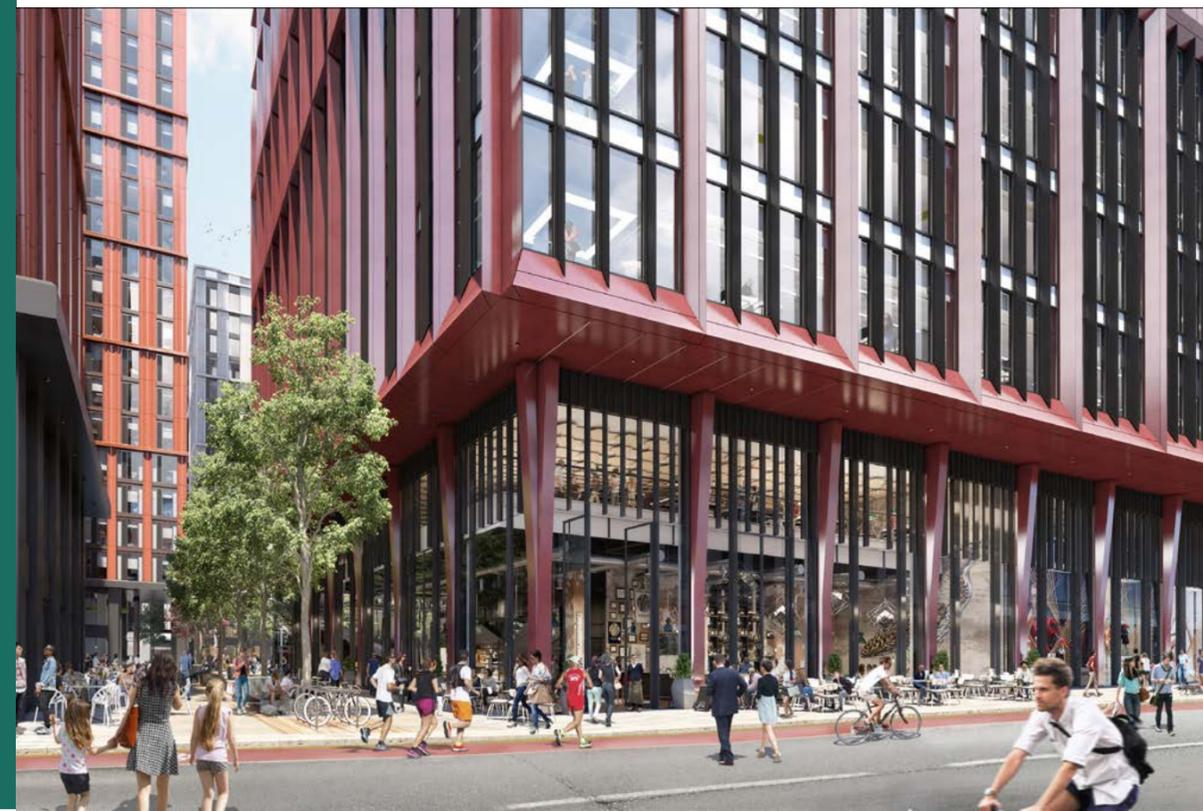


TRIB3 NEW HQ

Boutique fitness studio TRIB3 confirmed it will open a new flagship studio at Circle Square making it the home to its new headquarters and biggest studio yet, as well as the location for TRIB3 Academy which will deliver expert training and content for its teams, coaches and franchise partners for its worldwide studios.

Kevin Yates CEO and founder of TRIB3 explains why they chose Circle Square as their new HQ:

"Circle Square is a perfect destination for TRIB3. Innovation and community are some of our most important brand pillars so to be in the heart of Manchester's hub of technology and transformation is really exciting for us."



CITYLABS - A GENOMICS AND PRECISION MEDICINE HUB

Part of Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust's (MFT) Oxford Road campus, the UK's largest provider Foundation Trust, Citylabs 1.0 has been a biomedical centre of excellence for the city since 2014 and has seen unprecedented success for medtech, digital health, genomics, and diagnostics businesses connecting into both the world-leading research from the University of Manchester and clinical expertise of MFT.

The Citylabs campus masterplan, showing Citylabs 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0



CITYLABS- A GENOMICS AND PRECISION MEDICINE HUB

Since 2016, a £100m investment has been underway to expand the campus with an additional 345,000 sq ft for the development of Citylabs 2.0, 3.0, & 4.0, creating a new genomics, precision medicine and health innovation hub for the UK of international strategic importance. The existing cluster of over 25 health innovation businesses has also been strengthened with the relocation and expansion of global diagnostics company QIAGEN's Global Centre of Excellence for Precision Medicine to Citylabs 2.0 which completed construction in July, whilst plans for the development of Citylabs 4.0 were approved earlier this year and is set to open in 2022.

This additional specialist infrastructure and the integrated, connected and collaborative partnership approach in Manchester between industry, academia, and clinical care supports the strength of the North West life sciences sector, which employs nearly 7000 people and contributes over £1.8bn GVA per annum to the regional economy.

Citylabs is playing a vital role in levelling up the UK; supporting many life science sub-sectors as well as the region's universities to attract the best undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to commercialise knowledge and research.

Ian Kavanagh, COO of Apis Assay Technologies, based in Citylabs 1.0, gave us his thoughts:

"I like to say that we are literally and figuratively in between academia and the healthcare systems."



£100m
investment to expand the campus

345,000
additional sq ft development
of Citylabs 2.0, 3.0 & 4.0.

Citylabs 4.0 has received planning permission and will be the next development in the expansion of the campus



CITYLABS - A GENOMICS AND PRECISION MEDICINE HUB

Located within Europe's largest clinical academic campus and within the Oxford Road Corridor innovation district, Citylabs is surrounded by 6 of the country's best hospitals, including the UK's largest children's hospital for specialist research - the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, and leading institutions such as the Stoller Biomarker Discovery Centre, the Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine, the Farr Institute, the National Graphene Institute, the University of Manchester's Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health and the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility.

Tom Renn, Managing Director - Manchester, observes:

"Our long-term vision for the Citylabs campus continues to move closer in realising its goal to become a world-class centre for diagnostics and health innovation. QIAGEN's expansion into Citylabs 2.0 is key to creating a health innovation hub which succeeds on the world stage. It will act as a magnet for complementary businesses - from start-ups to scale-ups and R&D centres of excellence - which will in turn help to strengthen the ecosystem of the Oxford Road Corridor innovation district.

"This year has showcased the importance of the life sciences sector and particularly diagnostics to society, the jobs it creates and its role in driving the UK forward globally. The expanding diagnostics cluster in the North West continues to strengthen the region's capabilities, particularly through the growth of leading companies such as Yourgene Health, Genedrive, Affinity Biomarker Solutions, LumiraDX, and of course QIAGEN. These companies are driving the formation of new diagnostic organisations in the region and provide encouragement to other companies to relocate because of the opportunities here to access the best talent, integrated connections between industry, academia and clinical care, and increased funding availability."

The businesses at Citylabs, such as the Stoller Biomarker Discovery Centre (shown) create pioneering innovations which can then be translated into new healthcare diagnostics and treatments that can be quickly adopted into Manchester's health system.

A NEW BASE FOR THE MANCHESTER INNOVATION ACTIVITIES HUB

The 91,000 sq ft re-development of Base at Manchester Science Park was granted planning permission earlier this year.

The new build, aimed at supporting R&D intensive businesses working in the areas of Industry 4.0, digital technology, advanced materials, engineering and low carbon, will also incorporate low carbon technologies including solar technology, demand side response technology, smart BMS, Multi Gigabyte connectivity, and infrastructure for future battery reliance capability.

The development recently received £4m from MCHLG as part of the 'shovel ready' "Getting Building Fund" to support the creation of commercial innovation workspace and a dedicated vocational training space designed to provide young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with technical skills training aligned to industry 4.0 and enable access to highly skilled jobs. This new vocational learning centre will be the Manchester Innovation Activities Hub.

Base will be a vital part of the region's innovation ecosystem, supporting the growth of the knowledge economy which has seen unprecedented demand this year, and will both support and create over 1,000 high value jobs.



91,000
sq ft redevelopment

1,000
high value jobs created

BIRMINGHAM





BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's position as a leading regional life science and digital city further strengthened throughout the year with major developments at both the Innovation Birmingham Campus - the region's leading location for digital and tech businesses and Birmingham Health Innovation Campus.



David Hardman, Managing Director - Birmingham, updates:

"Birmingham has certainly proven its resilience over the last six months. The regional economy was in a strong position before the onset of the pandemic and the tech and life science sectors are well placed to play a significant role in the speed and strength of the region's economic recovery. Birmingham is home to the largest financial services sector outside London and although most of the businesses will have adopted digital technologies, there are only a small number of businesses identifying as fintech - this presents a real opportunity for the city's digital start-up community; alongside the growth of other sectors such as proptech and legaltech.

"The Knowledge Quarter is developing at pace and will act as a magnet for inward investment into the region, helping to catalyse new high value jobs and GVA for the city. At the Innovation Birmingham campus, we secured planning permission for the development of Enterprise Wharf which will provide 120,000 sq ft of new commercial space for larger digital and tech businesses and will become Birmingham's first smart-enabled building. We were also pleased to establish a new partnership this year with the University of Birmingham to develop the 10 acre Birmingham Health Innovation Campus into a world-leading centre for healthcare technologies and innovation.

"As work gets underway on HS2 which will connect Birmingham with London in 45 minutes, the arrival of a 5G Applications Accelerator in our iCentrum building, the HS2 Accelerator and plans set for the new West Midlands National Park, 2021 is very much set to be a year of growth and opportunity."

ENTERPRISE WHARF: BIRMINGHAM'S FIRST 'SMART-ENABLED' BUILDING GETS THE GO AHEAD

Following a successful application to Birmingham City Council, plans were approved for the development of Enterprise Wharf, a new 10 storey, 120,000 sq ft commercial building for the Innovation Birmingham campus.

Providing much needed grow-on and expansion space, the development of Enterprise Wharf is key to attracting inward investment and new larger digital and tech businesses to the campus which is already home to over 170 companies working in fields such as fintech, edtech, sport tech and medtech.

Birmingham's first 'smart-enabled' building, Enterprise Wharf has the core components and the enablers of smart experiences embedded within its infrastructure; such as its Building Management System and HVAC, lighting, CCTV, and green energy subsystems, the data from which will all be brought to life through a visual data dashboard. The building's smart building management system drives productivity, increases efficiency, reduces cost and improves user experience by connecting the building to IoT sensors, people and processes.

The in-built tech collates a constant stream of data (such as air quality, temperature, equipment failures and occupation density) providing the operations and facilities team with the ability to manage maintenance proactively and improve the customer experience for all users and visitors to Enterprise Wharf.

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham City Council noted:

"A thriving digital economy is essential for the city's future and Enterprise Wharf will provide the kind of quality infrastructure that's needed to entice established players to Birmingham, while also helping to catalyse future success stories from within our community of entrepreneurs."



Key benefits of a 'smart-enabled' building



Companies will benefit from super fast and reliable connectivity (plus 5G)



Ability for companies to identify and maintain the optimal temperature and lighting in their offices and spaces to improve customer experience, employee retention/satisfaction as well as reducing Co2 emissions to improve wellbeing, sustainability and reduce operational running costs



Smart access control and visitor management system offers improved visitor experience for customers based in the building



Ability for companies and individuals to select their ideal workspaces based on real time needs and desires - choosing a meeting room they know to be free, or a location they know to be quiet or sparsely populated

SERENDIP WELCOMES HS2

Our Serendip access to innovation programme welcomed HS2 earlier this year as a new corporate partner.

Providing challenge-led innovation opportunities, Serendip uniquely co-locates start-ups and corporates in a collaborative and open environment to solve the real world problems faced by many of today's businesses.

HS2 Ltd's new 'Innovation Accelerator' at the Innovation Birmingham Campus will support the identification and development of entrepreneurial ideas to tackle a series of innovation challenges including: productivity, the environment, and the circular economy; to help deliver Europe's largest infrastructure project.

The ten successful firms have joined as two cohorts to benefit from commercial and technical support alongside rent-free workspace to develop their proposals.

Solutions will be showcased and pitched to industry investors and HS2's supply chain. HS2 Head of Innovation Howard Mitchell explained:

"The construction of HS2 will show the world the very best of British skills, innovation and ambition. The Accelerator programme, which is an innovation itself, not only offers new ways of delivering HS2, but also generates new jobs, technology and opportunities."

Other Serendip corporate partners to date have included Barclays, National Express, GymShark, London Midland, Tata Motors and the West Midlands Academic Health Science Network resulting in the attraction of over 150 new start-ups to the campus and 48 new commercial deals.

5PRING ARRIVES AT INNOVATION BIRMINGHAM

Following a successful bid by West Midlands 5G (WM5G) Limited to DCMS to create a 5G testbed in the region, March saw the appointment of a new consortium led by Telefonica UK (O2), Deloitte, Wayra and the Digital Catapult to build 5G accelerators in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry and the launch of the '5PRING' accelerator programme at Innovation Birmingham.

The accelerator provides offices and demonstration spaces with access to the latest 5G technology, enabling businesses and public sector organisations to experiment with features that aren't commercially released yet, combined with the launch of new devices, professional advice and technical support. The accelerator enables businesses and public sector organisations to explore the potential benefits 5G technology can bring to their organisation and work with other businesses via new applications and services.

At least 2,000 private sector businesses and public sector organisations from across the West Midlands will benefit from the accelerators over the next five years. West Midlands Mayor Andy Street said:

"I am delighted the West Midlands is to be the first region in the UK to launch these cutting edge 5G innovation centres. These new centres will allow thousands of businesses and organisations across the region to experience 5G first-hand and this will be a great advertisement for the West Midlands as we look to encourage more businesses to relocate here."



Unlike pre-existing research and development facilities, 5PRING has been designed to attract businesses and entrepreneurs who can solve major problems and opportunities that can be commercially scaled, when proven.

NEW HEALTH INNOVATION CAMPUS UNVEILED

Plans were unveiled for the development of a new Health Innovation campus for Birmingham. Located in Edgbaston and part of the University of Birmingham, Birmingham Health Innovation Campus will bolster the region's strong health innovation cluster providing new world class facilities for the University and neighbouring NHS Trusts.

10,000

New jobs created

£400m

Additional GVA generated

657,000

Sq ft state-of-the-art lab, office and incubation space provided.



NEW HEALTH INNOVATION CAMPUS UNVEILED

The new hub for integrated, data-enabled and patient-centric health innovations will fuel the UK's burgeoning life sciences sector which contributes over £70bn a year to the UK economy, employs over 240,000 people and continues to be a magnet for foreign direct investment as one of the key pillars of the Government's Industrial Strategy.

The development of Birmingham Health Innovation Campus will create over 10,000 new jobs and generate an additional £400m GVA for the regional economy by 2030. The 10 year masterplan will provide up to 657,000 sq ft of state-of-the-art lab, office and incubation space, acting as a catalyst for growth and inward investment for the Midlands' life science cluster.

The 10 acre site also had Life Science Opportunity Zone status awarded earlier this year by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and sits at the heart of an important cluster of health excellence led by Birmingham Health Partners (BHP), a strategic alliance between the University of Birmingham, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and the Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust. It has also been identified as a High Potential Opportunity zone by the Department for International Trade.

The first phase of the new campus includes a new 130,000 sq ft purpose built six-storey building which will be home to the University of Birmingham's Precision Health Technologies Accelerator (PHTA) providing incubation space, wet and dry labs clean rooms, prototyping and maker space, and includes the Birmingham Precision Medicine Centre and Healthcare Technologies Innovation Hub.

It will also be a hub for commercial businesses working in medtech, biopharma, precision medicine, healthcare AI and genomics attracted by the unique opportunities presented by the Campus to access a fully connected clinical trials translation ecosystem and work collaboratively with academic and clinical leaders to commercialise ideas and scale them for rapid adoption into the healthcare system. This includes prototyping, clinical trial testing, scaling and implementing, which will in turn accelerate the development and deployment of new drugs, diagnostics and healthcare technologies to patients and provide a pathway for innovation challenges in the NHS to be met at scale.

"This ambitious new development will leverage the existing integrated campus to drive innovation and economic growth – all centred on a shared mission to transform the health of all citizens – in Birmingham and beyond – by accelerating the development and adoption of healthcare innovations."

Professor Tim Jones, University of Birmingham Provost and Vice-Principal.

Andy Street, Mayor of West Midlands Combined Authority echoed this:

"Birmingham Health Innovation Campus is a brilliant project which encompasses just why health and life sciences is so important to the West Midlands. As well as creating opportunities for new and existing local businesses to thrive, the campus will also deliver significant inward investment to the region and create high-value local jobs for local people."

"On top of the economic boost, the campus will also help bring innovative medical devices and treatments rapidly through to the NHS and patients in the West Midlands and across the UK."

Opening in 2022, the campus will be a national and international leader in life sciences.



"Birmingham Health Innovation Campus will align academic, NHS and industry capabilities based on a shared mission. It will also provide additional much-needed world class facilities for the most innovative healthcare businesses where integrated, data-enabled and patient-centric health innovations can be created and further the UK's position as a leader of health innovation on the global stage."

David Hardman, Managing Director Bruntwood SciTech - Birmingham

LIVERPOOL





LIVERPOOL SCIENCE PARK

In May, Bruntwood SciTech signed a new partnership agreement to join Sciontec Liverpool, alongside Liverpool City Council, the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University.

The new partnership sees Liverpool Science Park join the Bruntwood SciTech network. Professor Dame Janet Beer, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool and Chair of Sciontec Liverpool, explains what Bruntwood SciTech joining the partnership means for the city and the sector:

“Sciontec Liverpool, now with Bruntwood SciTech as an investor, demonstrates that private and public partnership works. It has commitment, momentum, capacity and delivery potential but more importantly, it is unique to Liverpool, yet now part of a much bigger national picture. Our strengths in fighting infection and disease, digital health, personalised medicine and civic data, materials chemistry, robotics, big data and artificial intelligence will be even more relevant as we move to the recovery phase which will follow the current crisis.”

Mark Power, Registrar and Chief Operating Officer of Liverpool John Moores University, explains the vision and the ambition for Liverpool Science Park:

“Since taking over the operation of Liverpool Science Park a year ago, Sciontec has turned its fortunes around and it now operates at virtually 100% capacity, with more space now needed for Liverpool’s science and tech spin-outs, start-ups and SMEs. We knew we needed to find a partner whose experience and expertise could match our ambition and vision and are delighted to have selected Bruntwood SciTech as that partner. Liverpool can now lead the way in the UK’s recovery from coronavirus, with our focus on innovation in health, science and technology.”

THE KNOWLEDGE QUARTER - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Sciortec Liverpool is a spin-out company of Knowledge Quarter (KQ) Liverpool – a strategic and placemaking organisation which is overseeing a £2bn development programme in the city's first Mayoral Development Zone.

It is headed up by Colin Sinclair, Chief Executive of both Sciortec Liverpool and KQ Liverpool. Colin explains more about the city's key sector strengths, the importance of the Knowledge Quarter and its newly launched vision for 2025:

"The KQ Liverpool 2025 Vision looks to respond to the City Region's immediate economic challenges, following the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst laying out a future roadmap for ambitious yet sustainable future growth."

"We've identified five areas of focus - attracting and retaining talent, growing businesses and attracting inward investment, being a better neighbour, collaborating with purpose and creating a smarter city; along with plans for Sciortec Liverpool to further develop Paddington Village, expand Liverpool Science Park, and create a tech cluster close to Sensor City at Copperas Hill in Upper Central."



"Our new strategic plan to drive forward our health, life sciences and tech innovation district will empower Liverpool and the wider City Region to adapt more quickly, play to our strengths and push forward with positivity."

Colin Sinclair



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

The results of our annual customer impact survey continued to demonstrate the impact of being located in the Bruntwood SciTech network.

<p>2/3</p> <p><i>of businesses benefit from being located in the Bruntwood SciTech network</i></p>	<p>Over 60%</p> <p><i>agree that their Bruntwood SciTech location has the infrastructure needed to help them grow their business</i></p>	<p>Over 60%</p> <p><i>agree their Bruntwood Scitech location gives them access to the skills their business needs</i></p>
<p>40%</p> <p><i>of businesses in the Bruntwood SciTech network have grown employment and over half have grown revenues over the last 12 months</i></p>	<p>1/4</p> <p><i>of businesses in the Bruntwood SciTech network have raised investment in the last 12 months</i></p>	<p>9/10</p> <p><i>of businesses based in the Bruntwood SciTech network are confident of their future prospects, 44% very confident</i></p>

We also relaunched our approach to business support, focussing on 1-1s to get a rich understanding of our customers' needs and working closely with our academic, funding and corporate partners to deliver targeted support. We also launched our new Bruntwood SciTech Slack community and introduced a range of new social and wellbeing events such as LoveFIT, PowerUp and a supper club series.

Much of our business support events programme went 'virtual' in the second half of the year, using Zoom to welcome attendees to Innovation Birmingham's regular Tech Wednesday Meetup and launching our Customer Showcase series with contributions from Yourgene Health, Civico, Medicines Discovery Catapult, NewRedo and Energym.



SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

A huge thank you to all the companies from across the Bruntwood SciTech network who adapted and pivoted their businesses to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Alderley Park's Medicines Discovery Catapult, Stream Bio, Peak Proteins and EM Analytical, Manchester Science Park's QIAGEN, Lumira DX, and Affinity Biomarker Services, and Citylabs' Yourgene Health all working on COVID-19 testing or test manufacturing
- Manchester Science Park-based DiceyTech, Innovation Birmingham businesses Energym and Barclays Eagle Labs, and Alderley Park company Blueberry Therapeutics using their 3D printers to produce protective face shields for the NHS
- Manchester Science Park startup Place Dashboard monitoring and tracking social distancing through their heatmap technology
- Circle Square and Platform-based Northcoders launching a fully-remote coding course to help those furloughed or made redundant gain fully comprehensive coding skills within 8 weeks
- Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust Charity (MFT) utilising Citylabs 1.0 conference space for their hub for collection, production and distribution of care packages for NHS frontline workers

Collection, production and distribution of care package for NHS frontline workers by MFT Charity at Citylabs 1.0



SOCIAL IMPACT

Making a positive social impact is at the heart of Bruntwood SciTech, supporting and championing STEM-based initiatives across our cities and communities.

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On the 11th February every year, people from around the world celebrate the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science; coming together to break down the barriers that stop many girls and women pursuing science and tech based careers. Dr Kath Mackay - managing director of Alderley Park spoke to Pharmaceutical Market Europe about what big pharma and the life science sector needs to do to change the status quo:



We've known for a long-time that there's a lack of young women leaving education and entering careers in science and tech. In fact, there's still a dearth of young girls opting to take STEM subjects beyond GCSE level, but businesses in the science sector also need to address the shortage of female leadership:

- 1. Family has too often placed the brakes on a woman's career trajectory. Pharma companies should encourage the most progressive parental leave policies to support male and female colleagues to share it equally. Too often, a talented woman's progression up the career ladder is halted by prolonged periods of absence after having or adopting children. Ensuring it's no longer just seen as the woman's sacrifice will play a big part in levelling the playing field and we need flexible working practices that allow colleagues to fit careers around family life to ensure they don't have to make a choice between one or the other.*
- 2. Recruitment practices and processes can also be adapted to remove risk of any potential bias, unconscious or otherwise. Ensuring gender diversity on the selection panel and blinded CV reviews are an easy fix.*
- 3. We need more support for female entrepreneurs- or for entrepreneurs in general, for that matter. We need to encourage, nurture and fund more start-ups but also allow them to flourish in the industry's middle tier.*

SOCIAL IMPACT

STEM FACTOR

During the pandemic, Bruntwood SciTech launched 'STEM Factor', a new learning initiative to help educate and inspire children to explore STEM-based challenges and subjects at home. The project set out to help parents and carers supercharge homeschooling lessons with engaging and exciting activities, showcasing the variety and excitement that can be had from STEM activities such as 3D design, hacks, future robots, coding and electronics. The initiative was supported by a number of businesses from across the Bruntwood SciTech network, and was listed by the Science and Industry Museum as one of the UK's top homeschooling projects.



DiceyTech - one of the key businesses involved with STEM Factor created 3D printing projects



DigitalHer Experience Day at Manchester Science Park

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Bruntwood SciTech was proud to support this year's British Science Week - the 10 day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths from the British Science Association and UK Research and Innovation, helping to raise awareness and encouraging volunteers to get involved with citizen science projects and smashing science stereotypes.

TECH SHE CAN

Now in its second year, Bruntwood SciTech has been proud to continue its support for TechSheCan - the initiative founded by PWC aimed at increasing the number of women working in technology roles in the UK. Different from many other STEM projects and programmes, TechSheCan aims to tackle the root cause of the problem at a societal level by inspiring and educating young girls and women to get into tech careers by creating and delivering lesson plans on topics such as Tech for Law, Tech for Energy and Tech for Entrepreneurship in schools across the country, and during the earlier months of this they launched 12 free lesson plans adapted for parents to teach at home too.

DIGITAL HER

Bruntwood SciTech continued its support for DigitalHer, the STEM-focussed initiative from Manchester Digital for a second year.

Managing Director, Katie Gallager explains the importance of DigitalHer in securing the next generation of STEM talent:

"DigitalHer was created with one simple mission; to inspire more girls to consider careers and opportunities in tech. The 2019 DigitalHer Roadshow reached over 1200 girls from every borough in Manchester, and provided support, opportunities and guidance needed to empower a new generation of women into our industry."

"Working with our partners, we delivered a diverse programme of workshops, activities, experience days and provided role models to help inspire these girls and showcased the vast array of exciting careers in the tech industry."

"Businesses from Manchester Science Park, Circle Square and Citylabs hosted a number of workshops, providing a great opportunity for the girls to see that this sector welcomes all skills and interests, from medtech and healthcare to digital apps and services."

"Participation in our roadshows resulted in a 37% increase in young women reporting they would consider a career in digital and technology; that's over 500 young women now considering a career in digital or technology to secure the next generation of STEM talent."

PLACE MATTERS

PLACE MATTERS

In July, Bruntwood SciTech published 'Place Matters - Innovation and Growth in the UK', a report recognising the value of place-based innovation and the impact it can have on UK cities and regions.



Nigel Wilson

Nigel Wilson, Chief Executive, Legal & General outlines the importance of needing to turn innovation and ideas into meaningful economic growth.

"The UK is world leading in scientific research and discovery. It has an army of talented tech entrepreneurs. But we consistently fail to turn enough new ideas into new jobs and growth. The Government's commitment to raise R&D spending to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 is welcome, but without support for places to develop their innovation ecosystems over the long term, meeting the target will still miss the point"

Nigel Wilson
Chief Executive, Legal & General



Chris Oglesby

The report also highlighted successful examples of investment in innovation and R&D from around the globe including Berlin and Shenzhen.

Bruntwood Chief Executive Chris Oglesby explains that this cannot be done overnight.

"It can take 20 years to develop a successful innovation district as we have seen in Manchester's Oxford Road Corridor. But it is just one of a handful in the UK today and we believe there is the potential for one in every region. We need more R&D investment, but we also need to create thriving locations that attract talent and have the ecosystems that can support innovation-led activities."

"The answer lies in building on the unique strengths of the world class academic infrastructure that already exists in our cities. Bring together all the parties needed to make new innovation happen and then work collaboratively"

Chris Oglesby,
Chief Executive, Bruntwood

MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE

Bruntwood SciTech's 'Manifesto for Change' was backed by over 30 of the UK's leading figures including Lord Jim O'Neill, Dame Nancy Rothwell and Andy Burnham, calling on the Department for Business, Environment and Industrial Strategy to act in a number of key areas:

1

Implement a new national innovation policy - Focusing on sectoral activity has come at the expense of the wider factors that determine innovation success. We must review and refresh our approach to national innovation policy to give a greater focus on 'Place' and to back this up with the promised increase to 2.4% of GDP spending on R&D.

2

Review of our innovation infrastructure - We lag behind our competitor countries in the scale and effectiveness of our innovation infrastructure. The government should commit to a rapid review to ensure it's working as well as it can for businesses and places.

3

Prioritise translational research - we must capture more of the value created by the UK's research and seize the commercial opportunities they represent. Making translational research a greater strategic priority - nationally, locally and within businesses, academic and research institutions.

4

Every UK region should have at least one world class centre of research excellence - UK R&D expenditure has focussed on the same regions for too long. Currently over 50% goes to London and the South East. It needs to be rebalanced and targeted to 'level-up' our economy over the next 20 years.

5

Support cities and regions in adopting a collaborative approach and a global mind-set - Government, civic leaders and businesses can learn from world-leading examples of place-based innovation. UK cities must collaborate focussing on their distinct but complementary specialisms.

6

Transform attitudes so that businesses back innovation - Too many places in the UK lack the absorptive capacity needed to convert investment into innovation, jobs and growth. The public sector and business need to back new ideas and business models to promote innovation activities.

7

Empower civic leaders - The cities and regions that support innovation best have a shared understanding of their strengths and where they have the potential to be world-class. Devolving power, responsibility and decision making away from Whitehall will help build this capacity.

8

Develop alternative investment models - Property developers and investors need to offer more flexible solutions and capital alongside long-term investment strategies to support the development of innovation districts and places. Coupled with greater flexibility for public sector investment funds and decision making this will support innovation in places.

9

Realise the 'Power of Three' - Innovation districts, place ecosystems and innovation ecosystems need to be given more equal weight and consideration when developing long-term strategies, be that by national government, local leaders, institutions, investors or developers.

10

Transform place to attract and retain talent - People are at the heart of innovation. Successful place-based innovation needs to ensure a quality of life that will help to attract talent and retain it for the long-term.

LOOKING AHEAD

As 2020 draws to a close and we look ahead to 2021, we urge the UK government to stand by its commitment to investing 2.4% of GDP in R&D by 2027 and support its proposals to review the investment and funding landscape as part of its R&D Roadmap.

As the UK economy faces one its most testing periods of the last century, we all have a role to play in its recovery. The publication of our report 'Place Matters: Innovation & Growth in the UK' demonstrates the impact that place-based innovation can have in driving productivity and growth not only in the UK but around the globe.

2021 is set to be another exciting year for Bruntwood SciTech as we look ahead to forming new partnerships and creating new thriving innovation districts.

HERE'S TO AN
EXCITING 2021

For more information about Bruntwood SciTech visit bruntwood.co.uk/scitech
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