

MIDLANDS ENGINE HEALTH

Focus on MedTech

West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster

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The West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster (WMHTC) is a new initiative being developed to make existing companies more successful, as well as attracting investment and new businesses to the region. WMHTC Executive Chair David Kidney: "We set up a health technologies cluster in 2020 to help businesses in this sector to help themselves be more successful.

"The Midlands is home to a growing health technologies sector and Covid-19, and the response to it, has stimulated rapid innovative developments and massive investment in devices, diagnostics and new digital products, areas where we are strong.

"I can only see this innovation and demand continuing to grow in the years ahead. I see the role of the health technologies cluster as being to further encourage greater collaboration across private, public and academic organisations and highlighting the Midlands region as the place for health technologies businesses to thrive.

"The cluster aims to help grow the contribution to the region's economy made by successful health technologies businesses. The Midlands health technologies ecosystem is large and diverse, comprising businesses, universities, healthcare providers, regulators and investors. We have established strengths in medical devices, in diagnostics and increasingly in digital solutions. All these strengths are underpinned by rich depositories of relevant data, for example from clinical trials - which are attractive to businesses and investors. And we have established links and crossovers with a superb modern manufacturing base.

"We have the skills and the land, and the costs of both are very competitive. Supporting what is an academic sector of high repute, we have a supportive network of colleges and schools and some of the biggest and most successful NHS Trusts committed to nurturing learning and stimulating innovation.



David Kidney, WMHTC Executive Chair

"Competition for health technologies investment is keen, both in the UK and globally. We need to be ambitious and determined to make the Midlands a winner. I want us to offer organisations and investors access to businesses support, provide information, make introductions and help build networks - a concierge service in effect.

"We must work collaboratively right across the Midlands: outward facing, offering all-comers coordinated services. This is about different organisations being totally determined to show a united front to the world. We will be successful if we get the three Cs right: Collaboration, Coherence and Communication."