



Daresbury Science
& Innovation
Campus

STFC Innovations Technology
Access Centre

Shaping the Future of Science and Innovation

Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus (Daresbury SIC) is an internationally recognised location for high-tech businesses and leading-edge science. It represents a fundamentally new approach to driving UK competitiveness in global science and innovation.

Daresbury SIC was formed by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), Halton Borough Council and the research intensive universities of Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester.

The Campus provides a unique environment for innovation and business growth with knowledge sharing, collaboration and networking, and offers major opportunities to a wide range of sectors including: biomedical, materials chemistry, advanced engineering and manufacturing. In addition, Campus stakeholder, STFC, manages a number of leading edge facilities through the Daresbury Laboratory, which are of key importance across these sectors.



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Big Science Supporting Small Business

As a by-product of large scale research projects on synchrotron radiation, spacious laboratories with more than £3m of state-of-the-art scientific equipment are now available in the Daresbury Laboratory for use by small high-tech start-up companies and academic researchers.

The STFC Innovations Technology Access Centre (ITAC) offers flexible and affordable access to a wide range of cutting-edge scientific equipment in 16 fully-equipped biological, imaging, materials and physical science laboratories, providing businesses and researchers with the ideal environment to carry out high-tech research and development work.

Access to high specification laboratory space at low cost and low commitment can be difficult to obtain, especially at the proof of concept stage, these facilities provide the ideal environment for both start-ups and the R&D teams of established companies.



Science & Technology
Facilities Council

STFC Innovations Ltd

Technology Exchange

One of the Campus' primary objectives is to establish strong, co-operative links with industry on a national and international basis. Daresbury SIC is already playing a significant part in engaging with industry and the high-tech SME sector in the North West by providing the ideal environment for collaboration and cross-fertilisation of ideas.

The facilities and services of STFC, managed by its leading research groups active in a number of areas, can be accessed through its knowledge transfer organisation STFC Innovations Ltd, which progresses individual projects through various business models to the point of implementation as commercial licences or spin-out companies.

www.daresburysic.co.uk/facilities/itac

A National Technology Pool

Set up by the government to foster the effective commercialisation of science and innovation, Daresbury SIC is one of two national Science and Innovation Campuses, the other being Harwell SIC in Oxfordshire. The pairing, known as the 'dipole', enables any organisation accessing one Campus Laboratory, to engage with the facilities and expertise of both.



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The Laboratory Facilities

Businesses located in the Centre can make full use of the wide range of facilities including leasing their own exclusive-use, 'lock and leave' laboratories. Also provided are a number of multi-user laboratories available on an hourly basis ("hot labbing"). A total of 15,000 square feet of laboratory space has been made available, with half of it accessible on demand for short-term use.

Facilities include a wet chemistry & materials laboratory with an associated preparation laboratory that includes small workshop facilities, furnaces, cutting, lapping and polishing equipment.

Analytical user facilities include a surface science and imaging laboratory which contains a suite of electron microscopes and optical microscopes. There is also an instrumentation laboratory which includes a range of spectrometers, calorimeters, chromatography facilities and two designated X-ray diffractometers.

The Company View

"From the word 'go' it was obvious that ITAC understood and could fulfil the needs of a new biotech business. Having a base here is a crucial stepping-stone for Vantage R&D, taking us from being an entirely virtual start-up to becoming operational and moving towards establishing our own laboratory facilities in the future. Before starting work at ITAC our technology was completely unproven - not any more!"

Carolyn Ruddell, Director,
Vantage R&D



Biological Laboratory

The Campus puts particular emphasis on Biological Laboratory facilities - fully equipped and functional for biological preparation, with fume cupboards and glove boxes. Facilities are available for protein crystallography studies and also a wide range of instrumentation suitable for the study of organic and microbiological specimens.

High-end equipment is uniquely available for rent, including analytical laboratories installed inside refrigerated chambers, where protein analysis can be carried out.

A level 2 containment facility is also available for experiments with hazardous substances, in addition to devices for liquid chromatography and protein crystallography.

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Commercially Active

Two companies on Campus already benefiting from the ITAC facility are Byotrol and BioEden. Manchester-based Byotrol is the first long-term tenant at the Centre following the recent relocation of their principle microbiology R&D operations to the North West.

Byotrol has developed a patented, next generation hygiene technology, described as having the characteristics of the ideal biocide. Byotrol is using the Centre to develop specific versions of the technology for the healthcare, food production, animal welfare and consumer markets.

Bioeden, based in the Daresbury Innovation Centre, is an international business with an innovative process for collecting stem cells from children's milk teeth, and is using the space within the ITAC facility for storage of their backup cell bank.



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At the Heart of a High-tech Network

A presence in the Centre puts companies at the heart of the rapidly growing Daresbury SIC network, which, in addition to providing specialist support from STFC's own highly skilled scientists, enables companies to tap into the knowledge base of the leading North West academic institutions. This high-tech community also allows access to the facilities, business support services and collaborative research and development opportunities of the nearby Daresbury Innovation Centre.

Future Development of Daresbury SIC

As part of a wider £104m investment in technology gateway centres (outward focused hubs for collaborative R&D into large scale scientific challenges) the government has earmarked over £60m for two centres at Daresbury SIC. The Hartree Centre will be a new kind of computational science institute for the UK enabling cutting edge research in computer modelling playing a key role in areas such as healthcare and energy. The Hartree Centre will be joined by a centre for sensors and detector systems.



Hartree Centre

Business at the Heart of Science

The Campus' flagship accommodation facility for high-tech businesses is the Daresbury Innovation Centre, situated close to the ITAC facility. The Daresbury Innovation Centre, is home to almost 100 high-tech businesses, ranging from small start-ups to strategic units of large multi-national corporations, and offers high quality office space alongside the ITAC facility.

Accommodation within the Innovation Centre provides:

- A recognised research & development focused environment with an STFC account manager and links to a wide network of research-intensive universities
- Opportunities for technological and commercial collaboration, and fast access to commercial and academic contacts through a high-tech focused ecosystem

- Excellent transportation links
- Tailored business support and connections to major funding streams
- A spacious rural location in Cheshire.

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Putting Business at the Heart of Science