

SIGHT: Supporting Innovation and Growth in Healthcare Technologies

Executive Summary November 2019 - June 2023



£45.5m Total net economic impact ⁽¹⁾

£22.71 created for every £1
invested in SIGHT ⁽¹⁾

42

SME bids supported
during 2022 to a
value of **c.£25m**,
with **c.£7m** won

c.£1m

income to UoP
from SME bids

c.£2m

income to PHU
from SME bids

8

businesses attracted
to launch in the UK,
5 registering in
Portsmouth

7/7

ERDF Performance
Targets Achieved

SIGHT (Supporting Innovation and Growth in Healthcare Technologies) was an ERDF-funded business support project led by the University of Portsmouth in conjunction with the Wessex CRN and Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, designed to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in the healthcare sector.

The programme provided SMEs with the insight and specific evidence required to ensure their products meet real, identified market needs along with the necessary guidance and support to enter and expand in new healthcare markets.

The ERDF award of £1.7m was increased to £2.2m due to the programme's success. In addition, the University provided supplementary funding to enable the programme to expand its activities beyond the EU parameters, thus allowing international businesses to be engaged as well as earlier TRL collaboration activity to be supported.

90

UoP academics
engaged across all
five faculties

> 75

clinical colleagues
engaged with SIGHT
member companies

> 500

companies in
the network

> 60

events
in person and
virtual, with **c.1,200**
attendees

> 3,500

hours of business
engagement and
support



National recognition

- Recommended by MHCLG for inclusion in ministerial briefing on Brexit as one of the best three UK EU funded programmes in winter 2021
- Referenced by Dame Caroline Dinenage, MP for Gosport, in a Westminster Hall debate on 28 March 2023 regarding 'Medical Technology Regulations and the NHS' as providing 'an important boost to the regional economy' ⁽²⁾



Future legacy

- Established successful relationships between universities, hospitals and healthcare SMEs with an integrated agenda that can be built on
- Tested methodology on the healthcare sector that could be adapted to help other sectors which also have strict legislations and regulations with a long process for market entry



Quotes from our members

"SIGHT is a fantastic idea and they really have cracked the whole business of being a common point of entry to academic and medical teams for SMEs."

"This led to collaboration on clinical studies and 2 large Innovate UK grants!"

"They have you covered in all aspects of your medical device market, from regulatory to understanding the needs of the UK market, you name it, they have it!"

"I am very happy with the support provided, my business has progressed hugely thanks to SIGHT's support"

"It enabled us to make relationships with NHS Trusts which we would have struggled to have gotten otherwise"

"It guided our strategy to early stage funding"

"Great networking events, they do these particularly well, all the right people together in the same place"

References

- (1) EPM Summative Assessment Summary Report: <https://www.sightprogramme.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SIGHT-Executive-Summary-Report-2023.pdf>
- (2) <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-28/debates/579BB9CC-7DC8-4DDE-9D4E-974DF4971BE1/MedicalTechnologyRegulationsAndTheNHS>