

PRESS RELEASE**Subject: Further Progress at Cardiff Medicentre****Source: UKSPA Members' Update****Publication Date: 7 October 2011****Cardiff Medicentre**

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Cardiff Medicentre, the UK's first and Wales's foremost medical, healthcare and life sciences company incubation centre, has seen an unprecedented increase in demand for its high quality, low-cost office and laboratory accommodation from early-stage high-tech businesses over the past twelve months.

Located on the 53-acre University of Wales Hospital site on the outskirts of the Welsh capital, the purpose-built high-tech centre has seen occupancy rates jump from 60 per cent to 85 per cent year-on-year and is now home to 19 of the most enterprising life sciences organisations in the UK specialising in pharmaceutical-enabling technologies, drug development, clinical training, forensic consultancy and bio-analytical services.

The marked rise in demand for laboratory and office space in Cardiff is reflective of the growing economic significance of the life sciences sector in Wales, which is now worth more than £1.3 billion to the Welsh economy every year and employs over 15,000 people.

Among the recent arrivals are smile-on Ltd (medical e-learning), The Skin Pharmacy (e-dermatology), Diurnal Ltd (drug discovery), Cansford Laboratories Ltd (bio-analytical services), and Abcellute Ltd (cell preservation technologies).

In addition to the new arrivals, several existing tenants have expanded their operations at the centre, including AssayMetrics, the drug discovery tools company, CEDAR (medical technology evaluation), and Pharmatelligence.

Dr Mark Bowman, Director of Innovation for Cardiff Medicentre, said: 'Being based on the same site as the University of Wales Hospital provides tenants with unprecedented access to some of the country's leading academic and clinical centres of expertise in addition to receiving support from a team of people with an unrivalled track record of successfully bringing innovative medical, healthcare and life sciences products to market. Both Cardiff and the wider Welsh economy have become an increasingly attractive location for businesses to base their operations, and the Cardiff Medicentre's reputation for facilitating the growth and expansion of a number of highly successful early-stage high-technology entrepreneurial businesses is continuing to grow.'

As an example, AssayMetrics recently secured an undisclosed second-round equity investment from Finance Wales to fund an international sales and marketing campaign. While Asalus Medical Instruments Ltd, a spin-out company from fellow tenant WIMAT, has successfully completed a £510,000 funding that will enable the further development of its first three products: Clearvision, Snugport and Surehold.

For further information on Cardiff Medicentre, visit www.cardiffmedicentre.co.uk.