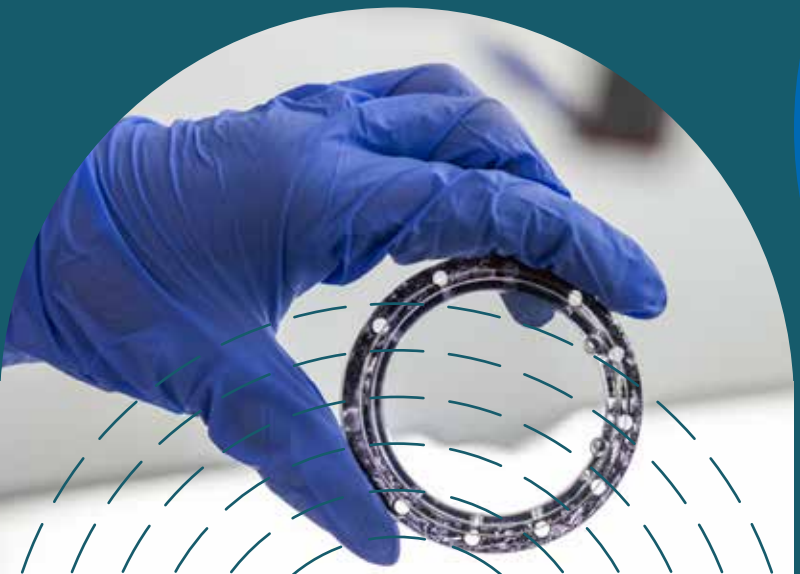

ENGINEERING BIOLOGY

ENERGISING INNOVATION IN NORFOLK

Norfolk Business Board

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ENGINEERING BIOLOGY — ENERGISING INNOVATION IN NORFOLK

Norfolk's engineering biology sector is advancing discovery, supporting health and stimulating the UK's innovation economy. It contributes significantly to Norfolk's economic energy, offering high-value career opportunities, cutting-edge science and a platform for new innovative businesses and technologies.

With its unique breadth and depth of scientific activity in agri-food, nutrition, health and the environment, the sector is anchored by one of the largest scientific clusters in Europe, at Norwich Research Park. The campus is a research cluster that brings together internationally recognised research institutes, a university and university hospital, and a growing community of high-growth businesses. The cluster is a magnet for high-value activity across multiple growth-driving sectors in the government's UK Modern Industrial Strategy, producing research across life sciences, digital and technology, agri-food and agri-tech, as well as advanced manufacturing.

FOUR THEMES DEFINE THE ENGINEERING BIOLOGY SECTOR IN NORFOLK

1. COMPETING GLOBALLY

- With over **30,000 people** on site, Norwich Research Park is Europe's largest cluster for food, health, plant and microbial science. It is home to the John Innes Centre, Quadram Institute, Earlham Institute, The Sainsbury Laboratory, University of East Anglia, and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. It is also home to more than **50 companies**[1].
- It is the home of the Centre for Microbial Interactions, representing the largest cluster of microbiologists on one site in the UK with over **100 research groups**.
- Norwich Research Park is also the only UK campus with three strategically supported institutes funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). It has attracted **£163.9 million** in strategic investment for a five-year period (to 2028), strengthening the region's capacity for discovery research and bridging the gap between lab discoveries and real-world health improvements and economic impact[2].
- The research institutes deliver pioneering studies in areas such as plant genetics, microbiology, nutrition and disease, reinforcing Norfolk's position as a centre of global excellence.

£350M
GVA GENERATED ANNUALLY

2. COMMERCIAL INNOVATION AND BUSINESS GROWTH

- Life sciences and biotech generate **£350 million** of GVA annually for Norfolk. Job numbers in the sector are forecast to grow by **9.8% by 2033**, among the highest of any local growth sector.
- A thriving cluster of agribiotech, food biotech, industrial biotech, diagnostics and med-tech companies is emerging, supported by 1m sq ft of planning consent for new accommodation and access to **£200 million** of private investment from the Park's real estate investment partner Vengrove to be deployed over the next decade. This will expand available space for scaling firms and attract the inward location and retention of high-value businesses.
- As well as its key specialisms, the sector creates the foundations for research activity that enables sustainable growth, resulting in cross-disciplinary innovation which is central to the county's long-term economic strategy.

3. INVESTING IN SKILLS, TALENT AND TRAINING

- The talent ecosystem at Norwich Research Park is comprised of a **30,000-strong** community, including **15,000 students**, **12,000 staff** and **3,000 researchers and clinicians** based at the campus.
- As an identified high-growth sector within the Norfolk Local Growth Plan, engineering biology contributes to local ambitions for high-value employment and inclusive economic growth.
- Collaboration between the university, the research institutes and industry provide specialist training pipelines in bioscience, data, health and translational research.

4. COLLABORATION DRIVING INNOVATION AND IMPACT

- Partnerships across education, industry, the NHS and national innovation agencies strengthen Norfolk's engineering biology ecosystem.
- Norwich Research Park's role within national research programmes creates opportunities for commercialisation and supports emerging SMEs and spinouts. This is facilitated by the campus management company Anglia Innovation Partnership, which is managing the growing ecosystem of over **50 research-based** businesses to start-up, spin-out and scale-up. And, through an incubation programme and work with industry, it has created a pipeline of new businesses at the Park.
- This collaborative culture helps Norfolk translate scientific excellence into economic and societal value, sustaining the county's reputation for discovery and problem-solving.

WHAT THE NORFOLK ENGINEERING BIOLOGY SECTOR NEEDS

1. To maintain its global competitiveness, Norfolk's engineering biology sector needs continued investment in research institutes, universities and hospitals.
2. Commercialisation is vital for the development of a successful engineering biology cluster. Further investment in an integrated approach between research-active organisations and industry partners will be key.
3. Norfolk needs more laboratory, grow-on and manufacturing space to attract and retain scaling businesses. A viable pathway will be to facilitate private sector investment and raise the commercial appeal of research sites for private investment.
4. Most importantly, Norfolk needs wider recognition from government and the private sector as the world-leading engineering biology cluster it is. This can be done through policies which attract early-stage R&D companies and inward investment from overseas, thus increasing its competitiveness on an international stage. This is critical to ensure the targeted investment in skills, infrastructure and innovation that is required to harness the county's vast potential.

With continued investment, collaboration and recognition, Norfolk's engineering biology sector is poised to turn world-class discovery into lasting health, economic and environmental impact.

Right: © Norwich Research Park
Sources: 1. Norwich Research Park, 2. Norfolk Local Growth Plan

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