WHAT’S NEXT FOR DISCOVERY PARK?
Looking ahead to 2018

What’s inside...

Discovery Park celebration
Five years on, Discovery Park is writing the next chapter for the site’s success.

Genetics research success
Canterbury Christ Church University’s research collaboration gets global attention.

AlgaeCytes scale up
Opening of new production facility marks first phase of site investment.

www.discovery-park.co.uk
FEET FIRST FOR NHS PROJECT

Orthotics Laboratory and Manufacturing plant starts production

Discovery Orthotics, a department of Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust has opened a new facility, making custom made insoles to help patients with a range of foot, ankle and gait problems.

The move to Discovery Park provides the unit with the space and facilities to expand production and take on more clients.

Discovery Orthotics is one of 12 new arrivals at Discovery Park this year, helping to create new jobs and opportunities for East Kent, and contributing to the site passing the 3,000-employee milestone for the first time.

Other businesses to arrive in 2017 include Alert Technologies, which has launched an innovative asbestos detection device; dementia support service, Interactive Me; and science support firm Clinical Venture.

="This is a one-of-a-kind facility which we are really proud of. We can manufacture all types of insole and orthotics that can transform the lives of patients across the UK.”

Rhys Toghill, Department manager

A further 12 companies have expanded on site this year, including R&D firms BSPG Laboratories and Centauri Therapeutics; plus recruitment agencies Inspire People, Wave Search and Templegate Recruitment and the Design and Learning Centre social care project.

SCIENCE INNOVATION REWARDED

Centauri Therapeutics, one of our leading bio-technology companies has been awarded up to £945,000 to fund major research into the treatment of infectious diseases and cancer.

The award is part of Innovate UK’s Biomedical Catalyst (BMC) programme, co-funding drug development work aimed at fighting anti-microbial resistance; a major cause of death in hospital-acquired pneumonias.

“The BMC Award is a significant recognition of Centauri’s scientific expertise and demonstrates the UK government’s confidence in our team’s ability to combat antibacterial resistance and deliver novel treatments for patients.”

Dr Mike Westby, Director and CEO of Centauri Therapeutics

GEMINI HIT THE JACKPOT

Fundraising services company, Gemini Lotto Fundraising, has expanded its offices at Discovery Park for the third time.

The company, part of Gemini Group London, was set up in 2013 and offers a range of support services for some of the UK’s biggest charities, including London Air Ambulance.

“For us, basing the business at Discovery Park was a no-brainer. It’s an amazing place to work and pleasure heading in each morning. Being here has certainly helped us to grow.”

Managing director, Ben Walton
The owners of Discovery Park held a special celebration to mark the site’s fifth birthday as a multi-business science hub that has become a magnet for job creation in East Kent.

Representatives from Dover District Council (DDC) and Kent County Council joined many of the 150 companies now based on the site, employing some 3,000 people; all powering one of the UK’s leading science parks with a reach that extends around the globe.

“Five years on and the site is writing the next chapter in the story of Sandwich as a centre for pharmaceutical and technological innovation.”

Clr Paul Watkins, Former Leader of DDC

University Lab Goes Global for Key Genetics Research

Research into the potential use of microscopic nano particles in the early detection of cancer has put research taking place at Discovery Park in the spotlight.

Canterbury Christ Church University’s Life Science Industry Liaison Laboratory has linked up with the University of Liverpool, Roy Castle Lung Cancer foundation, and US science firm HTG Molecular Diagnostics for initial patient studies, ahead of a full clinical trial.

The work, which is being done in collaboration with Austria based Anton Paar, is being recognized globally with CCCU invited to speak about the project at a genetics conference in Kerala, India.

“With lung cancer, the disease is often not detected early enough. The work we are doing here at Discovery Park seeks to address that.”

Dr. Cornelia Wilson, Senior Lecturer and Academic Laboratory Manager

Communicate Goes Nationwide

IT and telecoms company, Communicate is going national after winning a contract connecting some of the three million sq ft of UK commercial property managed by London property group, Property Initiatives.

“This is the start of the next phase of growth for us, rolling out the Communicate brand to a national audience.”

Tony Snaith, chief executive Communicate

The deal follows on from recent acquisitions of telecoms company Touchdown Offices and cyber security company, Landscape Networks.
**WHAT’S NEXT FOR DISCOVERY PARK?**

The Government’s Industrial Strategy White Paper, published at the end of November 2017, sets out a vision to build a Britain fit for the future, with the life sciences sector seen as essential to powering the economy in the post Brexit world.

Discovery Park has already embarked on a multi-million-pound investment programme that heralds an exciting new chapter for this iconic science park, creating the perfect environment for innovation and scientific collaboration; an outward looking, globally focused showcase for UK plc.

**IDEAS**

**THE WORLD’S MOST INNOVATIVE ECONOMY**

We’re lucky at Discovery Park to already have industry leading laboratories in place for world class R&D, supported by a network of essential support services and education providers. This has aided the creation of clusters of excellence, which in turn helps to attract science business to site. The investment we’re delivering now will build on the work to date, creating new areas of science activity and expertise.

**PEOPLE**

**GOOD JOBS AND GREATER EARNING POWER FOR ALL**

We’re building a one-stop eco-system for long term success focused on science and enterprise; encouraging links between academia and industry; building skills and creating opportunities that will attract the high skilled paid jobs that will ensure Kent’s future growth.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**A MAJOR UPGRADE TO THE UK’S INFRASTRUCTURE**

Work to add 50,000 sq ft of new laboratory space and a 60,000 sq ft expansion of office space is underway, but this is just the start with plans in place for further investment that will allow science to thrive – from start up and discovery to full scale production.

**BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

**THE BEST PLACE TO START AND GROW A BUSINESS**

As one of the UK’s leading Enterprise Zones, we’ve been able to provide a launch pad for science companies, with additional support from our investment partners. Our aim, as the site develops is to ensure there is every opportunity for businesses to grow here on site. This is a key location for UK R&D, and we have plans in place to enhance that further.

**PLACES**

**PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK**

This iconic site is already a key driver to Kent’s economy, with a track record for science excellence stretching back 50 years. The area’s great transport connections and pool of high skilled people already make Sandwich an attractive place to be – not least for the new homes that will make Discovery Park a great place to live too.

**COMING UP IN 2018**

**CLEAN POWERED GROWTH**

The opening of a new £160m combined heat and power plant (CHP), will make Discovery Park self-sufficient for all its power and energy needs. The state-of-the-art bio-mass facility, set to be open before the end of 2018, will aid our quest to be sustainable in all we do; setting the template for clean growth in the UK.

**THE PLACE FOR SCIENCE**

The launch of new Pay-As-You-Go labs, offering a new and flexible solution for science research is just one element of a multi-million investment in science that significantly enhances what Discovery Park has to offer. Education is a key part of that, with auditorium space set to launch in 2018 for education events, talks and seminars – sharing the site’s expertise.

**2.4%** Proportion of UK GDP to be spent on R&D by 2027

**12%** The proposed new rate of R&D tax credits

**£725m** Budget set aside for new innovators

**£406m** Extra cash to boost skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)

**4** Targets to put the UK at the forefront of the industries of the future


**IDEAS FOR DISCOVERY PARK?**

What’s Next

A ’PHARMA’S’ MARKET FULL OF LOCAL PRODUCE

We’re in the process of revamping our catering offer on site, with our main science block, Discovery Park House the next focus for a £850K refit. The plan is to boost the amount of locally produced food used in our cafes and restaurants, supporting the local community and promoting excellent home-grown produce.
From hosting school events that spark a love of science to raising money and the profile of many local charities, Discovery Park puts the community at the heart of all it does.

For us, our commitment to providing a supporting environment doesn’t stop at the gates, doing all we can throughout the year to support local causes, promote education and generally playing a full part in the area that we’re lucky to be a part of.

We don’t take all the credit, we’re very fortunate at Discovery Park to have over 150 fantastic businesses, who share our collaborative vision for the site – from getting involved in fundraising events to providing opportunities for the next generation.

**PROMOTING SCIENCE**

We’re already looking forward to welcoming the Big Bang and East Kent Science Jamboree back to Discovery Park in 2018, with our science tenants helping to bring science to life – in a fun and interactive way – to schools from across East Kent and beyond.

**CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY**

Discovery Park does all it can do to be a good neighbour, from allowing its car parks to be used as a Park and Ride facility for festival weekends in Sandwich and supporting plans to transform the town’s historic Guildhall to donations of surplus furniture to schools and other local organisations.

**FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS**

From our annual golf classic to table tennis tournaments Discovery Park and our tenants help raise thousands each year for some amazing local causes with cancer support charity Your simPal, Martha’s Trust and Age Concern among those to benefit in 2017.

Find our more by selecting ParkLife from the main menu at: www.discoverypark.co.uk

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**Discovery Park supports Martha Trust’s 30th Anniversary**

Discovery Park is a big fan of the work of disability charity Martha Trust, which does a huge amount locally to help care for people across Kent with profound disabilities.

Over the past few weeks, we’ve sponsored a charity golf day prize and their annual Christmas Fayre as well as inviting them to share their 30-year story with tenants on site.

Find out more at: www.marthatrust.org.uk

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**Spare furniture put to new use at local schools and charities**

Sandwich Junior School, Sandwich Tech School and Sir Roger Manwood School were among the schools to benefit from donations of surplus chairs, desks, whiteboards and other office equipment by Discovery Park.

Pilgrims Hospice, NHS East Kent and Age Concern were also supported with a sale of one set of furniture raising £500 for Your simPal, Discovery Park’s amazing charity of the year for 2017.

Find our more about Your simPal at: www.yoursimpal.com

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