

# ADVERTORIAL: The University of Leicester drives innovation to help boost the region's economy

The University of Leicester is proud to be a partner and headline sponsor of the [LeicestershireLive Innovation Awards 2023](#) which recognise, celebrate and reward the businesses, organisations and individuals who are dedicated to innovation.

Driving new ideas and innovation for businesses and industry has never been more important to help build the economy and increase productivity in a post pandemic world.

The University of Leicester's Innovation Hub works closely with industry to turn research expertise and business ideas into innovative products, services and processes that can transform lives as well as drive productivity and efficiency gains.

Manager of the Leicester Innovation Hub and head of Leicester Innovation Accelerator, [Rajinder Bhuhi](#) said: "It takes a village to raise a child – and a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem to generate innovative start-ups, businesses and supportive business communities.

"It is now more vital than ever to ensure that businesses are well equipped to meet the current and ongoing challenges we face, and that innovation is used as a catalyst to drive sustainable recovery.

"Our focus is to improve access to research and development and funding opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and also to provide support and training through our incubation hub."

The Leicester Innovation Hub provides expertise across a number of industries including:

- Scientific, engineering and space-based services
- Medical and pharmaceutical services
- Innovation, design and market research support services



The Business School at Leicester University also runs the highly acclaimed [Help to Grow](#) programme which provides SMEs with the opportunity for professional growth, business development and collaborative learning. The course provides practical, real-world support enabling participants to benefit from the latest academic thinking.

Developed by subject specialists and industry experts across the UK and delivered by highly qualified academics, facilitators and business mentors, the course brings SME decision makers together to deliver business growth with a focus on productivity, sustainability and resilience.

Leicester is one of the world's fastest growing space clusters and to help the industry's businesses continue to expand and develop, has launched a free networking event called Cosmic Coffee. This monthly event held at the Space Park provides an exciting new platform for those working in and around the space community in the Midlands.

- To find out more visit the School of Business [website](#) and the [Leicester Innovation Hub](#).

# LeicestershireLive Innovation Awards 2023



The 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award went to Prof Kamlesh Khunti

The awards are one of the highlights of the annual Leicestershire Innovation Festival (February 6-17 2023) and will take place on Thursday, February 16 2023 at the National Space Centre. The festival also includes University of Leicester Innovation Friday on February 17.

At the 2022 ceremony, the University of Leicester was delighted that among its commercial partners that were nominated for awards, Lance Space and Water Solutions were winners of the Innovation in Space category.

Professor Kamlesh Khunti of the University of Leicester Diabetes Research Centre was also recognised with the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) in recognition of his dedication to helping

people with diabetes and driving research into the impact of Covid-19, where he was able to implement his findings as a member of the SAGE advisory group.

- To find out more about LeicestershireLive Innovation Awards 2023 [CLICK HERE](#)