

SCIENCE FOR LIFE

Internationally recognised life science
expertise, 21st century infrastructure
and pioneering research and innovation





European Marine Science Park, Argyll.

In the Highlands and Islands of Scotland the life sciences sector has experienced rapid growth over the last 15 years, largely due to a focus on diabetes research and diagnostics around the Inner Moray Firth and marine biotechnology in Argyll and the west coast.

THE SECTOR IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

SECTOR STRENGTHS

The Highlands and Islands is home to over 80 organisations active within the life sciences sector including businesses, internationally recognised academia and pioneering healthcare providers. Activity has grown across all parts of the region, based on a collaborative and joined up approach which combines expertise in medical devices, diagnostics, digital healthcare, informatics and marine biotechnology.

New opportunities for growth are emerging as social and economic trends and advances in technology present future models for the delivery of health and care. In the north east of Scotland a cluster of digital healthcare activity is emerging along the Inverness to Elgin corridor. Scotland's largest life science company LifeScan Scotland manufactures blood-glucose monitoring devices at its Inverness based facility. It hosts Johnsons and Johnsons global centre for research and development of the diabetes franchise.

The Highlands and Islands' unique natural environment and marine resources provide significant economic opportunity from increased consumer demand for the use of natural ingredients. The Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) in Argyll is recognised globally for leading research and academia in marine science, with access to over 150 marine scientists and Europe's

largest collection of algae and protozoa. Investment by the world's biggest chemical company BASF in the Western Isles of Scotland for the production of Omega 3 fatty acids, is further evidence of the expanding market for natural products in pharmaceutical and dietary supplements.

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

The Centre for Health Science in Inverness combines universities, healthcare provision, research into diabetes and rural healthcare, clinical skills training, clinical research and trial facilities and business accelerator space under one roof. Over 600 students per year study at the centre including nursing, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. The University of Stirling, University of Aberdeen, University of the Highlands and Islands and Robert Gordon's University are all active within the centre. Cutting edge teaching facilities are offered by the Glasgow School of Art's Digital Design Studio which provides clinical trainees with 3D visualisation of the head and neck to carry out simulated procedures.

A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

The region's life sciences sector is underpinned by a strong and diverse mix of expertise and support services. Disciplines include informatics, ICT, data analysis, web science, regulatory intelligence, social and consumer care, healthcare clinicians, and innovation and design. The Highland Clinical Research Facility at the Centre for Health Science is one of only five such research facilities in Scotland which enables clinical trials, overnight studies and access to patient data and research.

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OPPORTUNITY

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is committed to the growth of life sciences and has invested significantly in the development of state of the art infrastructure, advanced research and development, training and skills, business support and international trade and investment.

A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT TO DO BUSINESS

Led by HIE, the £25m first phase of the Inverness Campus was developed to create a 215 acre multi-stakeholder academic, research and business park. Adjacent to the largest hospital in the Highlands, LifeScan Scotland and the Centre for Health Science, the development creates an internationally recognised Campus with life sciences at its core.

The £6.5m Alexander Graham Bell Centre in Elgin is Europe's first centre for research, education and commercialisation of digital healthcare. The facility which is a partnership between NHS Grampian and Moray College UHI is an example of the region's collaborative approach.

Organisations choosing to locate at the Enterprise Park Forres will join leading businesses active in the life sciences and technology sector including international information technology company Atos.

The European Marine Science Park in Oban is situated alongside the Scottish Association of Marine Science. Malin House provides up to 20,000 sq ft of fully flexible laboratory and office space and incorporates marine science, research and development, education and commercial activity.

The range of life science locations across the Highlands and Islands can provide companies with incubation space, laboratory facilities, and office and commercial space within one of the world's most scenic destinations.

ENTERPRISE AREA DESIGNATION

Locating at the Inverness Campus or Enterprise Park Forres will be of particular interest to businesses hoping to capitalise on the Enterprise Area designation awarded by the Scottish Government. The status offers added incentives including rates relief of up to £275,000 per business, simplified planning protocols and additional support for training and skills.

PEOPLE AND SKILLS

Population in the Highlands and Islands is growing at almost twice the rate of Scotland, and the Highland capital Inverness is frequently placed in the top five most desirable places to live. With access to a working age population of almost 100,000 within a 45 minute drive of Inverness, people and skills are a key strength of the region.

The workforce in the Highlands and Islands provides a greater depth of skill level than the national average which supports higher professional occupations. Educational attainment from schools is also better when compared to the Scottish average. In particular, Inverness has one of the greatest concentrations of people working in commercial healthcare activities of any region in the UK.

ONE HOUR FROM MAJOR UK CITIES

The Highlands and Islands is well connected and accessible with daily flights from Inverness Airport to all major UK centres as well as international connections with Amsterdam and beyond. Inverness is therefore little more than an hour from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Belfast. The current rollout of superfast, or next generation broadband equips the region with high speed digital connectivity, an essential part of Scotland's 21st Century infrastructure.

THE OFFER FROM HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is the Government's economic and community development agency for the north and west of Scotland. HIE generates sustainable economic growth by providing intensive support to business and communities and working with investors to assess new business opportunities. HIE can provide assistance to find property to meet a company's needs and help with recruiting and training new staff. Additionally a company can benefit from a range of financial packages to support their establishment and continuing growth in the region.

GROWTH

Organisations located in the Highlands and Islands area can benefit from on-going assistance via the HIE account management programme. All aspects of continuing growth can be supported, such as business mentoring and advice, skills development programmes, new product development initiatives and international trade and marketing activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Interested in finding out more? Contact HIE's life sciences team for further information or visit www.hie.co.uk/lifesciences

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