

# UKSPA CASE STUDY

## MEASURING SUCCESS AND GROWTH

Measuring the impact that UKSPA Members make to the local, national and international economy and their contribution to job creation is an issue of huge importance to the Science, innovation and Incubation Sector.

UKSPA has in membership well over one hundred innovation locations and the Association regularly surveys Members for data on their contribution to the local and national economy. Many members undertake annual surveys of their tenant companies to collect this information. These include SciTech Daresbury and York Science Park.



Sci Tech Daresbury

Figures in the report showed those 76 companies delivered £59.1m in sales during 2014 – a rise of 30%. Sales growth for Daresbury companies has averaged at 30% per year over the past four years.

More than six out of 10 businesses (63%) surveyed were trading overseas and export sales from Sci-Tech Daresbury companies grew from 26% to 37% of total sales, equivalent to £21.8m of sales.

Companies also created a net increase of 107 FTE jobs in 2014, taking total business employment at the site to 569 FTE jobs, the vast majority (73%) at Bachelor's Degree or above. Seven companies also recruited a total of 16 higher level apprentices.

Investment in Daresbury businesses also rose substantially with companies securing a total of £28 million during the year. In particular, companies were successful at securing investment from Venture Capital funds and angels, as well as grant funding from the likes of Innovate UK.

*“Companies operating out of Sci-Tech Daresbury grew sales by 30% in 2014 and created more than 100 new jobs at the site.”*

### MEASURING IMPACT

Two recent surveys conducted by individual members provide some interesting local perspectives to identify the impact made by UK Science Parks.

### SCI-TECH DARESBUY

In the summer of 2015 Sci-Tech Daresbury looked at company creation, employment and sales amongst their tenant community. Sci-Tech Daresbury is a private-public joint-venture partnership between developer Langtree, the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and Halton Borough Council. The site, which has Enterprise Zone status, is home to businesses and globally significant science facilities.

### COMPANY GROWTH

A profile of 76 of the 106 companies based at the Cheshire site has revealed substantial increases in sales growth and investment across the science and innovation campus. The research showed that the companies operating out of Sci-Tech Daresbury grew sales by 30% in 2014 and created more than 100 new jobs at the site.



Chancellor George Osborne MP at Sci-Tech Daresbury

## YORK SCIENCE PARK (YSP)

Across the Pennines, York Science Park also released the results of their Survey of Tenant Companies in early 2015..

The YSP Residents Survey is part of a programme of reports compiled to provide an overview of activity on the Park and help it plan for the future. Conducted annually, this year 122 of the Science Park's resident companies contributed to the Survey, which is designed to measure both previous and future business performance and needs.

## STRONG FOCUS ON INNOVATION

A strong focus on innovation was reported, with 49% of residents introducing a new product, service or licensed technology in the past year.

These have included a wide range of items from appetite suppressing compounds from biotech company Optibiotix, to a knowledge management system for lawyers from Purple Frog and a unique music programme for early learners from Bumblebeats.



## GROWING EMPLOYMENT

Growth is also strong with 39% of residents seeing their staff numbers increase in the last 12 months and 61% stating that they are planning to expand in the next year.

Evidence of international activity was also highlighted in the survey, with 22% of York Science Park residents having office space overseas, such as Software Company Simomics who have an operation in San Diego and StarCompliance who have offices in Washington DC and New York

## FLEXIBILITY AND GROWTH

Tracey Smith, managing director, York Science Park said:

“It is always fascinating to run this survey and be able to have an overview of how all the companies on York Science Park are performing. I am very encouraged to see such positive results and ambitions from our residents, who are focussed in the knowledge intensive areas of creative, digital media, IT and bioscience

As these results show, with 61% planning to grow in the next 12 months, having flexible accommodation can be critical to their future success. Whilst some may choose to move elsewhere many will stay with us and we have the support and infrastructure in place to enable them to do this.”

*“As these results show, with 61% planning to grow in the next 12 months, having flexible accommodation can be critical to their future success”*