

Bristol university spinout secures £8.5 million to open new site

A spin-out from the University of Bristol has secured £8.5m to open its third deep tech incubator in the city.

The investment in Science Creates, backed by Research England, part of UKRI, and the University of Bristol, will see a 30,000 sq ft building to provide support for roughly 275 new companies across the South West, specifically spin outs. Facilities include ducted fume cupboards, containment level two labs, a new dedicated AI server capability connectivity and high speed internet.

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The third incubator will increase facilities by over 65% to 75,000 sq ft. Science Creates opened two years ago in Bristol Old Market with support from UKRI and the University of Bristol. To date, the spin-out has supported over 100 deep tech startups and spin-outs. Its facilities provide essential R&D space and support to some of the UK's most promising quantum and biotech companies including delta g, QLM, Scarlet Therapeutics and Imophoron.

Harry Destecroix, founder of one of the UK's most successful spin-outs (Ziylo), and founder of the Science Creates ecosystem, said: "We founded Science Creates in 2015, just one year after spinning out Ziylo, because the biggest barrier we faced was access to advanced research facilities. We also wanted to find people who understood the unique challenges that deep tech spin-outs face. Being part of only 0.3% of UK companies that are spinouts, we decided to do something about it."

“UK spin-outs are, and will be, driving the fourth industrial revolution. All we want to do is help world-class engineers and scientists who have discovered important technological breakthroughs, to build impactful deep tech companies. This will improve the health of the human race and the health of our planet. The additional physical infrastructure will allow deep tech companies to scale and emerge.”

Dr Jon Hunt, the University of Bristol’s executive director for research, enterprise & innovation, added: “The University of Bristol is a great powerhouse for spin-outs. This success is attributable to excellent research by world class academics combined with a high-quality research commercialisation team and a vibrant, entrepreneurial ecosystem. The new incubator, located in the heart of our new Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, will help create the next generation of deep tech spin-outs, in quantum, cyber, engineering biology and much more. I hope and expect many of these companies will thrive and grow to help us deliver on our mission to make a positive impact locally, nationally, and globally by addressing society’s greatest challenges.”

Alongside the new incubator, Science Creates is also announcing a major upgrade to its IT network infrastructure across all of its sites, with allowing companies access of up to 10GB of internet bandwidth. This ensures they can continue to leverage supercomputing and AI.