



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# Supporting the Research & Innovation System

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# UK Research and Innovation



UK Research  
and Innovation



Funding Finder

UKRI is the **UK's largest public funder of research and innovation**

We invest over **£8+ billion** a year to advance our **understanding of society and the world around us** and **deliver benefits** for society, the economy and environment

We **work with businesses and academia, across disciplines and sectors**, and between the UK and its international partners.



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Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council



Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council



Economic  
and Social  
Research Council



Research  
England



Natural  
Environment  
Research Council



Innovate  
UK



Medical  
Research  
Council



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# Science and Technology Facilities Council (UKRI-STFC)

## Mission:

- Discovering the secrets of the Universe
- Developing advanced technologies
- Solving real world challenges

## Responsibilities:

- Frontier research: particle physics, astronomy, nuclear physics and space science
- Major UK multi-disciplinary facilities
- ***Stewardship of the National R&I campuses***

UK Astronomy Technology Centre  
Edinburgh, Scotland



Polaris House  
Swindon, Wiltshire



Chilbolton Observatory  
Stockbridge, Hampshire



...and internationally

Boulby Underground  
Laboratory  
North Yorkshire



Daresbury Laboratory  
Sci-Tech Daresbury, Liverpool City Region



Rutherford Appleton Laboratory  
Harwell Didcot, Oxfordshire



## Six UKRI sites across the UK + International

Our core science programme is almost entirely international

## Over 3,000 staff

80%: scientists, engineers and technicians

## UKRI-STFC National Laboratories

UKRI- STFC provides high-tech scientific and engineering support for >7,500 industrial and academic researchers



# National Research and Innovation Campuses

Interconnected science, technology, facilities and innovation programmes **come together** in the UKRI R&I campuses at **Harwell**, **Sci-Tech Daresbury** and **Edinburgh**



**Harwell Campus**

~200 Organisations with 6,000+ people  
Including Moderna, Oxford Nanopore, UKHSA



**Sci-Tech Daresbury**

~150 Organisations with 1800+ People  
Including IBM Research, Orcha, Decently,  
Addhere



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# Empowering Regional Research and Innovation; Clusters



# Innovation Clusters - UKRI-STFC cluster model

*Connecting Industry and Science for Innovation  
and Growth*

The standard cluster definition by Porter is:  
***“geographic concentrations of interconnected  
companies and institutions in a particular field”***

STFC harnesses this definition of sector and place and takes an active cluster development approach. This connects industry and the science community, fostering innovation, growth, and investment through thriving clusters and dedicated managers facilitating cross-sector links.



## Cluster Strategy



**UKRI-STFC  
Cluster Strategy**

# The North West of England



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Innovation Clusters | North West Health



POPULATION

**7.52m**

ONS 2021 census

UNIVERSITIES

(active in Health and Life sciences)



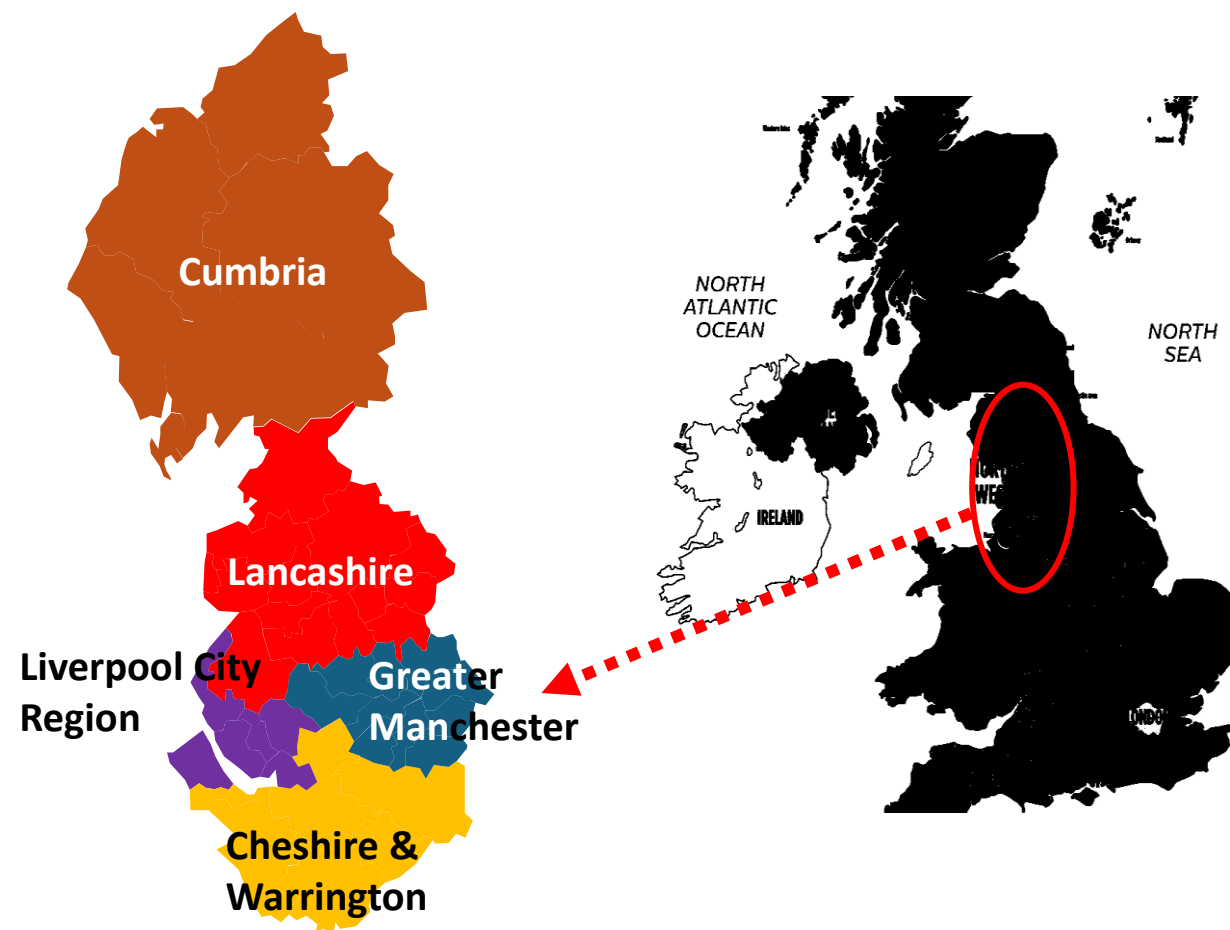
**13**

LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTH COMPANIES

**~1200**



Across the North of England





# What is the NW Health Cluster?

- The **North West Health cluster** is a regional initiative, providing an actively managed cluster network, focussed on the North West of England
- It is governed by a Health and Life Sciences stakeholder group, comprised of over 40 regional and national organisations, that support the sector and region
- This group meets regularly to:
  - Share intelligence that drives increased awareness and signposting
  - Co-create knowledge exchange events for the R&D community
  - Supports the national and international activities of stakeholders, that raise the profile of the region, including companies and capabilities
  - Fosters R&D collaborations, through promoting funding opportunities

The North West Health Cluster initiative has been enabled through the ongoing support of its stakeholders and the funding provided by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as part of its [cluster strategy](#) and the Health Innovation Network for the North West Coast.



## Health and Life Sciences funding & capabilities blog

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/our-regular-health-life-sciences-funding-roundup-phil-carvil-afkbe/?trackingId=rzGZmrRSQs6g4v4ySs3ENg%3D%3D>





# North West Health Cluster

## *Connecting Capabilities*

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Innovation Clusters | North West Health

Over 40 organisations are represented within the North West Health cluster, from universities to national trade bodies.

- National Health Service Organisations
  - Alder Hey Childrens Hospital
  - East Lancashire NHS Foundation Trust
  - Health Innovation Manchester
  - Health Innovation North West Coast
  - Liverpool University Foundation Trust
  - Manchester University Foundation Trust
- National Institutes & Catapults
  - AMRC
  - CPI
  - Hartree Centre
  - Henry Royce Institute
  - Medicines Discovery Catapult
  - Rosalind Franklin Institute
- National Organisations
  - Department for Business and Trade
  - National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (*NICE*)
  - National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)
  - Royal Academy of Engineering
  - UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
  - UKRI Councils – BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, IUK, MRC, (NERC), STFC
- Places & Regional Authorities
  - Alderley Park
  - Cheshire & Warrington
  - Cumbria
  - Bruntwood Scitech
  - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
  - Lancashire
  - Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
  - Manchester Inward Development Agency (MIDAS)
  - Knowledge Quarter
  - Sci-Tech Daresbury
- Regional Organisations & Programmes
  - Industrial Biotechnology Catalyst (IBIC)
  - Infection Innovation Consortium (IICON)
  - Lyva Labs
  - North West Cancer Research
  - RTC North
- Trade and Membership Bodies
  - Association of British Health Tech Industry
  - Bionow
  - Medilink
  - Northern Health Science Alliance
- Universities
  - Edge Hill University
  - Lancaster University
  - Liverpool Hope University
  - Liverpool John Moores University
  - Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
  - Manchester Metropolitan University
  - University of Central Lancashire
  - University of Bolton
  - University of Chester
  - University of Cumbria
  - **University of Liverpool**
  - University of Manchester
  - University of Salford



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# Other mechanisms for supporting Knowledge Exchange, Innovation & Growth

# We run 6 deep-tech Incubators, collaborating across UKRI



**ESA BIC -  
Space Tech**



**Bio BIC -  
Biotech**



**QuBIC -  
Quantum Tech**



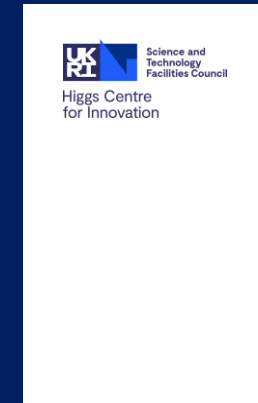
**Digital BIC -  
AI & HPC**



**Health BIC -  
Health Tech**



**STFC BIC -  
Applied Physics**



# Health Business Incubation Centre

The Health Business Incubation Centre is operated by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in partnership with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA).

The Health BIC is an incubator programme for early-stage start-ups who are developing advanced health technologies, e.g., solutions for human infectious diseases, molecular and cellular medicines, medical device hardware and software, and mobile medical applications.

It provides SME's who qualify for the BIC with:

- Up to £50k of non-equity funding
- Up to £10k of R&D Vouchers (can be used with facilities, RTO's, Companies, Universities)
- Access to technical, commercial and IP support to de-risk technologies and get to market faster
- Networking and introductions to investors, funders and stakeholders, including partners such as the Medicines Discovery Catapult, Health Innovation Network North west Coast, Medical Research Council and more through the North West Health Cluster.



*First cohort was recruited at the end of 2024 and there are plans for supporting ~30 SME's during the current planned length of the IZ project*



# Coming Soon: LCR Health PoC Fund

**\*\*\*subject to full business case approval**

**The Health & Life Sciences PoC fund will be operated by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in partnership with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA).**

- **Business-led**
- **One or more project partners must be LCR-based**
- **Typical grant award £50k (to be match-funded by applicant(s))**
- **Validate technologies, accelerate and/or de-risk R&D, stimulate collaborations and partnerships**
- **First call anticipated in the Autumn for project starts from April 2026**
- **3x annual calls expected**

# CERN Venture Connect

## Deep Tech Startup Programme

**NEED**  
First clients &  
networking

**Ecosystem  
Support.**



**CERN Tech.**



**NEED**  
Technological  
Advantage

**Workshops.**



**NEED**  
Skills development

**Funding  
Opportunities.**



**NEED**  
Financing

**Talent.**



**NEED**  
Strong team



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KT Forum 2025

14



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# Thank you

For questions on this presentation

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