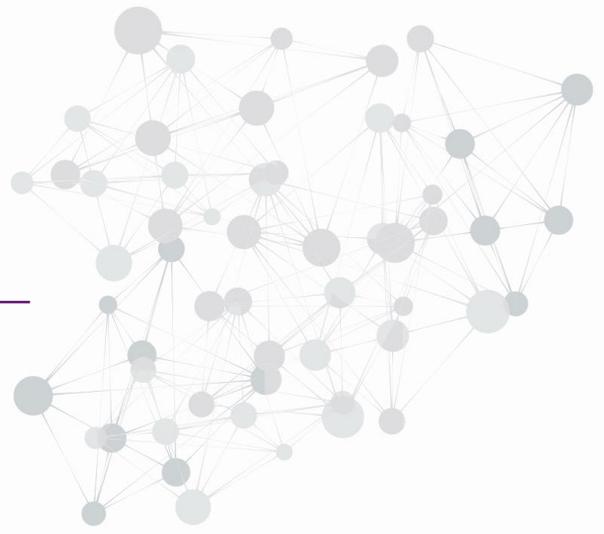


ABOUT UKSPA INTERNATIONAL MATTERS



Many UKSPA Members are increasingly engaged in international activities whether it be through European funded projects, ad-hoc twinning arrangements with like-minded colleagues in other countries, or entertaining delegations from overseas science parks and areas of innovation.

UKSPA AND INTERNATIONALISATION

There is an increasing International dimension to the work of UKSPA and whilst UKSPA is still first and foremost a UK based Membership Association, we encourage international members to be part of our network in order that we are able to share our experiences and enrich our own knowledge of ways in which science parks and innovation environments are developing overseas.

Issues such as smart specialisation and Internationalisation are firmly on the UKSPA Agenda. UKSPA members are ideally placed to contribute, enhance and facilitate smart specialisation and commercial innovation and to act as nodes for international collaboration and the attraction of FDI.

International links are exceptionally important to innovation in the UK and the UK attracts more inward investment for R&D than any other country in the EU.



Dr Malcolm Parry with the UKSPA delegation in Shanghai



UK Trade and Investment are frequent contributors to UKSPA events

ROLE OF THE SECTOR

The flow of knowledge and investment across borders is increasingly a feature of the innovation ecosystem. There is a strong positive relationship between innovation, exporting, and business performance. Consequently, working with international partners and drawing on resources around the world is highly important to the success of UK businesses.

Science parks and other UKSPA Innovation locations have a crucial role to play. Companies don't just choose countries to locate their R&D and other activities - they choose places.

A place with the right kind of premises, a flexible and supportive business environment and collocation with synergetic businesses and service companies can all be big factors

And if a company is looking for proximity to a world-class research organisation for collaboration on cutting-edge innovation, then UKSPA members can deliver, both in universities and in research institutes.

“The UK Science Park Association is a good example Their work with the Chinese Association of University-based Science Parks has been highly valued by the Chinese Government”

*Rt Hon David Willetts – Former Science and Universities
Minister*

UKSPA AND IRELAND

UKSPA also has in Membership a number of Innovation Centre's and Incubators in Ireland which were showcased at UKSPA's first event in Dublin in 2015.

Contributions from UKSPA Members Nova UCD and CoLab in Letterkenny illustrated the developments taking place across Ireland.

The growth of the Irish Innovation Sector and the expansion of centres such as the Dublin Institute of Technology and the development of new locations such as Maynooth University Science Park will hopefully see continued growth in membership activities between the UK and Ireland.



UKSPA AND CHINA

Over recent years a number of UKSPA delegations have visited China to explore the linkages between the UK and Chinese Science park sectors. This has culminated in a small number of Science Parks joining the Association - the first of which was Zhongguancun Science Park - one of the leading technology center's in the world.

As part of our partnership with Chinese Science Parks, Dr Malcolm Parry (former Chairman of UKSPA) and others from UKSPA visited Shanghai to cover techniques for efficient science park management, international technology transfer, and approaches for multimedia and biomedical park development.

The previous Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts commented that the UK Government is keen to take advantage of the UK and China's complementary strengths.

He supported the work of UKSPA in China, and hoped that UKSPA would continue to work with the UK Government to build cooperation between organisations in UK and China.

"The UK is widely respected around the world for our research and innovation," said David Willetts. "By supporting the development of innovation capacity in other countries we can make it easier for UK businesses and universities to build links with counterparts overseas".

UKSPA AND NEW ZEALAND

2014 saw an UKSPA presence in New Zealand when Association CEO Paul Wright took the opportunity for a brief visit to New Zealand, courtesy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and hosted by our most distant Member, Waikato Technology Park.

New Zealand has a wealth of research and knowledge across a number of sectors, and the Association is keen to cement more northern/southern hemisphere trading and partnering links between both our tenants and our members.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

The Association also has regular contacts with visiting Groups from across the globe and has organised a number of study tours and presentations to ensure that the experience and knowledge held by UKSPA is shared.

UKSPA has established a relationship with many international science and innovation parks and has also delivered a number of training programmes in recent years. If you are interested in finding out more than please do contact the UKSPA Executive team by email to info@ukspa.org.uk.

