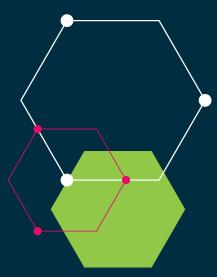
# THE**EPI**CENTRE

# CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

of Innovation, Growth, and Impact





For 5 years, The EpiCentre has been a beacon of innovation and enterprise at the heart of South Cambridgeshire's Business Cluster, a vibrant community of life science and technology businesses. From ambitious startups to scaling ventures, The EpiCentre has provided more than just workspace, it has offered a launchpad for growth, collaboration, and transformation.

This booklet celebrates the remarkable journeys of businesses that have found their footing and flourished within The EpiCentre. Each story is a testament to the power of vision, resilience, and the supportive ecosystem that defines this unique hub. From securing investment to expanding teams, the centre's tailored growth programmes, including EpiFund and EpiBoost, have empowered ventures to take bold steps toward commercial success.

As we reflect on the impact The EpiCentre has made, we honour the achievements of its community, celebrate the present momentum, and look forward to a future filled with even greater possibilities. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Celebrating five years of The EpiCentre is a proud moment for all of us. From day one, our mission has been to create a space where innovation thrives and businesses can grow. Today, we stand as a vibrant community of entrepreneurs and innovators who are shaping the future of science and technology - having supported 172 companies and helped secure £150 million in funding. This milestone is not just about the past five years, it's about the exciting opportunities ahead and the

- Jo Stevens, Managing Director of Oxford Innovation Space

continued impact we will make together





## FUNDING RAISED

£150 million in grants and investments secured

# **COMPANIES SUPPORTED**

172 total companies supported within The EpiCentre



# COMPANIES IN LABS

20 companies have done groundbreaking work in our labs

Lord Robert Winston visited The EpiCentre in Haverhill to tour its laboratory facilities and learn about the progress being made to attract biotech and life science businesses to the area as part of the first Haverhill Science Festival Week, in April 2024.



#### **JOBS CREATED**

Over 300 jobs provided from The EpiCentre

YEARS OF

**IMPACT** 

**AT** 

THEEPICENTRE



# **ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION**

£10.5 million added in value to the local economy

#### BUSINESS SUPPORT

Over 2,000 hours of mentoring provided by our Innovation Directors



# **KEY SECTORS**

# AT THE **EPICENTRE**



Chemistry and Biotechnology



Microbiology



Artificial Intelligence



Technology



Business Services



Manufacturing



Export



Engineering







Constuction Services



Packaging



Charity

# **THE WIRE**

The Wire has just launched!

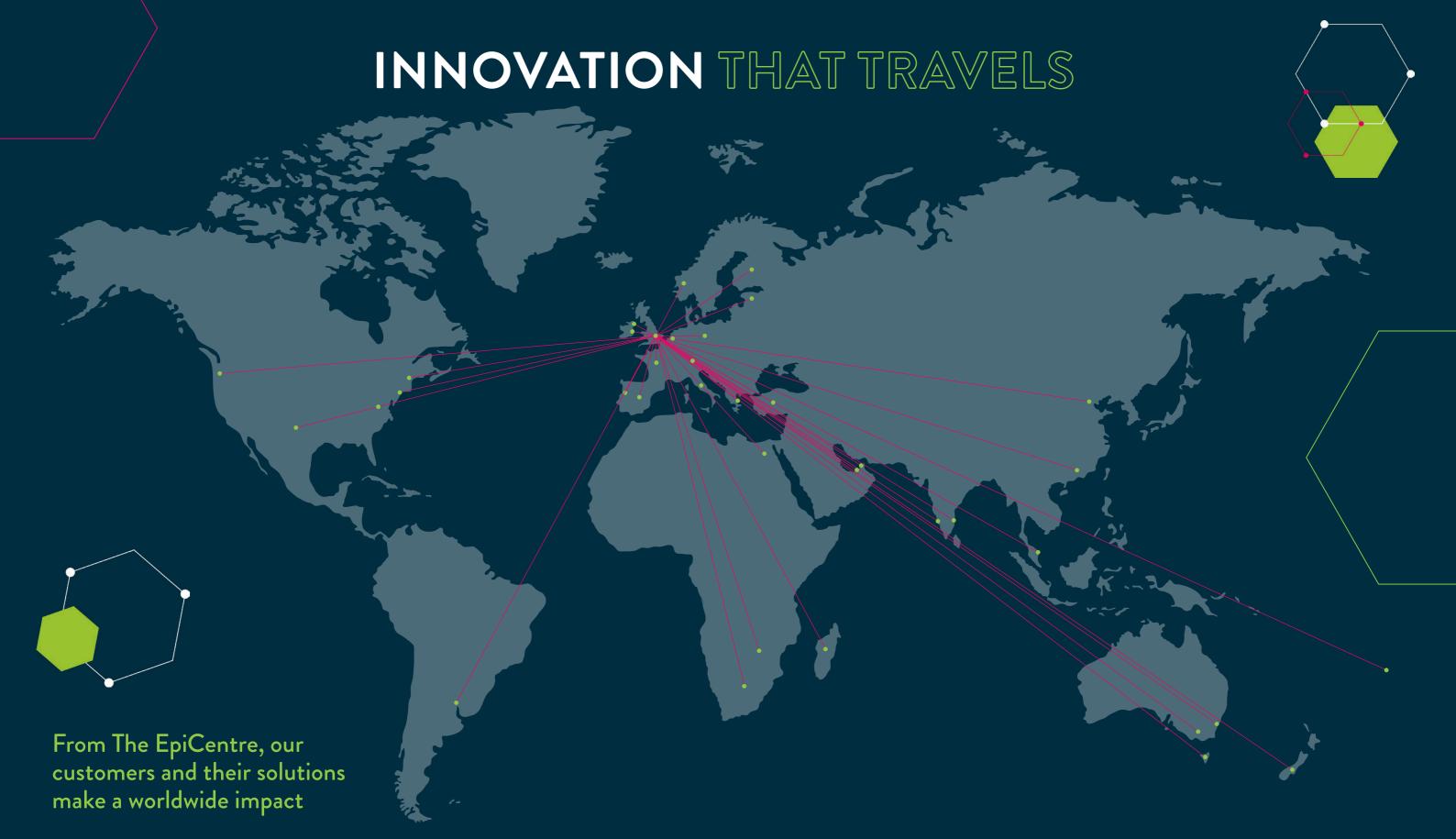
A new digital platform connecting over 900 businesses across Oxford Innovation Space centres in the UK and Ireland, including The EpiCentre. It's designed to help members collaborate, share knowledge, access expert advice, and spark new partnerships across our innovation network.



"I found the Strategy, Sales and Solutions seminar that Gary [Innovation Director at The EpiCentre] delivered to our group to be genuinely inspiring!

Not only did it refresh so many foundational business strategies that I thought I had down - but had admittedly let fade into the background.

- Clive Smart. Mediaseer



- Argentina
- Buenos Aires
- Australia
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- Sydney

- Canada
- Vermont
- China
- Beijing
- Hong Kong (SAR)

- Egypt • Estonia
- Finland
- France
- French Polynesia
- Germany
- Berlin
- Munich
- Greece
- Athens

- India
- Chennai
- Mangalore
- Ireland
- Dublin – Belfast
- Netherlands • New Zealand

• Italy

• Madagascar

• Malaysia

- Norway
- Portugal
- South Africa
- Spain
- Turkey

- UAE
- Abu Dhabi
- Dubai
- USA:
- New York
- Massachusetts
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- Zimbabwe

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF INNOVATION WITH SKC STUDIOS

# Igniting Innovation: SKC Studios' Journey as The EpiCentre's Founding Trailblazer

In 2019, SKC Studios became the very first company to join us at The EpiCentre, setting the stage for a partnership that would help shape the future of innovation in Haverhill and beyond. Over the past five years, we have proudly watched SKC Studios evolve from a creative game development studio into a pioneering force in Al-powered customer engagement. Their flagship product, 1956 Individuals, an Al-powered platform of emotionally intelligent avatars, is redefining how people interact with information and experience brands.

#### From Game Worlds to Real-World Impact

SKC Studios began as SKC Games Studio, fuelled by a passion for crafting emotionally intelligent game environments. Their team was determined to push boundaries, embedding advanced Al into non-player characters (NPCs) to create authentic, engaging connections. As their technology matured, so did their vision. Recognising the transformative potential of their innovations, SKC Studios pivoted from gaming to enterprise Al, developing avatars capable of natural conversation, emotional awareness, and personalised engagement across sectors including museums, healthcare, and retail.



This bold transition marked a new era in human-computer interaction. Today, 1956 Individuals is making waves with cultural institutions like Bletchley Park and Leeds Castle, and is powering a new healthcare project. The platform's versatility is opening doors in retail, hospitality, and tourism, enabling organisations to build meaningful relationships, one conversation at a time.

#### A Creative Team with Vision

At the heart of 1956 Individuals is a multi-BAFTA award-winning creative team whose passion for storytelling and human connection sets SKC Studios apart. Their artistic expertise brings emotional depth to every avatar, ensuring each character is not only visually compelling but also capable of fostering genuine, empathetic engagement. This unique blend of narrative and digital ingenuity is what makes 1956 Individuals trusted, relatable, and truly impactful.

#### Innovation Rooted in Empathy and Ethic

SKC Studios' mission is underpinned by a deep commitment to ethical Al, grounded in transparency, privacy, and inclusion. Their approach ensures avatars are not just technically advanced and multilingual, but

emotionally resonant. With features like advanced facial expression recognition and contextual understanding, each character delivers an engaging, human-centred experience. This blend of responsible innovation with creativity has earned the reputation for SKC Studios as a global leader in scalable, impactful Al solutions.

#### Milestones That Inspire

In the past year, 1956 Individuals has achieved several milestones. Notably, the AI Alan Turing - developed in partnership with Bletchley Park - will offer visitors immersive, unscripted conversations about Turing's life. The creation of AI Queen Eleanor of Castile for Leeds Castle is set to transform heritage interpretation with engaging, factual storytelling. AI Zoe Starling is part of the Commerical Team at SKC Studios and operates 24/7, supporting the sales team across multiple sectors and geographies.

A standout achievement is SKC Studios' collaboration with Modality Partnership, one of the UK's largest and most innovative GP super-partnerships. Together, they are adapting the 1956 Individuals platform to transform patient access and experience at the NHS "digital front door," streamlining workflows and allowing clinicians to focus on compassionate care. This project, governed jointly and designed to meet NHS data protection and cybersecurity standards, positions SKC Studios at the forefront of healthcare innovation.

#### The EpiCentre: A Launchpad for Growth

As our first customer, SKC Studios found more than just office space - they found a supportive community and a launchpad for growth. Our state-of-the-art facilities and ecosystem of innovation partners have catalysed their expansion, product development, and client engagement. With our support, they have grown from a startup into a global player in AI, now employing 25 people and contributing to the local economy while expanding across the UK, Middle East, and Americas.

#### eading the Way in Al Advocacy

SKC Studios' leadership extends beyond technology. CEO Asa Burrows is a recognised advocate for ethical AI and AI literacy, committed to raising public awareness and guiding responsible adoption. His vision is reflected in projects like AI Alan Turing, developed in close collaboration with Turing's family and the Archive Centre at King's College, University of Cambridge, to create a respectful and truthful conversational AI experience.

#### Looking Ahead

As SKC Studios continues to push boundaries in Al and avatar technology, the future is bright. Their vision is a world where digital personas are seamlessly woven into everyday life, serving as trusted sources of information, advice, and companionship across healthcare, education, retail, and beyond. With capabilities that support multiple languages and dialects, the platform continues to expand its inclusivity and global reach.







# PIONEERING SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION WITH **KLURALABS**

Science with Purpose: KluraLabs' Journey from Pandemic Startup to Sector Disruptor

Founded in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, KluraLabs began with a bold vision: to create antimicrobial solutions that protect people without



From day one, KluraLabs has been guided by purpose. Their team of scientists and engineers, many holding PhDs in materials science, chemistry, and microbiology, are developing a new generation of antimicrobial technologies built on sustainable, non-toxic ingredients. These innovations are designed to integrate seamlessly into existing systems, making them not only effective but scalable and commercially viable.

# Sustainability

KluraLabs is already making a tangible impact. In food packaging, they are addressing one of the world's most pressing challenges: food waste. KluraLab's technology actively extends the shelf life of fresh produce by embedding antimicrobial functionality directly into

> packaging materials. In trials, fresh produce packaged with KluraLabs' technology stayed fresher for longer, reducing spoilage and improving value for consumers. With over a third of global food wasted annually, this innovation is more than a technical breakthrough, it's a step towards a more sustainable food system.

KluraLabs is now working with major UK supermarkets to integrate the technology into their supply chains, starting with high-loss categories like grapes and berries. Their innovative packaging solutions are also being explored for bakery goods, prepackaged meals, and other fresh produce, with the potential to reshape how food is protected and preserved across the supply chain.

What sets KluraLabs apart is not just their scientific excellence, but their unwavering commitment to sustainability. Every product is designed to be sustainable and friendly to people and the environment. Their technologies are compatible with existing manufacturing systems, making them practical and planetfriendly. This ethos aligns perfectly with The EpiCentre's values, and we are proud to support a company that is growing responsibly while making a global impact.

#### Fuelled by Support and Strategic Investment

KluraLabs' journey has been powered by strategic funding and expert guidance. KluraLabs has to date secured multiple millions pounds of funding from venture capital and government grants, validating both their scientific approach and commercial potential. Their team has expanded rapidly, supported by The EpiCentre's tailored business services - from mentoring and funding advice to networking and collaboration opportunities.

Being based here at The EpiCentre gives KluraLabs more than just space, it gives them a community. Surrounded by like-minded innovators, academic partners, and industry leaders, KluraLabs benefits from regular events, workshops, and collaborative projects that have accelerated their development. It's a reminder that innovation doesn't happen in isolation, it happens in connection.



#### Looking Ahead

KluraLabs is poised for even greater impact. They are scaling their technology across the globe. With The EpiCentre as their base, they are equipped to reach their research and development goals, elevate their influence, and continue disrupting their sector.

KluraLabs embodies everything The EpiCentre stands for: ambition, innovation, and community. Their journey from pandemic-born startup to industry leader is a testament to what's possible when science meets support. We are proud to be part of their story, and even prouder to help them write the next chapter.



# **1 ACCOUNTS ONLINE**

#### Family-Run, Community-Focused

In 2025, multi-award-winning firm 1 Accounts Online joined The EpiCentre, bringing their dynamic energy and commitment to SME success into our thriving business community. Founded in 2013 by Paul and Jenni Donno, this family-run team, including daughters Jade and Katie, Jade's husband Josh, and a talented group of 13, embodies the spirit of collaboration and growth that defines The EpiCentre.

#### Igniting Innovation for SMEs

1 Accounts Online is a trailblazer in cloud-based accounting, accelerating digital transformation for small businesses. Their Business Coaching Service delivers tailored mentoring in financial management and strategic planning, empowering entrepreneurs to elevate their ambitions. Through educational content and a dedicated podcast, 1 Accounts demystifies finance, making expert support accessible to all.



Director Jade Donno describes the move to

The EpiCentre as a strategic

decision to join a vibrant business community. "We had a new business enquiry the day after we moved in!" she shares, highlighting the centre's role as a catalyst for growth and connection.

#### Looking Ahead: Nurturing Success Together

1 Accounts Online remains committed to nurturing local talent, supporting SMEs, and leading with integrity. Their journey is a testament to the power of family, innovation, and community, values that resonate at the heart of The EpiCentre.

# **CP PACKAGING**

#### Ten Years of Expertise, One Bold Move

In 2024, brothers Kem and Altan Gokay brought **CP Packaging** to The EpiCentre, marking a pivotal moment in their journey. With a decade of experience in custom printed packaging and a client list including household names like Sandwich Sandwich and Chaiiwala, their arrival signalled a new chapter of innovation and ambition.

#### From Prime Time to Prime Demand

February 2025 saw **CP Packaging's** branded gift boxes featured on BBC's Dragons' Den, supporting LUMBERJAxe's winning pitch. The national spotlight sparked a surge in demand, over 5,000 boxes delivered this year alone, and opened the door to a promising long-term partnership.

#### Scaling Sustainably Across Europe

Momentum continued with investment from Halma Solutions Netherlands, enabling **CP Packaging** to expand into European markets. This strategic move not only broadened their reach but also reinforced their commitment to eco-conscious manufacturing across the UK and Europe.

#### Fuelled by The EpiCentre's Energy

For CP Packaging, The EpiCentre is more than a workspace, it's a launchpad for ideas and collaboration. "The environment here sparks new thinking," says Kem Gokay. With plans to grow their team locally, the company is set to scale with purpose, driven by innovation and community.



### THE AUDIOLOGY EXPERT

#### Independent Care, Personalised Solutions

Founded by Keyla and Luiz de Magalhães in 2021, **The Audiology Expert** has quickly become a trusted name in hearing healthcare across Suffolk and Warwickshire.

With clinics at The EpiCentre in Haverhill and in Leamington Spa, the practice offers comprehensive audiology services including diagnostic hearing tests, ear wax removal, tinnitus management, and advanced hearing aid fittings.

#### **Expertise Rooted in Experience**

The Audiology Expert team brings over two decades of clinical expertise, including experience within the NHS and leading private providers before establishing independent practice. The approach is refreshingly personal: every consultation is tailored to the patient's lifestyle, ensuring solutions that go beyond "one-size-fits-all." This independence allows access to the latest hearing technologies and specialist fitting procedures rarely offered by high-street chains.

#### Thriving with The EpiCentre's Support

Expert more than just a professional address—it's provided a collaborative environment and access to networking opportunities that fuel growth. The centre's business support services have helped streamline operations and marketing. "The EpiCentre makes it easy to focus on what matters most—our patients," Keyla shares.

#### A Trusted Name in the Community

With over 120 five-star reviews and a growing reputation for compassionate, expert care, **The Audiology Expert** continues to raise the bar for independent audiology. Backed by The EpiCentre's collaborative spirit, the practice is well-positioned to keep innovating and connecting with the communities it serves.

# **EDR TECHNOLOGY**

#### Smart Energy Meets Smarter Thinking

Since establishing its base at The EpiCentre in 2024, **EDR Technology** has rapidly become a driving force in sustainable energy and intelligent infrastructure. Its flagship innovation, the Energihub, is a modular platform integrating solar PV, wind turbines and battery energy storage systems. Designed for grid-tied, off-grid, and remote environments, it is helping major UK enterprises reduce operational costs and carbon impact, from construction firms to local and widespread businesses seeking energy independence, resilience and/or carbon and diesel reduction, promoting a healthier business.

#### Trusted Across Industries

EDR's bespoke consultancy, renewable systems, and loT-powered solutions are trusted by leaders in construction, infrastructure, and manufacturing. Their projects span from smart site deployments and hybrid energy systems to mobile and IoT SIM connectivity for critical operations and even signage and display projects. EDR delivers turnkey solutions that optimise performance, strengthen sustainability, and help clients accelerate their net-zero and digital transformation goals.

#### Scaling with Purpose

The EpiCentre has played a pivotal role in EDR's expansion, providing a dynamic base for innovation and collaboration, whilst supporting the EDR team's rapid growth. Managing Director Ed Aspeling credits The EpiCentres entrepreneurial ecosystem and strategic network as key catalysts for growth and impact. Beyond business, EDR continues to invest in community engagement, including coaching youth rugby in Haverhill, reflecting a genuine commitment to developing both people and progress.

#### Shaping a Smarter, Greener Future

**EDR Technology** is redefining the intersection of renewable energy, IoT, and smart infrastructure. With innovation at its core, the company's mission is clear: to empower businesses to thrive in a cleaner, more

connected world,
starting right here
at The EpiCentre
and scaling
across the
UK.



# **GRADUATIONS**

# K9 Digital

#### **GRADUATED JULY 2025**

K9 Digital, a creative powerhouse from The EpiCentre, specialises in 3D character and creature art for games, VR, TV, and film. Since graduating, they've gained industry recognition — shortlisted for major Game Development awards and with co-founder Tia Sparling nominated for a Women in Games award. Their community focus continues through events like their Brighton character art showcase, inspiring the next generation of digital artists.

> Read their full story on our website

# **PES Technologies**

#### **GRADUATED MAY 2025**

PES Technologies, pioneers in agri-tech innovation, continue to revolutionise soil health measurement with their ScentsCheck™ technology. Since graduating, they've secured follow-on investment from Green Angel Ventures and showcased their work nationwide, advancing sustainable agriculture and intelligent land management.

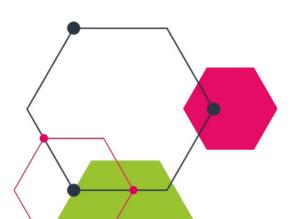
> Read their full story on our website

# **Analog Devices**

#### **GRADUATED JUNE 2024**

Analog Devices exemplifies innovation in the semiconductor industry. During and after their time at The EpiCentre, they launched ADI Power Studio and CodeFusion Studio™, and founded the OpenGMSL™ Association to drive collaboration in automotive technology — all strengthening their role as global leaders in connected, efficient engineering solutions.

> Read their full story on our website



# **ExpressionEdits**

#### **GRADUATED MARCH 2024**

ExpressionEdits has rapidly emerged as a leader in Al-driven biotechnology. After graduating from The EpiCentre, they joined the prestigious Babraham Institute, secured \$13M in seed funding, and partnered with Boehringer Ingelheim to expand their groundbreaking intronization technology into gene therapies. Their journey showcases the power of innovation and collaboration fostered at The EpiCentre.

> Read their full story on our website

# MultiplAl Health

#### **GRADUATED JULY 2023**

MultiplAl Health is transforming early disease detection with their RNA-based, Al-driven screening technology. Since graduating, their CardioMet-RNAseq™ test has surpassed clinical accuracy standards and been featured in the European Heart Journal – Digital Health, marking a major step toward accessible, routine disease screening worldwide.

> Read their full story on our website

# Amphista Therapeutics

#### **GRADUATED MARCH 2022**

Amphista Therapeutics continues to lead in Targeted Protein Degradation (TPD) innovation. Since leaving The EpiCentre, they've advanced multiple drug discovery milestones, including nominating their first clinical candidate for AML treatment and expanding their expert team. Their pioneering Targeted Glue® technology is reshaping the future of precision medicine.

> Read their full story on our website



THANK YOU
FOR CELEBRATING
#5YEARSOFINNOVATION
WITH US

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# **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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