



Press release

Boost for innovation at CSL

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New products and scientific services from CSL and other UK public sector laboratories will be reaching the market place following an announcement of extra funding for the InterAct Project. CSL as leader of a consortium of 6 partners has been awarded a total of nearly £3m of funding to extend and expand the collaboration following two successful bids to the fourth round of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' PSRE scheme for Public Sector Research Establishments.

Overall, the projects aim to increase revenue for the partners from exploitation of their intellectual property (IP). The original InterAct project has so far generated over £610k of additional revenue across the 4 original partners, which are CSL, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, and the Health Protection Agency.

The funds were won after stiff competition from research establishments across the UK. The first award will widen the scope of the highly successful and innovative InterAct IP exploitation project, expanding it to include two additional members - the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science, and the Health and Safety Laboratory. The extended project will identify and exploit new opportunities created from combining IP assets from across all six partners.

The second award will provide a Proof of Concept fund for the InterAct partners. By demonstrating technical feasibility in relation to clearly identified market need, the funds will strengthen and de-risk technologies identified through InterAct as having potential for commercialisation. This will result in a greater number of technologies being licensed or spun-out by the partners, with the licences having a higher total lifetime value, and more projects achieving attractiveness to win seed investment.

This funding will strengthen links already established between the partners and will place CSL at the heart of this collaborative effort. Dr. Robert Bolton, CSL's Commercial director, was delighted at the news: 'These awards provide exciting opportunities to further develop CSL's excellent intellectual asset base and help strengthen links between other world class laboratories. Working together we will be able to bring a greater variety of new technologies and services to the market, benefiting society as a whole, and generating income for further re-investments.'

Ends

Notes For Editors

1. CSL is the UK's foremost public sector laboratory in the fields of agriculture, food and the environment. As an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, our main role is to carry out research in support of Government objectives. Our support for protection of the nation's food and rural environment includes responding to emergencies in the food supply chain through risk assessment, analysis and remedial actions.

2. CSL works with governments and industry around the world to support the improvement of food safety standards.

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Further information and contacts:

InterAct website: www.interactpartnership.co.uk

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