

# Alderley Park Lighthouse Lab

Bruntwood SciTech creates a 30,000 sq ft COVID-19 testing facility at Alderley Park. Coordinated by Medicines Discovery Catapult, the Alderley Park 'Lighthouse Lab' is one of UK government's three official testing laboratories alongside labs in Milton Keynes and Glasgow.

The mega-lab at Alderley Park forms part of the biggest network of diagnostic testing facilities in British history, providing valuable testing capability in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Lighthouse Lab at Alderley Park was created at an unprecedented pace in just 5 weeks, a project that would normally take at least 4 - 6 months to complete. Collaboration was key to delivering this project at this speed. Bruntwood SciTech worked in partnership with Alderley Park-based Medicines Discovery Catapult who played a national coordination role working closely with big pharma, academia, SMEs and private sector businesses.

Alderley Park was selected as the location for one of the three national 'Lighthouse Labs' owing to its world-leading life science infrastructure and Bruntwood SciTech's network of expertise. Bruntwood SciTech led the design and delivery of the new diagnostics testing facility and provided a range of expertise from project management, construction and operations through to scientific and health and safety support and advice.

The first phase delivered in just 3 weeks provided the capability and capacity to test up to 15,000 samples per day and supported the return to work of hundreds

of NHS front line staff. Phase 2 took just a further 2 weeks to complete, providing additional testing capacity for up to 50,000 samples per day. Phase 3 provided further capacity for testing a total of 100,000 samples per day.

In parallel to the development of the facility, a skilled, specialist workforce was required to carry out the testing. Bruntwood SciTech supported Medicines Discovery Catapult in the recruitment of this workforce using its national network. This included working with industry-leading partners such as BioNow and the BioIndustry Association using their networks, local universities (including the University of Manchester) and local institutions such as the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute.

Commissioning equipment for the Lighthouse Lab was also vitally important and MDC worked closely with NHS, Public Health England and academia to set up the labs with hundreds of instruments from around the country, including 7,500 donated PCR readers. Bruntwood SciTech also used its valuable supply chain to work closely with MDC and ensure this equipment was received correctly and set up effectively to start testing samples as soon as possible.



One of UK government's 'Lighthouse Laboratories' official COVID-19 testing centres



UK centre of excellence for diagnostics



30,000 sq ft laboratory (Phase 1 and 2)



Design to completion in 5 weeks (Phase 1 and 2)



Part of biggest network of diagnostic testing facilities in British history



Capacity for the testing of up to 100,000 samples per day (End of Phase 3)



Recruitment of 80 skilled scientists and volunteer network



Nationally coordinated by Medicines Discovery Catapult

