



Life Sciences



Key Facts and Overview

- North East England is at the forefront of R&D into **ageing and health**. The Institute of Ageing & Health (IAH) at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne is the UK's biggest interdisciplinary research group in this field, the Institute of Human Genetics is the largest of its kind in Europe and the Life Knowledge Park is one of only six UK 'genetic parks' created to fast-track treatment development for degenerative diseases. Centres of Excellence such as Codeworks ATL and CELS also bring together cross-disciplinary expertise to develop products exclusively for the ageing population.
- North East England has a strong research base in **diagnostics**, supported by a cluster of companies that include Helena Biosciences, Immunodiagnostic Systems Ltd., Cunningham Diagnostics and Novocastra Laboratories.
- North East England is home to the world's leading transnational **pharmaceutical** companies including GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) and Sanofi Aventis contributing one-third of the UK's GDP generated by pharmaceuticals.
- Newcastle Human Embryonic **Stem Cell** Group are one of only two research units, and the first in the UK, that has been awarded a Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority licence to undertake somatic cell nuclear transfer. North East England has the greatest concentration of stem cell researchers in England north of Cambridge, and the fourth largest in the UK. The Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (ISCBRM) is being established in North East England.
- 140,000 people are employed within North East England's £5 billion **healthcare** economy. The region is home to many medical and healthcare device companies, including Perlos, Peacocks Medical Group, Renham & Wade, Rocket Medical, Jaycare, and Altomed.
- The region has an active community of **bio-manufacturing** companies, including Avecia Biotechnology, Angel Biotechnology and Huntsman, backed by major research groups at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and the University of Durham. There are strong synthesis support activities in companies such as Onyx Scientific and High Force Research.
- Regional **bionetworks** include: the **Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences (CELS)** which drives growth of the region's life science and healthcare economy by identifying and exploiting market opportunities with commercial potential; **BioNEt** a cutting-edge interactive R&D network for life sciences researchers, with over 700 active members in universities, hospitals and companies; and The **North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC)**, an organisation of over 350 members, formed to assist the region's pharmaceutical, biotechnology, speciality, commodity and chemical companies.
- North East England has a wealth of institutions and companies in **systems biology and bioinformatics** including the **Centre for Integrative Biology**, one of three UK centres investigating biological processes underpinning healthy ageing and links with nutrition. **The Biosystems Informatics Institute (Bii)** which undertakes world-class bioinformatics activities directly focused at commercial exploitation; and the **Informatics Research Institute (IRI)**, with over 130 staff. Companies include Nonlinear Dynamics (NLD), a worldwide leader and provider of high-quality analysis and data mining products for proteomics and InRotis Technologies, using advanced computer technology to undertake drug development research.
- The University of Durham's **Centre for Plant Sciences** is internationally recognised for its cross-disciplinary work in biochemistry, molecular biology and biotechnology. The Centre is at the forefront of developments in plant transgenesis, bioimaging, proteomics and metabolomics, with a range of spin-out companies that include Creative Gene Technology Ltd and Black-Spot Diagnostics.
- **Biofuels** is a rapidly developing sector of the economy, with major capital and infrastructure investments across the region and a network of companies active or interested in this field including the Biofuels Corporation, D1 Oils, SembCorp, Petroplus, Terra Nitrogen (UK) Ltd, Monsanto UK Ltd, Agrovista, Dow Haltermann and Simon Storage.
- The **International Centre for Life** is the UK's first Bioscience Village, with 500 people employed in research, education, development and the commercialisation of bioscience activities.



Finance

There are many sources of finance and venture capital available to companies in the region. Unique in North East England is **Nstar** set up by One NorthEast. It focuses on high risk venture capital, and it partners with the commercial venture capital community to invest in new technology spun out of universities or created within the small to medium sized enterprise market. Nstar can create tailored supply chains for large corporations through this process. Nstar has total funding of £60m (\$108m) split into Proof of Concept Fund and Co-investment Funding.

Market Access

The Model below demonstrates how all of the expertise and support organisations place North East England in a unique position to support companies in the commercialisation of research and getting new products to market. At the centre of the process is the Investment & Aftercare Team that will sit with you to understand your own individual requirements and come back with a tailored investment solution to include some or all of the elements below. From here in the UK or offices in North America, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Norway and Germany, the team will help you get your products and services into the market.



Case Study - Ithaka Life Sciences

The Centre of Excellence for Life Science (CELS) and regional development agency One NorthEast have combined to attract Cambridge-based Ithaka Life Sciences to the region. A leading provider of consultancy and interim management services to new and growing businesses, Ithaka will be a major player in the region's growing life science economy. Ithaka's North East England operation will be based at NetPark, the region's world-class science centre, located in Sedgfield, County Durham.

Contact details

To discuss the service further, or to receive an initial response to an investment proposal, please make contact by phone, fax, e-mail or post today.

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