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## **Ithaka Life Sciences renews successful contact with Scottish Enterprise**

Following successful delivery of a two-year programme, Ithaka Life Sciences, the leading provider of consultancy and interim management services to new and growing life science businesses, has had its existing contract with Scottish Enterprise extended to assist and advise life science research teams looking to move projects from the lab into the market place.

In the next phase, Ithaka will provide a programme of facilitation sessions, designed individually to meet the needs of all life science projects that are supported and funded by the Scotland-wide Proof of Concept Programme (PoCP). The sessions will focus on developing plans to optimise the strategy, process and outcomes of project commercialisation.

Dr Paul Rodgers, managing director of Ithaka said, 'Our relationship with Scottish Enterprise has allowed us to demonstrate our expertise in helping to create and develop companies from concept. Scotland is home to world-leading research – much of which is in life sciences. Scottish Enterprise's investment in assisting project teams from academe through to commercialisation will ensure that Scotland maintains and grows its leading edge.'

Ithaka has already worked with teams from the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde, from the Scottish Crop Research Institute and Scottish Health Boards.

The Proof of Concept Programme supports the pre-commercialisation of leading-edge technologies emerging from Scotland's universities, research institutes and NHS Boards. It helps researchers to export their ideas and inventions from the lab to the global marketplace.

Since it started in 1999, PoCP has received more than 900 applications over nine funding rounds, supporting 225 projects and yielding 42 spinout/start-up companies and 45 licensing deals, creating more than 500 jobs. The range of technologies supported under this scheme span areas such as neuroscience, medical imaging, drug discovery tools, bioinformatics, diagnostics and medical devices from wound care to orthopaedics.

The completed projects totalling £30.7m have leveraged over £238m of public/private investment.

The programme has £79m to commercialise academic research, comprising £69m from Scottish Enterprise and £10m from European Regional Development Funds.

Scottish Enterprise is Scotland's main enterprise, innovation and investment agency. Working in partnership with industry, academia and the public sector, SE aims to help make Scotland a place where business can thrive and key industries can be competitive. Its focus is to help businesses grow, encourage greater innovation and create the right conditions for companies to access property, markets and finance to increase productivity and increase Scotland's ability to compete internationally. For more information visit [www.scottish-enterprise.com](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)

## **ENDS**

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### **Ithaka Life Sciences**

Ithaka was founded in 2000 and has quickly built a reputation as one of the UK's leading advisory and interim management service providers, specialising in new and growing life science businesses. It offers expertise in a number of sectors including pharmaceutical R&D, medical devices, diagnostics and sensors, agriculture and food biotechnology. Its clients include universities, research institutions, life science businesses, investors and public sector bodies. It has offices in Cambridge, Durham and North West England.

[www.ithaka.co.uk](http://www.ithaka.co.uk)