



SCIENCE PARKS AND BUSINESS INCUBATORS IN THE UK

This information sheet summarises the role of science parks and business incubators in the UK.

The factors covered are:

1. **Overview**
2. **Science parks**
3. **Business incubators**
4. **Further information**

1. OVERVIEW

The UK is renowned for leading-edge research, innovation and an entrepreneurial approach to science and technology. A key strength of the UK is its world-class network of science parks and business incubators that specialise in supporting businesses to develop and commercialise leading-edge technologies.

Many businesses choose to locate on science parks or in business incubators in order to take advantage of the enhanced business support services that are available, including:

- privileged links to universities and research centres,
- access to bespoke facilities and leading-edge equipment and
- dedicated support from specialised on-site business advisers.

Please see Appendix A for details of key science parks and business incubators in the UK.

2. SCIENCE PARKS

Businesses located on a science park have the benefit of strong links to a specific research centre or university (often to take advantage of leading-edge technology and research skills) combined with access to on-site specialised business support.

In the UK there are more than 100 science parks with approximately 3,000 tenant companies (including over 300 overseas-owned companies), occupying

over 1.5 million square metres of property. Employment in companies located on UK science parks has risen from 26,000 to 73,600 over the last ten years (Source: UKSPA, 2009).

Science parks are owned by various organisations in the UK including universities, local government or private management companies. As many are significant sources of high-value employment in local areas, science parks often receive financial support from regional development agencies, the UK Government and the European Union.

The UK Science Park Association (UKSPA) is the key organisation involved in the planning and development of science parks across the UK. For further information, including full contact details of science parks in the UK, please see: www.ukspa.org.uk

3. BUSINESS INCUBATORS

The UK also has a well-established network of approximately 300 business incubators that supports a range of high-growth technology businesses in sectors such as biomedical, IT and the creative industries (Source: UKBI, 2009).

Business incubators provide intensive support to start-up businesses, typically offering the following services:

- a) small business units and leases on flexible terms,
- b) R&D facilities and links into university and academic resources,
- c) ongoing mentoring and business support from experienced personnel,
- d) technical assistance,
- e) training and development opportunities,
- f) access to funding opportunities,
- g) networking opportunities with other entrepreneurs, and
- h) fee-based business support services such as receptionist services, secretarial support, accounting, video-conferencing and access to meeting rooms.

Many incubators also offer a "virtual" incubation service where advice and support is provided to start-up businesses located outside of the incubator.

UK Business Incubation (UKBI) is the lead organisation for business incubators in the UK. For further information, including a list of UK business incubators, please see: www.ukbi.co.uk

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

This information sheet was updated in December 2009.

As information changes from time to time, please contact the organisations listed or UK Trade & Investment to confirm any item that you intend to rely on.

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APPENDIX A

Key science parks and business incubators in the UK

North of England	
Liverpool Innovation Park	www.liverpoolinnovationpark.com/
Liverpool Science Park	www.liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk/
Manchester Science Park	www.mspl.co.uk
MerseyBio	www.merseybio.com
North East Business and Innovation Centre	www.ne-bic.co.uk
The North East Technology Park	www.uknetpark.net
Rotherham RIDO Business Incubators	www.rido.org.uk/
The Sheffield BioIncubator	www.shef.ac.uk/biincubator/
Sheffield Technology Parks	www.shefftechparks.com
Westlakes Science & Technology Park	www.westlakessciencepark.co.uk
The Wilton Centre	www.wiltoncentre.com/
York Science Park	www.yorksciencepark.co.uk
Midlands and East of England	
Babraham Research Campus	www.babraham.ac.uk/facilities/overview.html
BioCity Nottingham	www.biocity.co.uk
Birmingham Research Park	www.brpl.bham.ac.uk/
Birmingham Science Park Aston	www.bsp-a.com/
Cambridge Research Park/ IQ Cambridge	www.iq-cambridge.com/Park/IQCambridge/
Cambridge Science Park	www.cambridgesciencepark.co.uk/
Chesterford Research Park	www.chesterfordresearchpark.com
Coventry University Technology Park	www.coventry.ac.uk/cutp
Cranfield Technology Park	www.cranfield.ac.uk/business/facilities/techpark/index.jsp
De Montfort University Innovation Centre	www.dmu.ac.uk/innovation
Granta Park	www.grantapark.co.uk
Keele University Science and Business Park	www.kusp.co.uk/
Malvern Hills Science Park	www.mhsp.co.uk
Nottingham Science Park	www.nottinghamsciencepark.co.uk/
Norwich Research Park	www.nrp.org.uk
Staffordshire Technology Park	www.instaffs.co.uk/Documents/SitePDF/15.PDF

INFORMATION SHEET

St John Innovation Centre	www.stjohns.co.uk/
University of Warwick Science Park	www.warwicksciencepark.co.uk
Wolverhampton Science Park	www.wolverhamptonsp.co.uk
London and the South of England	
Begbroke Science Park	www.begbroke.ox.ac.uk/
Bristol & Bath Science Park	www.s-park.org.uk/
University of Bristol SETsquared Centre	www.setsquared.co.uk/
Brunel Science Park	www.brunelsciencepark.co.uk/
Culham Science Centre	www.culham.org.uk/
Harwell Science and Innovation Campus	www.harwell.org.uk
Kent Science Park	www.kentsciencepark.com
Langstone Technology Park	www.langtp.com
Milton Park	www.mepc.com/miltonpark
Oxford Science Park	www.oxfordsp.com
University of Reading Science & Technology Centre	www.reading.ac.uk/stc
Surrey Research Park	www.surrey-research-park.com
University of Southampton Science Park	www.science-park.co.uk/
Sussex Innovation Centre	www.sinc.co.uk
Tamar Science Park	www.tamarsciencepark.com
Tetricus	www.tetricus.co.uk
Thames Innovation Centre	www.thamesinnovationcentre.com/
Northern Ireland	
Northern Ireland Science Park	www.nisp.co.uk/
Scotland	
Aberdeen Science & Technology Park	www.ukspa.org.uk/science_parks/content/1074/aberdeen_science_parks
Dundee Medipark	www.biodundee.co.uk/index.asp?Im=14
Dundee Technology Park	www.biodundee.co.uk/index.asp?Im=14
Edinburgh Technopole	www.edinburghtechnopole.co.uk
Etrick Riverside	www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/etrick_riverside_brochure.pdf
Heriot-Watt University Research Park	www.hw.ac.uk/research-park/
Hillington Park Innovation Centre	www.innovationcentre.org/
Pentlands Science Park	www.pentlands.co.uk/psp.asp
Roslin BioCentre	www.roslin-biocentre.com
Seabraes Yard	www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/seabraesyardsbrochure.pdf
Stirling University Innovation Park	www.suip.co.uk/
Tweed Horizons	www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/tweedhorizonsbrochure.pdf
West of Scotland Science Park	www.scottish-

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	enterprise.com/publications/westofscotlandsciencepark-bioscience.pdf
Wales	
Cardiff Business Technology Centre	www.cbtc.co.uk
Technium Centres (in ten different locations across Wales)	www.technium.co.uk