

MIDLANDS ENGINE HEALTH

Focus on MedTech - A strategy for stabilising the supply of Essential Generic Medicines

MIDLANDS
ENGINE



As businesses navigate through one of the most turbulent periods in UK history, Midlands Engine Health Board member, Dr Nik Kotecha OBE, (Chairman of Morningside Pharmaceuticals Ltd) - manufacturer and supplier of medicines to the UK and international export markets - has written widely on the need for resilient and aligned supply chains that allow companies to remain strong despite economic and political headwinds:

"The disruption to imports and exports caused by Covid-19 and the potential challenges of the end of the EU transition period have made focusing on the region's supply chains a necessity. As we move forward, every company and sector will have to adapt and to adapt very quickly. It is crucial that the supply chains that support such key activity as the manufacture and distribution of medicines be equally resilient and flexible.

"In the first instance, there are individual actions that companies can take to achieve this, such as applying to become a Full Authorised Economic Operator (as Morningside Pharmaceuticals Ltd has done). This international standard accreditation, given by HMRC, shows that our supply chain processes are safe and secure. It also ensures that the holder may be able to benefit from arrangements under Mutual Recognition Agreements, which are agreed with third country customs authorities. The benefits of this accreditation are that it is recognised by not just the EU, but countries around the world, which will be enormously beneficial for businesses looking to tap into new global markets.

"But there are also actions that the region can take as a collective. Midlands Engine Health will be crucial as partners seek to expand the world-leading capabilities of the region. Now, at the end of the Transition Period with the European Union, Midlands Engine Health will enable the region to identify and capitalise on new global opportunities, as well as attracting international investment and accelerate sector-wide growth."

One fantastic opportunity for the region is the potential to address some of these challenges

through the Freeport at East Midlands Airport. Dr Nik Kotecha: "We have a great opportunity to create a Freeport environment around East Midlands Airport, with wider benefits that reach across the Midlands. It's not just the tax incentives and growing jobs in our region, but the opportunity to do more innovation, manufacturing and international trade, while improving productivity. I've seen it work in other parts of the world like the Dubai Jebel Ali Freezone and the Shenzhen Free Trade Zone, where it opens up new markets.



Dr Nik Kotecha OBE, Chairman, Morningside Pharmaceuticals

"Another opportunity is to store raw materials there. One of the biggest challenges during Covid-19, particularly in manufacturing, was quickly sourcing the raw materials and ingredients. If you have a stockpile of raw materials in a free zone ready to be directed to the UK or international markets, then this will really help in the future.

"There are also some great opportunities for us to create innovative businesses in that area. It will help bring wider inward investment from the UK and internationally, as more companies may look to use the Midlands as a base. The strength of East Midlands Airport as the largest cargo airport in the UK gives us an enormous opportunity post-Brexit for more global trade."