Innovation
Centres

Supported by The Scottish Funding Council,
Highlands and Islands Enterprise and
Scottish Enterprise.

Positioning Scotland at the forefront of innovation
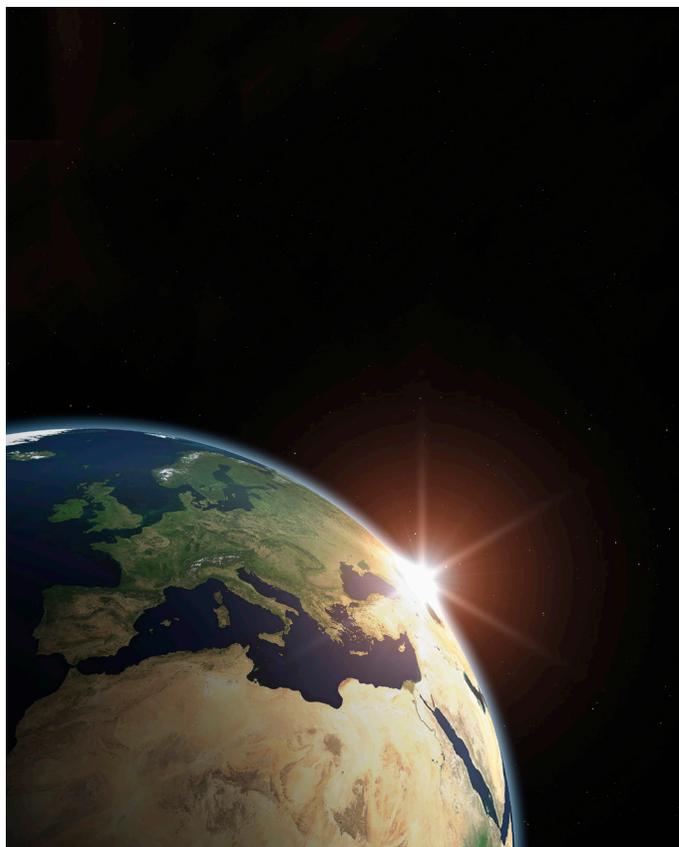
A more international Scotland means a more competitive Scotland. By helping Scottish businesses and researchers to engage internationally, the eight Innovation Centres are boosting business and economic growth.

Scottish innovation on the global stage

There are many examples of how the ICs are helping Scotland engage and compete globally. We have:

- made agreements to collaborate with research and industry bodies in nations from Japan to Norway
- given multinationals / foreign businesses confidence to invest here
- introduced international businesses to relevant research talent at Scottish universities
- attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) to our co-funded projects
- showcased Scottish businesses and innovation support systems at trade events
- launched projects to boost exports from Scottish SMEs and other businesses
- and boosted our reputation as an innovation nation.

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

Showcasing Scotland's data science prowess

The Data Lab (TDL) organises regular learning journeys for Scottish data-related businesses, working with partners such as Scottish Development International and UK Trade & Investment.

Through these trips, TDL helps Scottish companies build networks abroad and learn about doing business in key data markets, such as the US and Singapore.

As well as supporting local companies to internationalise, TDL showcases Scotland's data science capabilities on the world stage – with the intention of attracting business here.

International ties boost shellfish innovation

When the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) connected with Spring Bay Seafoods in Australia and New Zealand's Cawthron Institute, it was with one aim in mind: to help Scottish industry innovate a more reliable supply of mussel spat, with potential to boost productivity and exports.

Two years on, SAIC is co-funding a £1.7m pilot mussel hatchery at the University of the Highlands and Islands' NAFC Marine Centre, with additional expertise from Spring Bay Seafoods; and a Letter of Intent has been signed with Cawthron to build a beneficial relationship with New Zealand's aquaculture industry.

Scotland at the forefront of global industrial biotech

Scotland is creating waves in the global biotechnology arena, thanks to £3m of investment in synthetic biology projects generated by the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC).

The synthetic biology market is expected to reach over $38bn globally by 2020, and the IBioIC funding will raise the profile of Scotland's capabilities in this field.

Among the international businesses investing in these projects and linking up with Scottish universities (Glasgow, Edinburgh and St Andrews) are Lucite International, Unilever and Nissan Chemicals.

SMS-IC and AstraZeneca: a major global programme

In 2016, AstraZeneca (AZ) set up global collaborations as part of a ground-breaking genomics initiative that aims to identify rare genetic variations associated with disease.

The Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre (SMS-IC) was selected as one of these collaborations – one of only four globally for AZ. It is providing AZ with the platform for collaboration, linking Scotland's clinical expertise, data assets and NHS delivery infrastructure to access relevant project partners.

The collaboration recognises the ability of Scotland's world-leading clinical, health informatics and genomics research base, and SMC-IC, to help deliver AZ's vision.