

UKSPA CASE STUDY

CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN INCUBATION

The UKSPA 30th Anniversary Awards celebrated the achievements across the whole of UKSPA's membership and demonstrated the world class innovation within the UK and how UKSPA members and their teams work together to create business success. One of the categories was the UKSPA 30th Anniversary award for the incubation or innovation centre with the best track record of developing start-up and high growth business

Judging Excellence in Incubation

The judging panel for the Awards had the unenviable task of assessing the merits of a considerable number of entries to produce the final shortlist and make the final decision on the winning nomination.

The shortlist for the 30th Anniversary Awards celebrates the achievements of the sector, its partners, members and their tenant companies.

The work showcased as part of the Awards clearly demonstrates the world class innovation within the UK and shows how UKSPA members and their teams work together to create business success.

Incubator/Innovation Centre Award

This Award was for the incubator or innovation centre with the best track record of developing start-up and high growth businesses.

It recognised the invaluable role undertaken by Innovation Centres, Bio-Incubators and Innovation-Led incubators in supporting, sustaining and growing start-up companies on their locations.

It recognise the role that the business environment plays in the development of these early stage companies and will demonstrate the commitment, professionalism, creativity and success of support for entrepreneurial businesses in the start-up market.

In one of his final speeches as Science Minister, David Willetts commented:

"The shortlist for tonight's awards is a showcase of the sort of exciting talent you are nurturing"



Winner: Innovations Technology Access Centre (I-TAC) Sci-Tech Daresbury

Over the past four years since Innovations-Technology Access Centre (I-TAC) opened, it has supported more than 60 companies and aided in the development of 46 new innovative products.

Their ability is to provide technical support from an initial idea, through proof of concept, to prototype and final product/service and simultaneously grow a strong and sustainable SME.

I-TAC has done this through offering start-up companies easy, affordable and flexible access to multi-million pound equipment and expertise that has previously been restricted to top research facilities

Innovations Technology Access Centre (I-TAC) Sci-Tech Daresbury

The Innovations Technology Access Centre (I-TAC) is a unique, fully equipped space for innovation, research and development.

Providing flexible access to laboratory space, “hot-labs” and scientific equipment, I-TAC is ideally suited to start-up companies, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and R&D teams from established companies.

Companies using I-TAC are working in diverse sectors: from medical biosciences and energy and the environment, to downstream space technologies and advanced materials and the chemical sector.

Founded at Sci-Tech Daresbury in 2010 and extended to Harwell Oxford two years later, this multiple award-winning STFC facility has already supported over 60 start-ups, SMEs and R&D teams from established companies.



Highly Commended Imperial College Incubator

The Imperial College Incubator has 24,000 square feet of Laboratory and office space with break-out areas and shared services for clients to use. Their location on campus means that clients are able to interact with the research base at Imperial and look to collaborate on projects. Support programmes link clients to specialists in all areas of business support including Tax, legal, IT, marketing, regulatory advice and support.

Imperial Innovations is a Public Listed Company (AIM) that not only provides the TTO function to Imperial College but also acts as a venture capitalist investing in technology from the research base of Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge and UCL.



This has allowed the Incubator to not only identify potential spin-outs from Research and Technology emanating from Imperial but also set up, Invest and then house them in the Incubator giving them the best place to thrive and grow.

As a result, there has been extremely high occupancy rates, successful graduations and acquisitions as well as encouraging serial entrepreneurship.

Highly Commended Springboard: York Science Park

York Science Park is located next to the world-leading University of York and situated at the heart of the heritage and science city of York. It plays a pivotal role in the technology transfer and business development of the city’s bioscience, creative, IT and digital based enterprises.



In 2010 YSP launched Springboard, a new facility specifically designed for start-up businesses. Offering high quality, low cost accommodation, rent in Springboard is free for the first three months and then is on a sliding scale, dependent on the size of space taken, for the next nine months. At 12 months the new, fledgling companies move on, either to another space on York Science Park, or elsewhere. Since opening Springboard, it has already been the base for 21 new businesses, has assisted 80 companies and created 73 new jobs.

The success of Springboard is reflected and supported by the growth and development of the whole of York Science Park since 1995, of the city of York and the wider region and has played a key role in supporting this growth.