



Research Partnership

# OUR CAPABILITIES

COLLABORATION. EXCELLENCE. GROWTH.



N8 is a partnership of the eight most research-intensive universities in the North of England: Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York.



## CORPORATE DATA

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**Working with industry, N8 maximises the impact of this research base by identifying and coordinating powerful research collaborations across the North of England and beyond.**

The N8 universities have critical mass of research capability and represent a significant cluster of research power among the 130 universities in the UK:

- Almost 15,000 academic staff – 12% of UK total
- Over 38,000 postgraduate students – 11% of UK total (taught and research)
- Total research income in 2010/11 was £747m – 17% of UK total
- Almost £500m of Government research funding – 18% of UK total
- £72m of UK industrial research funding – 16% of UK total
- £120m from overseas research partners
- All eight universities in the top 1% of institutions in the world.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

Our mission is to:

- promote collaboration between universities, business and other research users,
- deliver excellence through our research capabilities and programmes, and
- drive economic growth by generating income, jobs and new businesses.

## DIFFERENTIATORS

Key features of the N8 partnership and how we support knowledge exchange and innovation:

- Light touch collaborative models that promote quicker and easier access to the research base
- A collaborative approach to connecting private sector R&D with world-class research from the “power of 8” universities
- A strategic approach to scientific excellence though planning and investment in state-of-the-art research assets
- Five year track record of working together and experience of developing successful collaborations.

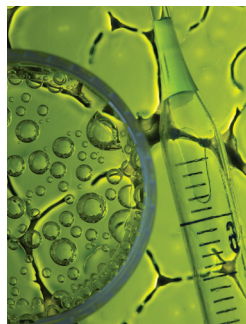
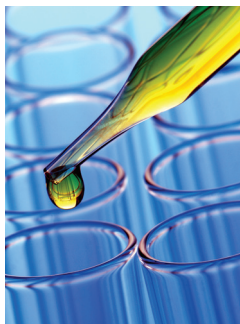
## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO CONNECTING PRIVATE SECTOR R&D WITH WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH FROM THE “POWER OF 8” UNIVERSITIES



### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the five years since it was formed, the N8 Research Partnership has:

- Worked with over 200 new businesses, many of which are SMEs, to develop supply chains and connect them to larger industry players
- Generated over £41m of income and created 60 jobs
- Created Regener8 and METRC – two flagship centres of specialist expertise in regenerative medicine and molecular engineering, each with a critical mass of assets to support broader industrial and commercial opportunities
- Delivered a collaborative research programme on Demographic Change, working with LEPs and Local Authorities to implement the findings. The programme was launched by Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister of State for Universities and Science
- Formed a specialist parasitology network to address issues such as the development of vaccines, diagnostic tools and drugs
- Launched the N8 Industry Innovation Forum to maximise links between leading private sector R&D and the research base in the UK
- Initiated Proof of Concept funding through Regener8 and the Medical Technologies IKC, funding N8 projects that align with the therapeutic priorities identified in the Research Council’s UK regenerative medicine roadmap
- Introduced the METRC Innovation Awards to support new research and innovation projects between universities and companies (particularly SMEs) in the fields of Nanotechnology, Science and Engineering
- Established the £3.25m High Performance Computing centre, to enable N8 partners to combine research strengths, build more realistic computational models and undertake more complex analyses
- Launched the “Sharing for excellence and growth” project to identify opportunities for world leading, state-of-the-art research assets and greater collaboration with industry and technology suppliers.



## N8 INDUSTRY INNOVATION FORUM (N8IIF)

The N8 Industry Innovation Forum is an initiative funded by HEFCE and the Technology Strategy Board to connect leading businesses with research intensive universities and other key organisations and networks.

The initial partners are the N8 universities, and ten global firms involved with research and development, including AstraZeneca, Croda, National Nuclear Laboratory, Procter & Gamble, Reckitt Benckiser, Smith & Nephew and Unilever.

The N8IIF will act as a catalyst by:

- Maximising linkages and market pull between private sector R&D, industrial and consumer needs and the world class research base in the UK
- Matching the challenges and needs of industry with new insights and solutions from the research base in specific topic areas
- Utilising the combined expertise and capabilities of the N8 Research Partnership to bring about new, step changing innovations and create new industry-industry and industry-academic partnerships
- Providing efficient and effective access to the N8 science base. Enquiries are cross-referred across institutions, allowing businesses to have a single conversation with eight universities around specific topic areas
- Driving innovation, competitive advantage and growth through enabling companies to access new technologies and ideas at the boundaries of their core business.

**N8 Industry Innovation Forum meetings are coordinated around specific topics where there is significant cross sector, industry demand for new insights and research capability, including Advanced Materials and Active and Healthy Ageing.**



[www.n8research.org.uk](http://www.n8research.org.uk)

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