Case Study: Venomtech

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Venomtech Ltd was founded in March 2010 to supply venom for biological research. The only commercial venom lab in the UK, the company moved into the Enterprise Hub in January 2012 – the University of Kent's business incubation and support unit devoted to helping student, graduate and staff start-up ventures.

Venomtech's principal function is to collect venom from snakes, spiders, scorpions, centipedes and other bugs and insects. It currently has 490 animals spanning over 150 species. Collected venom is put into phylogenetically and geographically diverse screening arrays for the discovery of new therapeutics for diseases such as cancer and cardio vascular disorders, and for pain relief.

"The Hub has enabled us to strengthen our links with the University and expand the business"

Venomtech founder Steven Trim worked as a research associate in Kent's Biosciences school, in comparative genomics with Professor Darren Griffin in 2010. Scientists within the school conduct much of their research with the venom Steven supplies. Moving into the Enterprise Hub has enabled the company to strengthen its links with the University and expand its business activities.

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He commented:

"The Enterprise Hub allows us to have more space for our research, and helps us to improve our productivity. We also have good links with Kent's School of Biosciences."

As the University's dedicated incubation facility for student and graduate start-ups and academic spin outs, the Enterprise Hub has helped with the creation of 45 new companies since 2010. Together, the start-up enterprises employ a total 97 staff – and make a direct impact on the local economy to the value of approximately £3m.

As well as fully furnished and subsidised office and lab spaces, the Hub offers meeting room and hot-desk facilities as well as free-of-charge business advice sessions.

For further information on how your business can benefit from our support and services, contact
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