



:insideview

profile feature

Dr Chris Doherty, Site Director at Alderley Park, Manchester, UK

Alderley Park, the internationally renowned bioscience campus in Manchester, UK, is seeing rapid growth as its resident companies leverage connections and financial support from government, academia, private industry and venture capital to advance scientific innovation.

Alderley Park is part of Manchester Science Partnerships (MSP), the UK's largest science park operator, with five campuses across northwest Britain. The 400 acre complex with over 1 million square feet of premier scientific laboratory space and a further 400,000 sq ft of office space, was for decades the global R&D headquarters for pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca. Alderley Park is known as being one of the most commercially successful drug development sites of its kind in the world — a cradle of ground-breaking science and home to the launch of 20 new drugs including, most recently, a number of targeted therapies in oncology.

Since MSP purchased the site in 2014 — and with support from Cheshire East Council — Dr Chris Doherty, a former vice president of global medicines development at AstraZeneca, has been leading its on-going transformation. Here he explains his vision to secure the site's future as a hub for life sciences research.

Q: How does Alderley Park differ from its competition?

Alderley Park is not like any other 'science park'. Alderley Park offers a self-contained site, where like-minded businesses from across the life sciences sector have clustered together to collaborate and share new ideas. Our BioHub incubator is already home to over 150 new and early stage businesses looking to grow and expand. Our unique support programme offered to people looking to start new companies sets us apart, including bootcamps, support from experienced mentors from the life science industry and access to funding.

Alderley Park also offers a great value for money proposition for SMEs operating in a lean start-up mode with lab rents costing one third of the price of those in Cambridge or Oxford and a quarter of those in London.

Alderley Park is greater than the sum of its parts — offering more than just premier science space. The Park also offers restaurants, cafes, gym, a sports centre and employee social club. Upcoming development includes the building of a new village to include housing, a gastropub and hotel.

Q: What are the unique features of Alderley Park?

Let's look at the quality of the lab space. £500 million (\$750 million) has been spent on the site since 1997 alone — building modern laboratories for use from discovery to development, with areas dedicated to chemistry, bioscience and *in vivo*. There is a world class pre-clinical imaging suite with MRI, CT and PET

capabilities, and a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) facility. AstraZeneca's compound library and high-throughput screening infrastructure remains here. There is a vivarium, a global cell banking unit, cell culture labs, a DNA biobank and a process development area. An open access lab has recently been opened with specialist equipment provided by Waters.

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Q: How do you work with entrepreneurs?

Funding support and access to investors is key to our businesses. Companies based at Alderley Park have access to two investment funds. The first is a £5 million incubator fund designed to help form new companies. The second fund is the £42 million Greater Manchester and Cheshire Life Sciences Fund. Its money comes from numerous sources, including government, private enterprise, MSP, its stakeholders and Cheshire East Council.

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equipment, funds, lawyers, accountants, and patent and human resources experts. Everyone is mixing and mingling in the same place, and it works well. We will see 30 to 50 new biotech companies formed here in the next 5 years. Eventually, about 7,000 people will work here.

Q: How do you collaborate with your partners in academia and government?

The academic component is important. The University of Manchester is a key shareholder in Alderley Park. Its professors work with the companies here, and start-ups coming out of the university can make use of the incubator and boot camp, free of charge. So far 120 scientists have gone through the boot camp. The local NHS hospital trust is also a shareholder, and it works with companies to provide access to patients for clinical trials.

We have a number of government-funded research units that are being formed at Alderley Park, too. One is the Medicines Discovery Catapult, part of the UK government's Catapult Centres initiative, which is creating a network of centres designed to enhance innovation in specific areas and drive economic growth. We will have an antimicrobial resistance research centre here as well. With the help of Cheshire East Council we received Life Science Enterprise Zone status, which means the small businesses here receive rate relief. We're creating a centre which has all the attributes you need for a successful biosciences park. It's that package that makes Alderley Park attractive and unique.

Q: Why should the scientific world be looking to Manchester?

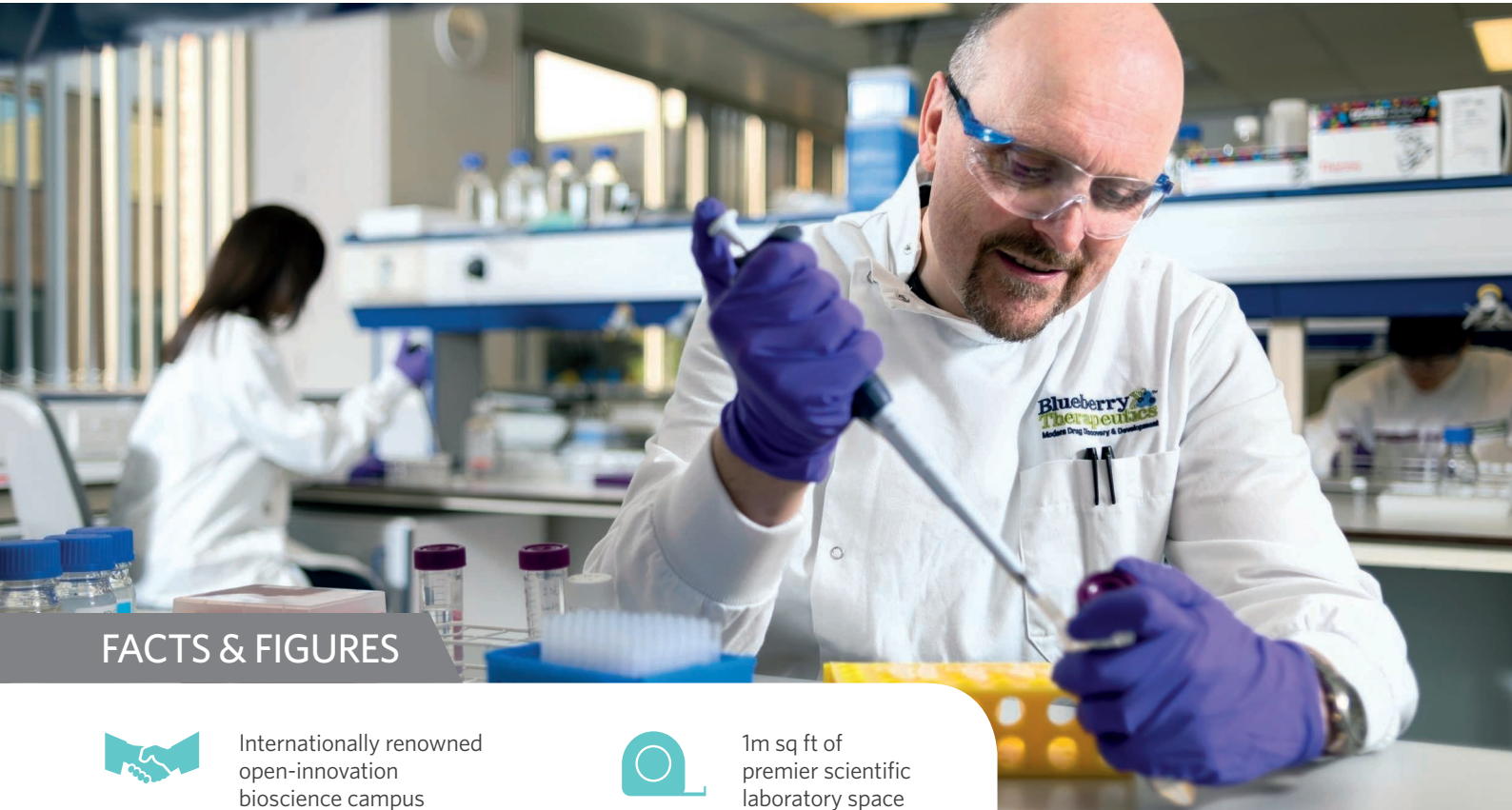
Science is a big theme in this city. There is a history of invention going back to the Industrial Revolution, leading to the development of mass spectrometry and the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of graphene at the University of Manchester. The EuroScience Open Forum, a biennial pan-European general science conference, is taking place here this summer. There is a spirit of collaboration here, and we want to make people aware of this as a growing opportunity. If you're overseas and you are looking to expand your company into the UK or EU, we want to put Manchester and Alderley Park on your list of potential landing points.

ALDERLEY PARK

Part of Manchester Science Partnerships



MANCHESTER
SCIENCE
PARTNERSHIPS



FACTS & FIGURES



Internationally renowned open-innovation bioscience campus



1m sq ft of premier scientific laboratory space

150

Home to a community of over 150 biotech, life science and pharma businesses



Over 220 flights a week from Manchester airport



BioHub incubator for new and early stage life science businesses



400,000 sq ft of high specification office space



Talent pool of over 3,000 experienced staff



On-site conference centre



£42m and £5m venture funds



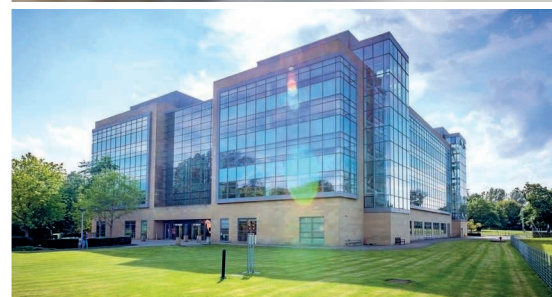
Great site facilities



20 globally recognised medicines discovered here



400 acres of historic park and woodland



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Home to:

Waters open access lab

Medicines Discovery Catapult

Translational Centre for AMR