



## Press release

# Spin-out success for previous Venturefest winner

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Creating further value from scientific expertise has produced another success for the Central Science Laboratory (CSL). In the first deal of its kind for the York-based government laboratory, a spin-out company has been established and sold on to private investors. The new company, Forsite Diagnostics Ltd, develops and produces innovative test kits for plant and animal diseases, food safety and environmental testing.

The innovations which underpin Forsite were developed in CSL's laboratories during the search for rapid, on-site tests to detect plant diseases. CSL's commercial director, Dr Robert Bolton, charts the progress of Forsite: 'We identified the potential several years ago, and began the process of development, culminating in attracting external investment. I am delighted to say that significant private sector funding from the UK and Canada has now been secured, and all the financial agreements for the new company are in place. The investors have a strong interest in diagnostic technologies, and the funding gives a significant return on investment for CSL as well as allowing onward expansion of the new company.' Further announcements about the investment and Forsite's plans for growth will be made in the coming months.

Forsite is leasing space on the CSL site at Sand Hutton. Chris Danks, the new chief executive, says, 'As a previous winner of the People's Prize at Venturefest, it is particularly pleasing to be at the event this year knowing that we have succeeded in our ultimate goal of expansion as an independent entity. The external investment will enable us to expand rapidly in response to growing customer demands. Watch this space!'



CSL is internationally recognised as a leader in the science of molecular diagnostics, and remains committed to further developing and exploiting its portfolio of intellectual property. The Laboratory is exhibiting at Venturefest 2007, with Forsite Diagnostics Ltd as a guest on its stand.

**Ends**

### **Notes for editors**

1. CSL is the UK's foremost public-sector laboratory providing support for evidence-based decision making in the fields of agriculture, food and the environment. CSL provides public and private-sector customers with high-level technical services, applied research and consultancy aimed at assessing risks, protecting health, ensuring sustainability, and improving resilience to challenges. CSL is an Executive Agency of the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [www.csl.gov.uk](http://www.csl.gov.uk)
2. Forsite Diagnostics develops and manufactures rapid diagnostics, using lateral flow device technologies, in a range of niche biotechnology markets. [www.forsitediagnostics.com](http://www.forsitediagnostics.com)
3. For further information, please contact: Dr Paul Meakin, CSL, on tel.: 01904 462 156, mobile: 0771 111 2706, or email: [p.meakin@csl.gov.uk](mailto:p.meakin@csl.gov.uk).