

Life Sciences in Kent & Medway

- Kent is home to an established and high profile Life Sciences company base. A recognised Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences, the sector is characterised by key companies such as **Pfizer, GSK, Aesica, Murex Biotech, Remel, Genzyme and Smiths Medical International**, the sector's core activities focus on **R&D and manufacturing**.
- As **1 of 2 identified clusters in the South East**, the county is home to almost **250 companies** and employs over **13,000 people**.
- With over **101 R&D and testing companies** in Kent, companies within the sector have a strong track record in patent applications, showing real vibrancy and commercialisation within the sector.
- There is a strong support network for growth areas such as Drug Discovery, including Canterbury and Sittingbourne Enterprise Hubs which provide incubation space for spinouts and investors.
- **Manufacturing medical devices / equipment** accounts for over **60%** of Life Sciences activity and represents **25% of employment**.
- An excellent university research base is an asset for any R&D requirement:
 - Graduate pool of **1,800 students and 400 graduates each year**
 - **3 universities** offering particular skills in areas such as cancer research, molecular biology, protein sciences, infectious diseases, environmental microbiology, immunology, genetics, plant ecology, botany and pharmaceutical sciences
 - The skills base has been further enhanced by the launch of the Kent Bioscience Resource Centre in September 2007. With its newly accredited foundation degree course for Laboratory Technologists, it is the first of its kind in the UK.
- **The University of Kent is ranked number 1 out of all 58 biology and related sciences departments in the UK**. It's internationally acclaimed Department of Biosciences has unique research expertise through collaborations with Kent and Canterbury Hospital and London-based UMDS Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals.

- The universities also have strong links with industry, evident in the fact that **5 of the world's top 20 selling drugs were developed in Kent**. Key to this work is Pfizer's European R&D HQ at Sandwich as well as leading research by innovative biotech companies in the region.
- These links with industry are further enhanced by the **School of Pharmacy** and the **Kent Biosciences Network**:
 - The School of Pharmacy in Medway is the first of its kind to open in the UK for 20 years and produces top rate graduates into the industry
 - The Kent Biosciences Network was created to provide a forum for like-minded businesses, research organisations, mentors and investors based in Kent, to help develop and promote the bioscience community
- Competitive costs in salaries, rents and general cost of living make Kent an attractive location for Life Sciences companies. For example, **lab assistant salaries** are **24% cheaper than in London** and **10% below the regional average**, with office rents up to 60% cheaper than London and the M4 Corridor, yet quality standards are not compromised.
- Kent also offers proximity to London, the prime destination for bioscience Venture Capital funding in Europe.
- Recent investments over the past couple of years include: expansion of manufacturing operations by **Viridian Envirosolutions Ltd** and **Murex Biotech**; expansion of **Bedfont Scientific's** R&D headquarters and the regional distribution office for **Partec GmbH**, and the opening of an R&D headquarters by **Solace Pharmaceuticals**.
- For further information on the Life Sciences sector in Kent and its company base, please visit www.locateinkent.com or contact us on 00 44 1732 520700 / enquiries@locateinkent.com.