

The Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials/Tata Steel Materials MedTech Centre, will be a first of a kind £30m public-private partnership with a new approach to applying materials innovations to support the nation's health and position the UK as global leader. The Centre will connect a diverse ecosystem of healthcare providers, research leaders, industry players and investors centred in the NorthWest and North of England. It will link the whole supply chain through clear regulatory, de-risking and investment pathways. By combining specialist clinical and technical knowledge with commercialisation knowhow, it will unlock new opportunities for sustainable healthcare and accelerate commercialisation in rapidly expanding global markets.

The proposed model is structured to make a paradigm shift to the medical materials innovation ecosystem and bring a step-change in delivering vital new solutions to clear unmet healthcare needs. The strong partnership with Tata Steel's New Materials and Graphene division will help address scale-up capability and economic viability. The precise aim is to accelerate the discovery and application of new biomedical materials in specific areas of high impact i.e. bioelectronics, wound care and bone replacement.

The centre will enable early access to major advances in materials science from UK universities and research institutes, and help achieve greater positive societal impact from the research, through major healthcare companies, start-ups and healthcare providers. By combining clear 'top-down' demands with 'bottom-up' understanding of materials opportunities the centre will bring together the complete supply chain to bridge the readiness gaps between lab-based materials research and proven, de-risked technologies that can be integrated and adopted at scale. The proposed model has been proven in pharma by Apollo Therapeutics (which has now raised \$400m) bringing together university drug discovery expertise with drug development knowhow of three major pharma companies. This would be the first use of that model outside pharma.

The centre will bring an understanding of the needs of commercial readiness to de-risk health innovations and create more attractive opportunities for both industry and the wider investment community. Although initially funded through government and Tata Steel (via the agreed investment in Royce) the aim is that the centre will become sustainable through additional industry funding because of the new and highly effective commercialisation pathways created.

Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Health Innovations and Digital have been recognised as three of Northern England's four prime capabilities with major sectoral strengths and R&D assets (NorthWest life-science industry sector >£6bn turnover) and also priority areas of the GM industrial strategy. The Royce/Tata Steel Materials Medtech Centre will work at the intersection of these prime capabilities aligning with the regional industrial strategy to improve productivity of the region. The devolved health and care budget to GM means that working closely with GMCA, additional support will likely be provided. The development of the £1.7bn Innovation District by UoM and Bruntsford Sci-Tech (ID Manchester) and the Mayoral Development Zone Atom Valley with a focus on materials innovation and manufacturing provides additional opportunities for further investment and an ideal place to house the centre.

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