

# The Innovation Centres: industry engagement

## Industry-led and industry-aligned



“In supporting industry-led R&D, the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre is sending a signal from the Scottish Government of its commitment to the aquaculture industry. This has encouraged the Gael Force Group to invest further in innovation and R&D.”

**Stewart Graham, Group Managing Director,  
Gael Force Group**

Scotland’s Innovation Centres (ICs) have a unique mix of industry experience, connections and real-time knowledge, gained from our intense engagement with industry. This spans the whole spectrum of our sectors from spinouts and SMEs, to international companies and investors.

Guiding this industry engagement are clear goals: simplifying innovation, and helping deliver commercial and economic benefits from cost efficiencies to growth.

### How to engage with the ICs

Because we know that businesses have different goals and ways of working, there are many ways to engage with us and receive support:

- information-sharing events
- workshops and company meetings to identify innovation needs

- project involvement and collaboration
- postgraduate placements
- signposting to other innovation support or funding
- business development, technical or project management support
- skills development.

Scotland’s eight Innovation Centres operate across key sectors where Scotland can be world-leading. Their common aim is to help businesses large and small to increase the pace of innovation – and in turn to help Scotland’s economy and people to prosper.

The programme is funded by the Scottish Funding Council, with support from Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

**For more information, or to find out if we could help you innovate, visit <http://www.innovationcentres.scot>**

## Industry Engagement in Action



### Novel approaches to drug development

An SMS-IC exemplar programme seeking a new way to use genomics in early-stage drug development, is an excellent example of how Scotland's ICs are helping private and public-sector partners achieve synergies greater than the sum of their parts.

The partners included: a lead SME, Biopta (now Reprocell); two other SMEs, Sistic and FIOS Genomics; four NHS Scotland health boards; four universities; and SMS-IC industry partners, Aridhia Informatics and ThermoFisher.

Data generated from the project has helped Reprocell secure new revenue streams – drug testing for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and irritable bowel disease.



### Fast-tracking value from connected devices

The Internet of Things (IoT) has the potential to transform the way people live and work, and the related business opportunities are huge.

CENSIS has set up an IoT Centre, a facility to help SMEs overcome many of the challenges they face in product development around IoT. Companies can use its resources and support to take their connected devices from concept to prototype to market.

Facilities include a complete suite of development devices and software, from hardware to cloud storage; dedicated engineering support; and a high-spec demonstration area to showcase products or services to investors.



### Construction innovation and growth

Through a 34,000 sq ft innovation and collaboration facility, Scottish construction businesses can take new products, processes, systems and solutions from early-stage ideas towards commercialisation.

The workshop space has been launched by the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC). It features state-of-the-art manufacturing and prototyping equipment, complete with robotics; thermobonding and cross laminated timber machines; 3D printer; and a 5-tonne overhead gantry crane.

It also has a construction incubator where small businesses can collaborate with industry, academic and public-sector partners around innovation projects.