



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2018 – 2019

bruntwood
SciTech

ONE YEAR ON



"It's been just over 12 months since Bruntwood SciTech, a 50-50 joint venture between Bruntwood and Legal & General officially launched.

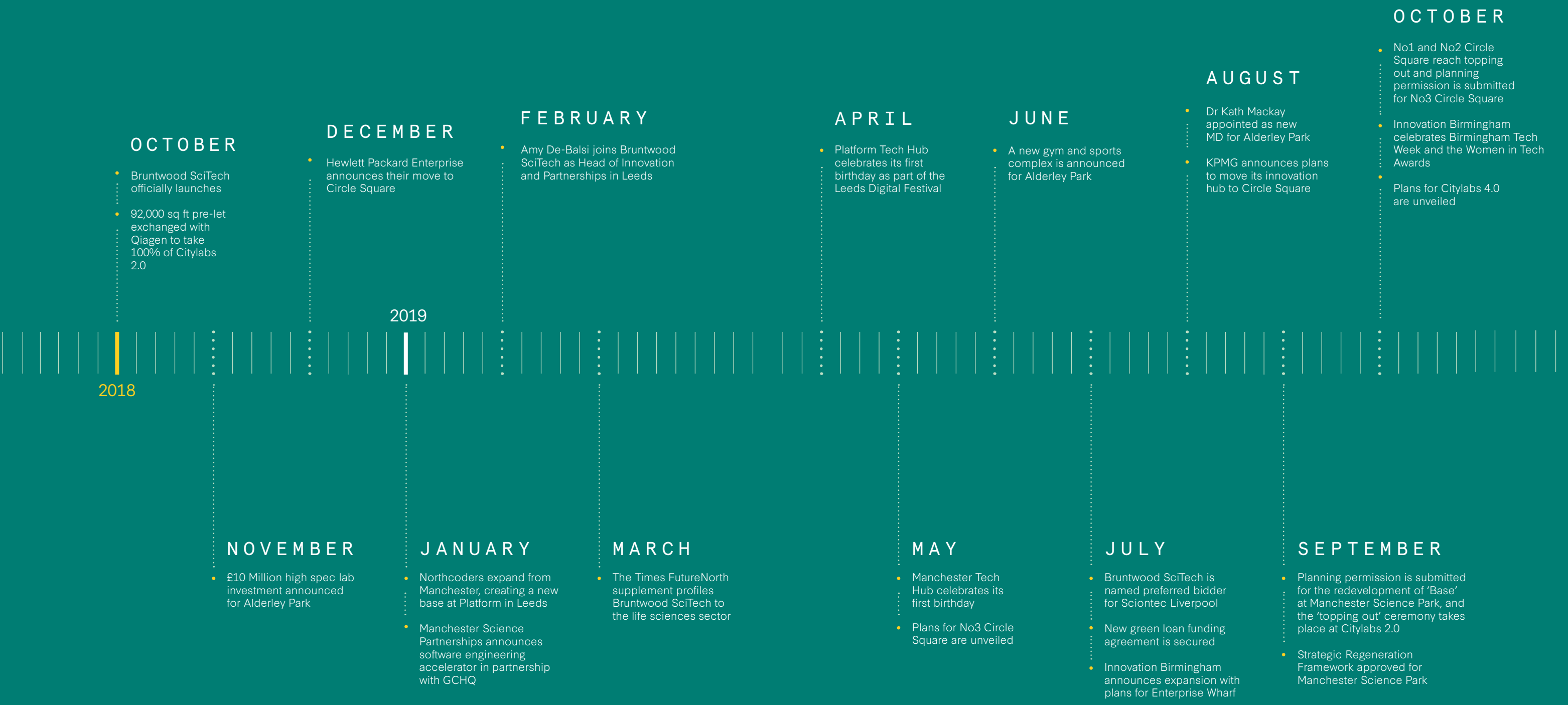
The focus of our first year has been very much centred around the creation and delivery of a strong pipeline of development across our innovation districts in Manchester, Alderley Park, Leeds and Birmingham - and we have done just that. We've been pleased to announce the development of Citylabs 4.0, the redevelopment and expansion of Base at Manchester Science Park and the bringing forward of No 3 Circle Square in Manchester; along with the development of Enterprise Wharf in Birmingham and the creation of further lab and office space at Alderley Park.

We've also realised opportunities to expand our network - being appointed as the commercial sector partner for Sciontec Liverpool; working alongside city partners to explore new opportunities in Birmingham and supporting Legal & General in their successful £4bn bid with Oxford University to grow the science and technology assets in the city.

Our unique partnership model sees us working closely with city councils, NHS Trusts and universities across the UK to develop the science and technology sector and it is this approach that sees our campus expansions and development pipeline continue to accelerate at pace.

Phil Kemp
CEO - Bruntwood SciTech

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST YEAR





ACCELERATING GROWTH

The Alderley Park Accelerator, powered by BioCity, has continued to support companies looking to start and scale-up at the Park.

As well as a wide range of specialist business support programmes, Alderley Park-based companies also have access to invaluable guidance and advice from over 200 experienced mentors. The mentor network has provided a range of support from advice on funding through to help with sourcing the right talent.



Leading the Alderley Park Accelerator is Director, Ned Wakeman.

"We've supported around 45 companies at the Park over the last year. This has included the likes of 7i Group where our Accelerator business support programme helped to integrate the companies' new technical innovation into their core business model, resulting in their growth and expansion."

"We also assisted Manchester BIOGEL in raising the necessary funding to grow their business, and supported Sygnature Discovery in finding the right talent when they relocated to Alderley Park."

Ned Wakeman
Director - Alderley Park Accelerator



A NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR ALDERLEY PARK

In 2019, Dr Kath Mackay joined the team
as Managing Director - Alderley Park.

Kath joined from Innovate UK – the UK’s innovation agency, where she was Director for Ageing Society, Health and Nutrition. Kath holds a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Manchester and prior to Innovate UK, held roles at a range of private sector life science companies spanning multiple disease areas and technologies across USA and EU markets.



"I'm thrilled to have joined the team at Alderley Park. I'm looking forward to being part of the Greater Manchester and Cheshire life science ecosystem, working closely with industry and sector partners to support businesses to start, grow and scale as Alderley Park enters its next phase of transformation."

Dr Kath Mackay
Managing Director - Alderley Park



AMR Centre at Alderley Park

BATTLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The AMR Centre at Alderley Park plays a
key role in the international fight against
antimicrobial resistance.

This year, the Centre announced a ground-breaking new deal with major
Japanese pharma company Shionogi:



"Our new collaboration with Shionogi has seen the AMR Centre license the clinical-stage COT-143 program, an antibody therapy targeting serious lung infections caused by drug-resistant superbugs. This deal brings an excellent anti-microbial project to the world-class facilities and services at Alderley Park. It also builds on our excellent relationships across the North West region. We hope to initiate a first clinical trial in late 2020 in partnership with Liverpool University and the Royal Liverpool Hospital."

Dr Peter Jackson
Executive Chairman - AMR Centre

AN EVER-EVOLVING ECOSYSTEM

The science services at Alderley Park continue to go from strength to strength. The Open Access Lab is now well-established as a vibrant and collaborative laboratory for life science startups.

As well as state-of-the-art labs, companies have the opportunity to work alongside and collaborate with like-minded scientists.

Supporting the development of the life sciences ecosystem at Alderley Park is Jane Kendrew, Head of Scientific Services.

"We're really pleased to have agreed a new partnership with GE Healthcare to open a new coworking lab at the Park. The lab will provide access to specialist equipment that isn't normally accessible to start-ups. Activities in our on-site vivarium have also grown significantly over the year and we've now received our GLP accreditation."

"Another of the Park's key scientific strengths is its preclinical imaging capability. Working in partnership with the Medicines Discovery Catapult we're rapidly building a National Centre of Excellence for imaging technologies".

Dr Jane Kendrew
Head of Scientific Services



ONCOLOGY EXPERTISE

Alderley Park has long been internationally-recognised for oncology research

The oncology ecosystem at Alderley Park continues to grow. Now the home of the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute and the Medicines Discovery Catapult, the Park is rapidly attracting specialist CRO's and clinical development organisations working in oncology.

These include BiVictriX Therapeutics - a biotech focused on developing and licensing novel, highly-selective, bispecific Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs) to target unmet medical need in blood cancer and CellCentric - a clinical stage biotechnology company focused on the development of the novel drug CCS1477 for prostate and other cancers.

Alderley Park is looking to further the development of its onsite oncology expertise, with the creation of an Accelerator Programme to support start-ups and early stage companies in establishing laboratories or delivering proof-of-concept data using CROs and virtual R&D model.

Medicines Discovery Catapult imaging suite



A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

At Alderley Park, world-leading science, innovation, and stylish living come together to create a place like no other.



Glasshouse

GLASSHOUSE

The re-development of Glasshouse is now complete, offering 150,000 sq ft of co-working, serviced, managed and leased office space. It's now a new hub for forward-thinking, innovative businesses.



No.1 Mereside

NO.1 MERESIDE OPENS

The development of the Mereside life science campus has continued at pace with the opening of No.1 Mereside — a new co-working lounge and office space. The biology and chemistry laboratories in No. 19 and 21 were refurbished, while the Mereview restaurant was transformed with a stylish upgrade.

ALDERLEY PARK WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS

The first new residents have moved into the Park, whilst the new gym and sports complex has also opened. A new pub - The Churchill Tree will open in the spring.



Everybody Gym at Alderley Park

LEEDS



PLATFORM-THE HOME OF TECH IN LEEDS

One year on, Platform's Tech Hub is now home to over 80 innovative digital and tech companies and is often regarded as the home of tech in Leeds.

Coworking space in Platform's Tech Hub



NORTHCODERS EXPAND TO LEEDS

Earlier this year, coding bootcamp provider – Northcoders – expanded to create a new base at Platform. The UK's leading coding school for graduate outcomes offers a coding education like no other. Their 12 week coding courses and general support gives coders and developers exactly what they need to find work.

"It makes perfect sense for us to be in Platform, it's a real hub for tech in Leeds. It's where the community's events happen and location wise it's perfect for us both from a commuting perspective for our staff, and for our team. They already move between both Leeds and Manchester where our other office is. We've already expanded our office and will now be able to train 40 future coders instead of 18, and have a new cohort every three weeks rather than 12."

Chris Hill
Founder and CEO - Northcoders

DISRUPTION EXTENDS NORTH

Rob Previt, Co-founder and CEO of Disruption Hub explains why he chose Platform as the location for his business as he expanded Northwards.

"Disruption Hub is a business intelligence service, so we produce events and content aimed at helping individuals and organisations make sense of the way the world is changing. Disruption Hub has been based at Platform for 18 months now and the best part of being located in a Bruntwood SciTech location is being surrounded by like-minded businesses to ask questions of, share ideas and collaborate with."

Rob Previt
Co-founder and CEO - Disruption Hub





INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

In January, Amy De-Balsi joined Bruntwood SciTech as Head of Innovation and Partnerships - Leeds. Amy, an entrepreneur and the founder of Leeds Digital Jobs Fair, explains the strengths of the Leeds tech sector and why it's a key time for the city.

"We know that there is a global tech skills shortage, and Leeds has been quite strategic in helping to meet the demand for these skills. Leeds now has a visible and thriving digital and technology sector, supporting more than 34,000 jobs and contributing £1.3bn GVA to the local economy. This makes it easier for people in the industry to relocate to Yorkshire and build a career here."

"We have real strengths in medtech, fintech and computer gaming, thanks to companies such as iDisrupted, Co-Op Innovations, Citilogik and ShiftMS making Leeds their home. However, the

main issue for every business is attracting talent. Leeds has a Digital Skills Action Plan in place to create and promote entry points to the sector, like degree apprenticeships or coding bootcamps. Having Northcoders based in the Tech Hub means every three months we're meeting fresh groups of newly-trained junior developers ready to work in the city."

"Leeds City Council is very supportive of the growth needs for science and technology within the city. The £2m of DCMS funding they have provided will allow us to create over 1,000 new jobs over the next decade."

"Access to finance is crucial for the tech sector to thrive, and the region is well-supported by investors keen to help startups who are disrupting the sector and creating cutting edge products and services. We are lucky to have five investment companies and several business angels in our community already, and this continues to grow."

Amy De-Balsi
Head of Innovation and Partnerships
Bruntwood SciTech-Leeds



THE OXFORD ROAD CORRIDOR

Bruntwood SciTech's developments along the Oxford Road Corridor – Manchester's innovation district, have been accelerating at pace over the last 12 months with growth set to continue.

Long regarded as a global leader in science and technology, Manchester is home to the largest clinical, academic campus in Europe.

It's Europe's third most influential city, with the largest student population in the country. And with one of the UK's top three biopharmaceutical clusters, it's a member of the European Super League of biomedical clusters.

"Against a backdrop of significant uncertainty in the wider economy we continue to see the extraordinary resilience of the UK science community and in particular of our science and technology customers. They have continued to successfully raise investment and grow their businesses at pace, both within our portfolio and across Greater Manchester."

"Over the past year we have reached several milestones in our journey towards creating a world-leading precision medicine campus in Manchester, and a new neighbourhood for the city. From topping out Citylabs 2.0 and No.1 and No.2 Circle Square, to celebrating our Tech Incubator's 1st birthday, announcing Hewlett Packard Enterprise and KPMG's move to Circle Square and unveiling lots of new developments, 2019 has undoubtedly been one of our busiest and most eventful yet."

"The next 12-18 months look equally as exciting, including the opening of the first phases of Circle Square and welcoming Qiagen to Citylabs 2.0. We'll continue to develop our business support programme to assist companies scaling up across the sector and enable them to attract investment."

Tom Renn
Managing Director
Bruntwood SciTech - Manchester



CITYLABS 2.0 REACHES TOPPING OUT

The 92,000 sq ft Citylabs 2.0, a joint venture between Manchester Science Partnerships and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT), has now topped out.

It is set to open in early 2021, where it will become part of a new £95m expansion at the heart of a new world-leading precision medicine, genomics and data analytics campus.



Citylabs 2.0



Citylabs 2.0 will be home to global molecular diagnostics company QIAGEN, who are bringing their European Centre of Excellence for Precision Medicine to Manchester.

It will also unite a cluster of over 20 companies and research centres from medtech, diagnostics, precision medicine and genomics currently located in Citylabs 1.0.

Together, they will add £150m to the economy and create over 800 jobs.

800+
Jobs created

£150m
added to the economy

CITYLABS 4.0 IS ANNOUNCED

With space at the Citylabs campus in strong demand, plans were announced this year for the development of Citylabs 4.0.

This new 125,000 sq ft, 7-storey building will be home to a cluster of genomic, medtech, precision medicine and diagnostics businesses.

THE NEXT PHASE OF THE MANCHESTER SCIENCE PARK MASTERPLAN

Plans for the next phase of Manchester Science Park were unveiled in the summer when Manchester City Council endorsed Manchester Science Partnerships' Strategic Regeneration Framework.

Plans were also revealed to transform the 13,000 sq ft Base building into an 80,000 sq ft purpose-built space for computer engineering, energy technology, light manufacturing and materials science businesses.

The first of its kind, Base will be a smart, sustainable building which will also include a MakerSpace with workshop space to produce prototypes or modify existing products, and a roof terrace.

The Manchester Science Park campus will also undergo significant landscaping and public space improvements, creating new green spaces for customers and the local community to enjoy.

Citylabs 4.0



Redeveloped vision for Base



Vision for Manchester Science Park





BIG MILESTONES AT CIRCLE SQUARE

Circle Square, Manchester's new 2.4m sq ft city centre neighbourhood, reached a key milestone this year.

Offering 1.2m sq ft of commercial office space, 100,000 sq ft of retail and leisure space, student and residential accommodation, two hotels, a multi-storey car park and a new Park it will be a new destination for the city.

Able to host up to 2000 people, Symphony Park will be the newest and largest green space created in the city for generations and will hold a number of social, wellbeing and community events for residents, workers and visitors to enjoy.

1700
new homes

1.2m sq ft
commercial office space

5.7 acres
of public space

100,000 sq ft
retail and leisure space

In August, plans were announced to develop a third commercial building at Circle Square. Due for completion in 2022, the new 15 storey, 224,000 sq ft No.3 Circle Square will offer high quality office space to cater for the continued growth of Manchester's digital technology and engineering sector.

"Circle Square is the place where innovative and creative workspace, physical and digital connectivity, access to skills and talent and strategic partnerships all come together – surrounded by world-leading institutions. It's this special combination that has led to KPMG and Mills & Reeve both choosing to relocate to this new city centre neighbourhood."

Bradley Topps
Commercial Director - Bruntwood SciTech

Circle Square



Ed Lister is the mastermind behind the new public green space, and knows the impact it will have on the city.

“We recognised during the early planning stages the importance of making the landscape around the buildings a very active and open space – one that would not only add value to the people living and working at Circle Square, but also create a destination and a canvas for activity within the city. Green space was such an important factor, spaces like this are few and far between in the city and are vital to helping generate vibrant urban communities of the future.”

Ed Lister
Founder-Planit - IE



Symphony Park



No. 1 Lobby

Atul Bansal is the interior designer behind some of Manchester’s most innovative workspaces including No.1 and No.2 Circle Square.

“I love creating spaces that encourage people to talk, have fun and love what they do, and this is the approach we have taken to the commercial proposition at Circle Square. We didn’t want to just foretell a trend. Instead we wanted to think about the people that are going to use that space and how it will make them feel. Circle Square has a fantastic green space at the centre and it needs to belong to the people that use it. We want to connect the ground floor spaces with the outside and encourage that interaction between the two.”

Atul Bansal
Founder - Sheila Bird Group

In December, Bruntwood SciTech announced that leading tech company Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) would be moving in to 30,000 sq ft of office space at No.1 Circle Square.

“Hewlett Packard Enterprise is excited to be part of such a progressive project that is well-aligned to our core values. Circle Square is a really attractive destination for us because of the vibrancy of the environment, the city centre location and the ambition to bring together a diverse set of businesses. Our connectivity and security solutions are embedded in the development of Circle Square which will itself be a showcase for edge technology in the workplace. We are currently based at Manchester Technology Centre and can’t wait to move into No1 Circle Square. The best is yet to come.”

Marc Water
Managing Director, UK & Ireland - Hewlett Packard Enterprise



Caption

A DISRUPTIVE TECH CLUSTER

Manchester Technology Centre remains a magnet for Manchester's digital and tech community.

Following its major refurbishment, the 70,000 sq ft building is home to a specialist Tech Incubator, operated by Manchester Science Partnerships and Manchester Digital, with over 30 entrepreneurs and early-stage digital and technology innovation businesses, and more than 100 employees working in areas such as Cybersecurity, AR, VR, Blockchain, FinTech and Data Analytics.



Tootoot

Tootoot is the world's first mental health and wellbeing application for schools. Young people are now able to report issues such as bullying directly to school staff and they can access help and support from it too. It can be difficult for children to speak out about issues such as bullying, especially face-to-face, so Tootoot removes those challenges. The Tech Incubator has helped Tootoot access talent, investment opportunities and a community that shares similar challenges and opportunities.

Because the technology readily adapts for different markets, Tootoot Sport was introduced last year and the team are now working with the Scottish Football Association, Reading and other football clubs. Tootoot hope to expand this further, and since moving to the Tech Incubator have grown their headcount and secured additional investment.

Wakelet

Wakelet is a fast-growing online content curation platform that has seen its user base surge by over 200% YoY – growth that has been supported by a stream of new hires. Their headcount has grown by 40% in the past year alone. Wakelet currently has more than a million individual and business users, including prestigious institutions like Harvard University, international sports teams FC Barcelona and Atlanta Hawks, and companies such as Airbus and Experian.

"We saw how the space and the community had developed at the Tech Incubator within its first few months of opening, and knew it was the best place for our team to thrive as we enter an exciting phase in our growth journey."

Jamil Khalil,
CEO and co-founder - Wakelet

F-lex

F-lex is an online platform that matches on-demand and pre-approved paralegals to in-house legal teams and law firms.

In just 12 hours, F-lex can get 40 paralegals into a law firm ready to work. F-lex was set up by an ex-London-based lawyer who was frustrated when she had peaks of work, yet saw no opportunities for law students to access experience and help with real-life cases. F-lex are originally from Belfast but after coming over to experience Manchester for a year, they fell in love with the city and stayed.

"The Tech Incubator is a fantastic place to work! The support we've had has been second to none and you can tell they want your business to grow and Manchester to thrive."

Eimear McCann
Head of Northern hub - F-lex

HATCH

Circle Square's award-winning pop-up retail and leisure destination 'Hatch' has trebled in size this year.

The second phase was launched with a 'Microdot' – a mini version of the Jodrell Bank-based music, science and culture festival 'Bluedot'.

Now home to over 35 creative, independent retail and leisure businesses, including scandi style coffee house Takk, Thessaloniki restaurant The Kitchen and jewellery and homeware independent Nordic Muse, Hatch has rapidly become one of the city's must go-to destinations.

Gold medal Olympic cyclist Dani Rowe taking part at our Electricycle Avenue event at Hatch



Manchester-based poet Mike Garry performs at the Hatch Summer Social



"The gap between online and the high street is becoming more blurred and because of this the high street is at risk, but neighbourhood spaces like Hatch and Circle Square offer a huge opportunity for retail businesses to survive."

Jenny Maxwell
Owner - Nordic Muse

Hatch customer Nordic Muse

BIRMINGHAM





Barclays Eagle Labs startups at Innovation Birmingham

INNOVATION BIRMINGHAM

In Birmingham, partners including the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Birmingham City University, Aston University, Arup and Performances Birmingham came together to create a Strategic Advisory Board for the Innovation Birmingham campus.

The 113,000 sq ft Innovation Birmingham campus is the region's leading digital tech campus, home to over 170 digital entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups from the health, transport, finance, sport and property sectors. It also hosts a wide range of social events, business support programmes and Meet Up groups, all designed to connect innovators and help them grow. At 98% occupancy, space in iCentrum, Faraday Wharf and Universities Centre is in high demand.

ENTERPRISE WHARF

In July plans were unveiled for the development of 'Enterprise Wharf' – a new 120,000 sq ft, 10-storey commercial building, which is part of a £30m expansion of the Innovation Birmingham campus.

Set to complete in late 2021, this new 'smart building' has been specifically designed with larger digital and tech businesses in mind, and will provide a range of office space plus a new business lounge roof terrace, showers and cycle storage. The campus will also undergo significant landscaping, creating a new green space and new public realm along with improved access to the adjacent Birmingham and Fazeley canal.

Managing Director for Bruntwood SciTech in Birmingham, David Hardman, explains the valuable role that the campus plays in the city's ecosystem.

"Across the West Midlands there are already 13,900 tech companies, in fact more than half the small businesses within the region are tech led. With more software developers in Birmingham now than in any other regional city, we are fast becoming the largest tech

hub outside London. With so many exciting developments for the region, including our own planned growth and the introduction of 5G and development of HS2, now is the perfect time to capitalise on the region's renewal. We must create a robust and connected tech city to nurture talent and enable the region to thrive."

"Innovation Birmingham is at the heart of an ever-expanding digital tech ecosystem in the West Midlands, with a proven track record of helping over 250 businesses start and scale and creating more than 500 jobs for the region. Connecting startups with corporates and the public sector is crucial to innovation, and Enterprise Wharf will enable us to expand our innovative community and help the sector flourish."

David Hardman
Managing Director
Bruntwood SciTech - Birmingham

Enterprise Wharf



BIRMINGHAM TECH WEEK

In October, Innovation Birmingham was at the centre of Birmingham’s inaugural Tech Week, and proudly hosted the city’s first ever Women in Tech Awards.

Organised by Innovation Birmingham-based entrepreneur, Yiannis Maos, Birmingham Tech Week brought together over 3000 people across 70 events to raise the profile of the Birmingham tech scene, encourage inward investment, inspire the next generation, facilitate collaboration and create an ecosystem where tech companies can flourish.



Yiannis Maos at Birmingham Tech Week

“Birmingham has one of the youngest and most diverse workforces in the UK, which is evident from the number of tech start-ups in the city. But in order to retain them, we need to give them the best chance of succeeding. This requires more investment and better infrastructure than currently exists. Birmingham Tech Week was set up to be the catalyst for this change. Together, we need to inspire the next generation, attract investment, nurture businesses with high-growth potential and turn our existing talent into the leaders of tomorrow.”

Yiannis Maos,
Founder - Birmingham Tech Week



Sonu Bubna receiving the Startup Founder award at the Women in Tech Awards

WOMEN IN TECH AWARDS

Innovation Birmingham-based Sonu Bubna, co-founder of Shopper.com scooped the Startup Founder award

Shopper.com combines crowd power and artificial intelligence to help thousands of shoppers save money on eCommerce stores. With over 35,000 global stores, it’s one of the fastest growing community-driven couponing platforms.

“What drives me is the belief that anything is possible and in tech this is especially true. I have ambitious growth plans for my business – 40 million users by 2024. Along with the drive, knowledge, passion and vision that I possess, I also see being located at Innovation Birmingham as an important factor in our success. The access to talent, business support services and vibrant community feel of the Innovation Birmingham campus is unique. It will play a vital role in helping to achieve our growth plans.”

Sonu Bubna,
Founder - Shopper.com

BUSINESS
SUPPORT AND
COMMUNITY



DEVELOPING OUR NETWORK AND ECOSYSTEM

Our business support programmes are crucial to helping science and technology businesses form, scale and grow.

Katharine Fuller - Head of Innovation and Partnerships at the Innovation Birmingham campus runs the Serendip open innovation programme and the Knowledge Series business support events programme.

"We know that having a healthy amount of start up activity around when you're starting your own tech business means that you are less likely to fail."

"Through our Serendip programme, we are able to give digital start ups an incredible opportunity. It provides market access and expertise through close partnerships with major organisations, enabling companies to refine their products and services through real commercial partnerships. For those companies that are further along in their journey, the Knowledge Series provides more specific support for any pain points that a company may be experiencing as it prepares for its next stage of growth."

"This supported ecosystem has created a vibrant tech community where companies come together to collaborate and thrive."

Katharine Fuller - Head of Innovation and Partnerships, Bruntwood SciTech - Birmingham



Energym: a start up on the Serendip programme

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

In 2019 we asked customers what impact being part of Bruntwood SciTech has on their business, here's what they said.

Over

70%

agree that their Bruntwood SciTech location has the Infrastructure they need to grow

2/3

agree that it gives them access to the skills they need

Over

80%

of businesses say they benefit from being a Bruntwood SciTech customer

50%

have grown their number of employees in the last 12 months

Nearly

30%

have grown revenues in last 12 months

have raised investment in last 12 months

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

In Manchester, our business support programme continues to go from strength to strength and over the past 12 months we have scaled the clinics and frequency of business support events, clinics, networks and partnerships that startups, scale ups, and international centres of excellence can access.

“Our connections in Manchester are very strong. Relationships with the two universities, hospitals and city council continue to grow from strength to strength, enabling us to provide businesses with a highly curated, specific business support programme. The support we offer is wide-ranging and varied, from Manchester Entrepreneurs holding their Startup Your Future Insight Day with us aimed at tech startups, SMEs and not-for-profits, to talent matching graduate roles, placements and internships. The Department for International Trade and Foreign & Commonwealth Office held their FinTech North Conference with us, which saw internationally leading banks participating in a reverse-style event pitching to international FinTech scale-ups from 9 different European countries.”

“We’ve held over 300 events this year. Gameopolis and BAFTA Games’ Masterclass was a particular highlight, where startups gained valuable advice on how to develop a plan prior to starting game design to ensure a coherent vision throughout their projects. The launch of the Greater Manchester CyberFoundry, a £6million cybersecurity initiative, in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Manchester, Salford University, and Lancaster University is also flourishing.

“Investment opportunities for our customers also continue to build, and the Connected Investing Manchester event we held with UKBAA and InnovateUK presented the newest support packages on offer, including the British Business Investments £100m fund, and InnovateUK’s regional angel investment accelerator and new co-investment model.”

Anne Dornan, Head of Innovation and Partnerships,
Bruntwood SciTech - Manchester



Supporting businesses to access finance, talent and markets

In January, a new software engineering acceleration programme was established in Manchester in partnership between Manchester Science Partnerships, GCHQ, Cisco and O2’s innovation arm Wayra and backed by Manchester City Council. The four successful startups who joined the accelerator offer smart solutions to control data through blockchain supported software and machine learning infused applications to improve the efficiency of data processing.

“Greater Manchester is a rapidly expanding software and technology hotbed, and we’re perfectly positioned to become one of the top five digital city-regions in Europe.”

Andy Burnham
Mayor - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY
TOGETHER ONLINE

In 2019, Bruntwood SciTech launched ‘The Collective’, an online community that supports communication and connectivity across the SciTech network.

Joining Bruntwood SciTech means becoming part of a community of over 500 science and technology businesses.

Our sector-focused events and social programmes are all designed to support networking and foster collaboration. Members of the Bruntwood SciTech community also benefit from our partnerships with organisations such as Bionow, Disruption, UKTN and UKSPA.

Bruntwood SciTech’s involvement in the local community and active support for city events continued throughout 2019 with Leeds Digital Festival, Bluedot, Tedx, Manchester International Festival and the Amazed by Science Festival.



Bruntwood SciTech at Bluedot

Health and wellbeing are an important part of our community programme, and our Community Engagement Managers explain the events offered across the cities and the impact they’re having.

Innovation Birmingham Summer BBQ



“At Innovation Birmingham we’ve launched a series of new mindfulness sessions, all designed to support physical and mental wellbeing.”

Stefanie Eynon, Community Engagement Manager - Birmingham

“Monday Run Day and Yoga are really popular at Platform. Not only do they help to improve both body and mind, they have become real communities.”

Wendy Denman, Community Engagement Manager - Leeds

“Alderley Park’s running club and Couch to 5k events are particular favourites. We’ve got such great walking and running routes through the Park and woodland that make it the perfect location for getting outside and keeping active.”

Kate Daley, Community Engagement Manager - Alderley Park

“This year we’ve introduced a range of new wellbeing focussed events including LoveFit which offers customers a new place to explore spinning, yoga, dance and TaiChi, and PowerUp which is focussed on helping our customers to live happier, healthier and more connected lives. We’ve also set up a new supper club which has been a real hit.”

Stephanie Williams, Community Engagement Manager - Manchester



DigitalHer roadshow event

MAKING A REAL SOCIAL IMPACT

Supporting the growth of careers in STEM and creating new opportunities for customers to access skills and talent is at the heart of Bruntwood SciTech.

Our partnership with Founders4Schools gives members of the Bruntwood SciTech community the opportunity to volunteer and mentor at schools and colleges across the country, helping to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.

In September Bruntwood SciTech supported National Coding Week, working with partners from Manchester Digital, NorthCoders in Leeds and InnovateHer in Liverpool to raise awareness of coding, de-bunk some of the myths and stereotypes and highlight the career opportunities available to those with coding skills. As part of the DigitalHer programme, Manchester Science Park welcomed local schools to meet some of our customers and experience a typical day, including coding with video app start-up Wattl. Coders from across Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and Birmingham enjoyed a series of coding-themed meet ups and free use of Bruntwood SciTech's coworking space for the week.

In October, Bruntwood SciTech backed the findings of the Brum Youth Trends report published by Beatfreeks, which gave an unprecedented insight into what young people think, want and need.

THE YEAR AHEAD

As Bruntwood SciTech heads into its second year against a backdrop of post-Brexit Britain, there's a lot to look forward to.

We'll continue to support the ambitions of the UK Government's Industrial and Life Science Strategies; proactively exploring opportunities to grow and expand our network of sector-specialist science and technology clusters to drive innovation, collaboration and strengthen the sector as a whole.

Working closely with the core cities, Russell Group universities and some of the UK's leading NHS Trusts we'll deliver inclusive and sustainable growth for our cities, local communities and science and technology businesses; investing in the development of skills and talent to improve productivity, create opportunities for all and deliver real value - today and in the future.

HERE'S TO AN EXCITING 2020

