

Construction consultancy chooses Cardiff for its new site

Scitech Engineering provides design, engineering, construction and validation services for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. It was established in 2002 and now boasts a turnover of £18m and a staff of over 130 employees.

The company has recently enjoyed another period of growth and after a growing client list along the M4 and M5 corridor and within South Wales, and following discussions with the Welsh Government, the company decided to locate its new office at Cardiff Gate.

Scitech's move to Wales was secured partly as a result of the Welsh Government's offer of continued financial support over three years which will help to secure an additional 20 skilled and well paid jobs over 3 years.

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates said:

"I am delighted that following an offer of Welsh Government support, Scitech has chosen Cardiff as the location for its new office, bringing with it 20 highly skilled and well paid jobs.

As set out in my Economic Action Plan, these are exactly the types of jobs we are keen to attract to Wales in order to future proof our economy and build the strong foundations that we need to ensure inclusive economic growth."

Dave Grant, Managing Director at Scitech said:

"Welsh Government financial initiatives and support have been a key driver for Scitech to locate in the region. When assessed against other locations, the interest and confidence shown in Scitech by the Welsh Government team provided the motivation to commit to a Wales-based site for our expansion."

David Jackson, Chairman & Director at Scitech said:

"We are excited by the opportunities that our new office in Cardiff is already bringing. We are grateful to Welsh Government and to Cardiff Council's Economic Development Team who have been invaluable in our evaluation of Wales and in particular selecting Cardiff for locating our latest office in Scitech's continued expansion. The support of both partners continues today to ensure our investment is successful and we look forward to a thriving

future in Wales.”

Scitech is a global company, with offices in Belgium and the Netherlands and a portfolio of prestigious clients, notably in the region: BBI, BTG, Cardiff University, Convatec, GE Healthcare, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and PCI Pharma Services – a Scitech project in Tredegar that was the ISPE international award winner for Facility Integration in 2014.

Since 2012 it has been owned as an Employee Benefit Trust: a Board of Trustees manage the company on behalf of all staff for the long term benefit of all employees, ensuring Scitech remains independent and focused on delivering Perfect Outcomes for its clients.

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[Minister celebrates ‘special connection’ between Welsh agriculture and tourism](#)

The Tourism and Agriculture Working Together event at the Welsh Government Pavilion will be hosted by Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, Lord Elis-Thomas to acknowledge strong and enduring partnership between farming and tourism and to celebrate the role that farmers, food producers and land managers play in making Wales such a welcoming and top quality holiday and visitor destination. It’s a partnership which the Minister was clear would need to be maintained and strengthened if both industries were to remain prosperous.

Speaking ahead of the event, Lord Elis-Thomas said:

“Today’s event is an opportunity for me to first and foremost thank our farmers, food producers and land managers for their role in making Wales the destination it is, whilst hopefully opening a few doors to further future collaborations and opportunities.

“Over 10 million people again chose to holiday in Wales last year – over three times the population of Wales.

“Many come to Wales because of the famous ‘croeso’, which relies on a delicately balanced ecosystem. Individuals, communities and organisations working effectively together to keep our walkways accessible, our beaches clean and our water clear. Suppliers, producers and promoters recognising and championing the benefit of quality, local produce. From star gazing to zip lining, Welsh lamb to local beer and everything in between, it’s the quality of the experience that makes people continue to choose Wales in such large numbers, and the agricultural industry is right at the heart of that.

“Whilst Brexit no doubt brings with it uncertainty, challenges and change, particularly within the agricultural sector in Wales, what’s beyond question is that the intrinsic link between agriculture and tourism must and will remain.”

“Our focus and ambition for a tourism industry for the future here in Wales is all about quality – quality of product, quality of produce and quality of experience.

“There is strong evidence from across Wales that raising the bar on quality breeds further success, and Visit Wales has already shown its willingness to support projects that fulfil the expectations of the most discerning visitors. It is important that our industry is also market focused and we develop new products that provide experiences and accommodation that satisfy future consumer demands.

“This support is not only financial but also around a collaborative way of marketing Wales, such as through our themed years, and finding innovative ways both to reach new audiences and ensure they have the best possible time here. The Wales Way, for example, will encourage people to discover parts of rural Wales they might otherwise not have considered.

“This is just one example of the hard work going on to make sure Wales is the most forward looking, internationalist, confident country it can be. By ensuring quality is at heart of everything we do I’m confident we will be in the best possible position to overcome the challenges of Brexit, helping us seize future opportunities. A continued and strengthened partnership between tourism and agriculture will be key to achieving this and I look forward to developing this together.”

Children's Minister visits Newtown's new family centre

In 2017, the Welsh Government awarded Powys County Council £257,000 to develop the former Dafydd Llwyd Primary School site in Park Street as the town's new Integrated Family Centre.

This allowed the former family centre, based at Mochdre Industrial Estate on the edge of the town, and the Skylark Family Centre, to co-locate in one central location, next to Hafren and Ladywell schools, which allows easier access for families.

The new centre will play a vital role in the delivery of Flying Start, the Welsh Government's flagship early years programme, in the town. It will provide activities such as parent and toddler groups, baby massage, information, parenting training programmes, health advice and health visitor drop in service, family support and counselling.

Minister for Children, Huw Irranca-Davies said:

"It was a real pleasure to visit Newtown today to see for myself how Welsh Government investment is benefiting the town's children and their families.

"The £257,000 investment we have made has allowed Powys County Council to develop a new, modern facility which will make it far easier for children and their families to access services.

"As a government, we are determined to give all our children the very best start in life. That's why we're investing to ensure the continued success of the Flying Start programme and to ensure it meets the changing needs of the families we support across Wales. It continues to make a real difference to the lives of children in some of our most disadvantaged communities."

Green corridors to improve gateways into Wales

gateways into Wales

The Green Corridors on the Welsh Government Trunk Road and Motorway Network initiative will deliver against the Economic Action Plan “Prosperity for All”, creating a sustainable economy and promoting the economic, cultural, social and environmental well-being, and enhancing people’s quality of life in Wales.

Over a five year period the initiative will deliver a programme of work and activities such as tree planting to improve structure and age range of the planted area, and introducing wildflower areas or improving the diversity of existing areas.

Transport Secretary Ken Skates said:

“Wales has the potential to be a world class sustainable tourist destination and I am pleased to announce my decision to approve a ‘Green Corridors on the Welsh Government Trunk Road and Motorway Network’ initiative.

“It will build upon and complement other work already completed or underway to improve the benefits provided by the land associated with the trunk road and motorway network, delivering a range of economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits.”

The priorities set will see work beginning during the current financial year along the three routes making up the Wales Way (A487, A470 and A55) as well as entrances into Wales on the M4, M48, A483, A5 and A494 Deeside to identify and carry out measures to achieve the initiative.

Work will continue in subsequent years with the addition of other gateway routes and strategic sites such as principal towns and cities. Opportunities will be explored and actions taken that include restoring existing or creating new habitats or providing safe crossing points for protected species.

Ken Skates added:

“We will seek opportunities to investigate and implement Nature Based Solutions such as using vegetated systems for sustainable drainage, or tree and shrub planting for earthworks stabilization, in both the design of new road infrastructure projects and along the existing network.

Applying the principles of Green Corridors will set us as an exemplar of best practice, showing innovation in the sustainable management of green transport infrastructure.”