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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OXFORD SCIENCE PARK



- Company Focus – Software 2000
- Growing computer presence
- Telecommunication specialist chooses Oxford
- New buildings available

SPRING 1999



Editorial

More space is becoming available at The Oxford Science Park. Florey House was finished in 1998, John Eccles House is due for completion in Spring 1999 and a new building has already been designed for the entrance to Edmund Halley Road (see centre pages).

Oxford has an international reputation for attracting and growing companies involved with

the biosciences and many companies working in this industry are already based at the Park. In addition, there are an equal number of companies from the computer and telecommunications industries who have found the Science Park environment an ideal location for their business. The latest news from some of these companies is featured in this issue.

Penicillin pioneer remembered

Lord Florey, one of the pioneers in the development of penicillin, now has a permanent memorial at The Oxford Science Park. Florey House was opened officially on 30 September 1998 by Sir Robert May AC FRS, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government and Head of the Office of Science and Technology.

The opening marked the centenary of Florey's birth and commemorated the enormous contribution he and his team at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology made to the

ultimate widespread use of penicillin. Between 1938 and 1941, they purified the enzyme

discovered by Alexander Fleming and isolated a drug which could be used safely on humans. One of the original team, Dr Norman Heatley, was present at the opening ceremony.

Speaking at the opening, Sir Robert May said Lord Florey would have been pleased to have his name on a building at The Oxford Science Park. "I have no doubt that he would have taken great pleasure in this development because his real



Sir Robert May at the opening ceremony



achievement was to bring the fruits of new knowledge to the service of the world" said Sir Robert.

He also stressed the problems universities have in getting their ideas into the market place and outlined the role he thought they should play. "Part of my job is to help us do a better job at persuading industry to cash in on our cleverness; getting industry to take note of what universities are doing – not to subvert the universities' role of basic inquiry. The role of the universities is not to develop products, it is to develop knowledge" he said.

Florey House is the sixth building on The Oxford Science Park. It has three floors, one

Florey House

Software 2000

Software 2000 develops driver software for printers and other output peripherals used with computers. It is the world's largest third party developer of inkjet and laser printer drivers for use with Microsoft Windows.

The company, which was established in 1988, has been at The Oxford Science Park for the last seven years. During that time, it has expanded continuously and opened another office in Monterey, California. Over 35 million units of the company's software have been shipped to date.

Technical Director, Tony Harris, says Software 2000 are 'the backroom boys' of the printer industry. "Although our printer drivers are used in colour inkjet printers made by companies such as Epson, Lexmark and Olivetti, most people are probably unaware of who we are. We recently calculated, however, that one of our printer drivers ships every three seconds of the day, 365 days of the year."

Finance Director, John Guy, is enthusiastic about The Oxford Science Park. "The buildings are bright and modern and have provided us with an ideal environment in which to expand. The location is rich in software talent and we are conveniently placed close to other companies with similar interests."

Stop press

Software 2000 has announced that it has acquired the business of COMPUTER: applications, Inc Raleigh, North Carolina. The company is primarily involved in the development of QuickDraw and PostScript printer drivers and related technologies for the Macintosh, Power Mac and iMac computers.

"We are very excited by this opportunity" commented Tony Harris of Software 2000. "Apple's success with the iMac has stimulated the Mac market and led many of our OEM customers to request Macintosh equivalents of our own driver products. This technology acquisition positions us to take full advantage of this promising new opportunity."

Japanese student visit

A Japanese business student spent six weeks with Software 2000 in 1998 thanks to the International Science Park Alliance established in 1996. Miss Sanae Yamada was the first exchange partner to benefit from the Alliance which links The Oxford Science Park with the Kyoto Research Park and the Philadelphia Research Park.

Miss Yamada, 22, joined Software 2000 for a period of work experience and helped the company prepare translations for their Japanese market. She plans to return to Oxford this year to do a post graduate course in international relations.



Sanae Yamada with Heather Knight, Manager of The Oxford Science Park and Isobel Anderson of Software 2000

The Alliance which was established in 1996 aims to stimulate technology exchange between companies and organisations on the three science parks. Further exchanges are anticipated with other companies on The Oxford Science Park following the success of this visit.



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Award winning employees of Software 2000

Awards

Since 1994, Software 2000 has received four major awards for its work.

Most recently, it was voted best information technology company in the Thames Valley. Ian Ashmore, OEM Product Manager, was delighted to receive the award saying "We are very honoured to have received top prize, particularly as we were up against so many other good companies in the Thames Valley."

Also in 1998, it received The Queen's Award for Export Achievement. It marked an impressive growth in exports which had quadrupled over the previous three years and an 80% year-on-year growth.

Software 2000 was named Oxfordshire Business of the Year in 1997 after coming top of 228 Oxfordshire companies nominated for the award. In 1994, it also received a Prince of Wales Award for Technological Achievement.



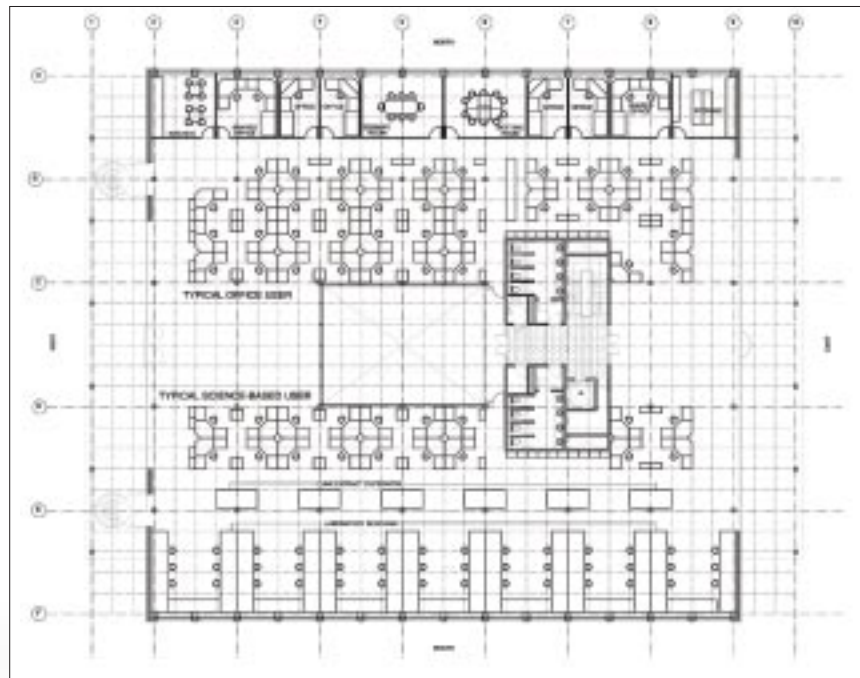
The Hinshelwood Building

The Hinshelwood Building will be built opposite Sharp Laboratories of Europe and is named after Oxford scientist Sir Cyril Hinshelwood – Nobel Prize winner for chemistry. The building has been designed by Nicholas Hare Architects for either general office or specialist laboratory use.

Prospective occupiers will have the option for it to be constructed either to a fully fitted office specification with air conditioning, suspended ceilings and raised floors or to a 'shell and core' specification, allowing a company to undertake its own fit out including any individual laboratory requirements. The ground floor plan (opposite) shows possible layouts for either a laboratory or an office based company.

There will be approximately 30,000 ft² (2786 m²) of accommodation on two floors with exclusive use of 150 car parking spaces provided at surface level. The western elevation will have views over the proposed lake and landscaping which form part of the next phase of development.

Possible layouts for office or
laboratory use on the ground
floor



The Hinshelwood Building –
Artists impression



John Eccles House

John Eccles House is currently under construction at the Eastern entrance to The Oxford Science Park and will be completed in Spring 1999. It has been designed by architects Proctor Matthews to provide fully fitted office accommodation incorporating raised floors, suspended ceilings and air conditioning.

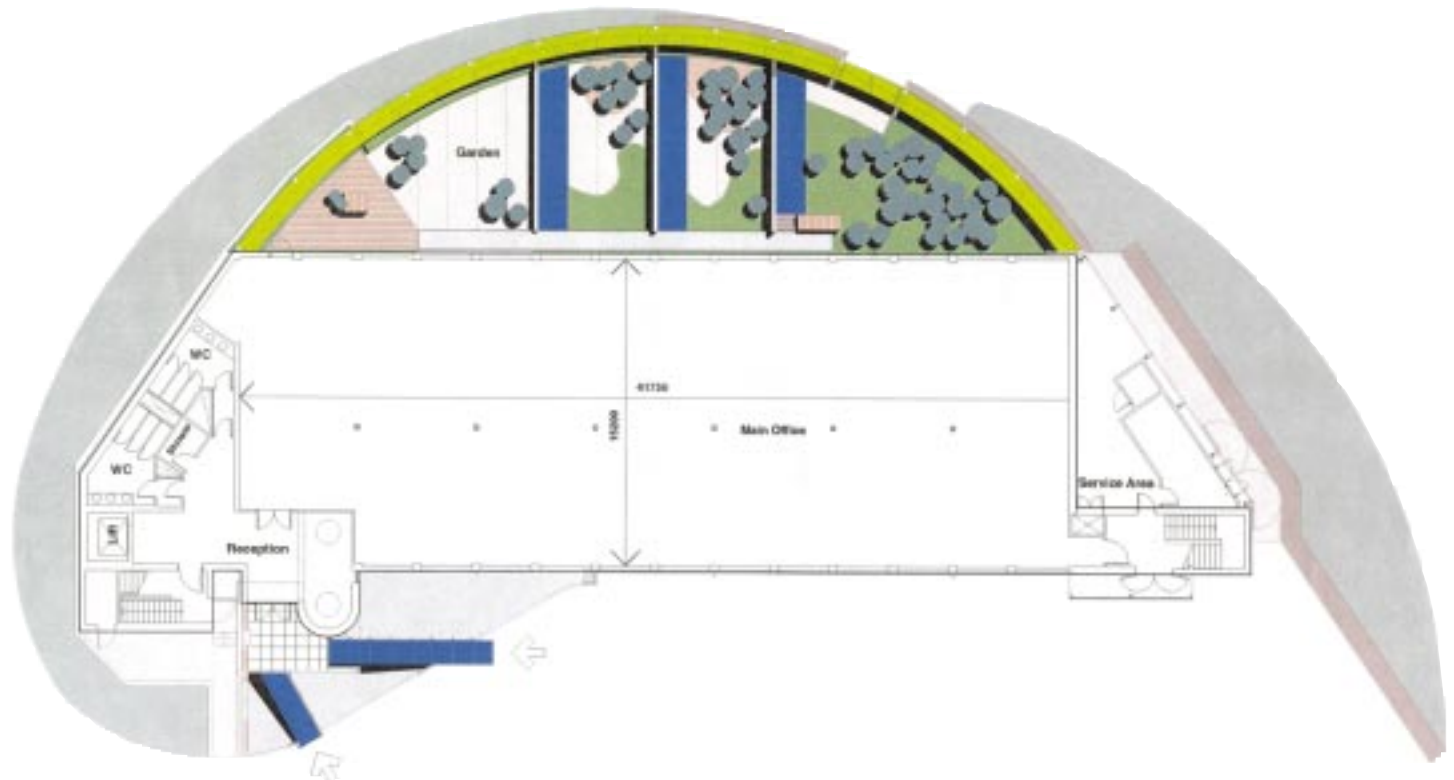
The building is on three floors with a total net floor area of approximately

20,200 ft² (1876 m²). It provides 45 car parking spaces at surface level and a further 60 spaces in the adjacent three level decked car park.

Sir John Eccles (1903 – 1997) was a scientist and fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. He came to Magdalen in 1925 as a Rhodes Scholar after attending Melbourne University in Australia. In 1963, he received a Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine. The prize was awarded jointly with Sir Alan Hodgkin and Sir Andrew Huxley 'for their discoveries concerning the ionic mechanism involved in excitation and inhibition in the peripheral and central portions of the nerve cell membrane'.



John Eccles House – Artists impression



Outline plan of the ground floor



Further details about the buildings can be obtained from James Kennedy-Cooke at DTZ Debenham Thorpe.

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Zeneca software deal

New software being developed by a company in the Magdalen Centre will make it easier to find out how quickly pesticides break down in the environment. Cherwell Scientific is incorporating methods developed by Zeneca Agrochemicals into a widely accessible and easy to use commercial software package.

The two companies recently signed a five year agreement to develop the new ModelManager Environmental Kinetics software which incorporates both commonly used and novel tools for determining breakdown rates in soil and water. It is the first in a new range of products that Cherwell is developing.

The new package is based on Cherwell's award winning ModelMaker software technology which is already widely used by experts in the

environmental sciences to develop mathematical modelling solutions for their problems. ModelManager will allow organisations to compare and report the results of different data sets on multiple models.

"Our aim is to provide the agrochemical industry and its regulators with a framework and a set of tools for analysing pesticide behaviour under different environmental conditions" says Tim Cook, Managing Director of Cherwell Scientific. "This deal with Zeneca is the first of many across the environmental, pharmaceutical and chemical industries where scientists have similar modelling needs" The software can be customised for different users by adding new models or changing the way in which results are reported."



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Telecommunication's industry specialist moves to Oxford



A Japanese company at the forefront of the fibre optics industry has chosen The Oxford Science Park for its new European headquarters and research centre. Santec Europe Limited opened its new office at the Park in August 1998. The company has one other office outside Japan in New Jersey, USA.

The company selected the UK as its base because of the strength of British universities in the optics field and also the proximity to the major European telecommunications markets. The Oxford Science Park was a natural choice because of its strong academic links and convenient location.

Santec started in Japan 20 years ago and has been producing products and technologies for the fibre optics industry for the last 15 years. It developed the world's first optical fibre test system in 1985 and the first tuneable semiconductor laser in 1987.

More recently, it has been active in developing lasers and components to realise a new technology which will enable telecommunication companies to dramatically increase the amount of traffic carried on existing optical fibres. The technology, called Wavelength Division Multiplexing, allows 16, 32 or even more different signals, each of a different wavelength to be sent down the same optical fibre. The amount of information sent on both telephone and Internet networks can then be increased without laying additional fibres.

Speaking about the company's move to the Science Park, the director of Santec Europe Ltd, Dr David Heard, said "We have received considerable help from The Oxford Science Park in setting up our office. We are confident this is the right place from which to launch our European activities and are now rapidly increasing our academic and commercial contacts".



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New sensor for improved cancer treatment

Cancer treatment could be revolutionised using a new sensor developed by Oxford Optronix according to the Cancer Research Campaign. The charity's research transfer company has asked Oxford Optronix to develop the system and patient trials are now underway.

The health of body tissue is directly related to the amount of oxygen present and, up till now, it has been impossible to measure this quantity directly. The Oxylittm sensor overcomes this problem by using fibre optic technology to make the measurements. The sensor has four tiny probes which can continuously measure oxygen content even when the patient is undergoing treatments like magnetic resonance imaging. It is anticipated that the probe will allow doctors to tailor chemotherapy or radiotherapy to a patient's individual needs.

Professor Gordon McVie of the Cancer Research Campaign said "If the patient trials for Oxylittm are successful, I'd hope that one day a type of oxygen sensor will be routinely used in cancer treatment. By customising treatment to individual patients, it would mean more effective treatment and, in some cases, fewer side effects." Dr Andrew Obeid, founder of Oxford Optronix, said "We are delighted to be working with the Cancer Research Campaign. We have already had a great deal of interest in the Oxylittm from research institutes all over the world."

Oxford Optronix was founded in 1991 and specialises in the design, development and manufacture of opto-electronic instruments for

both medical and scientific applications. The company supplies instruments to blue-chip multinational companies, universities, research institutes and major hospitals in Europe, the USA, Australia and the Far East. It also manufactures instruments for measuring blood flow (Oxyflotm) and a data acquisition system (Oxydatatm) for handling data from the sensors.



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One probe for measuring
tissue oxygen, blood flow and
temperature

Computer base expands

Since the last issue of retort eight new computer industry companies have been attracted to the Park. They are BOCC, Datalink Chorus Ltd, DecisionSoft, ESOF, Intelligent Solutions, Numbercraft, Progress Software Europe, and Wavionix.

Commenting on this Mark Hall, Managing Director of BOCC said "The Science Park is an excellent location for us, many of our customers are from major corporations and they are always impressed with the facilities here."

Details of the work of BOCC and the other new companies at the Park may be seen on the companies page of the Science Park web site at <http://www.oxfordsp.com>



For further details contact Mrs Heather Knight,
Manager, The Oxford Science Park.

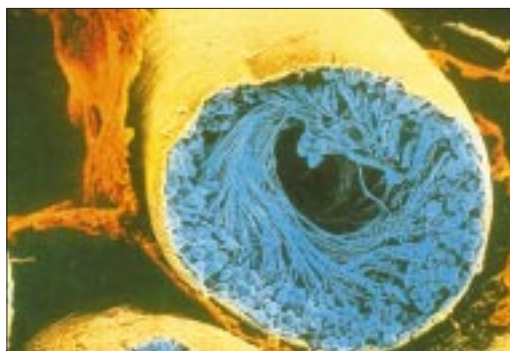
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Inhibins, activins and follistatins



Follistatins under the microscope. Courtesy Professor A McNeilly

The Oxford Brookes Seminar is an annual event sponsored by The Oxford Science Park and was created to encourage closer links between industry and academia.

The 1998 seminar, held at the Magdalen Centre on 25 September, was entitled 'Inhibins, activins and

follistatins'. It provided around 50 representatives from hospitals and industrial companies with the opportunity to learn more about the family of enzyme immunoassays for this family of molecules developed at Brookes University by Professor Groome and his team. Professor Beadle, Head of the School of Biological and Molecular Sciences at Oxford Brookes, introduced the session. Professor Groome and Dr Lee Evans of Brookes described the assays for the various hormones. Professor McNeilly of the MRC Centre for Reproductive Biology in Edinburgh reviewed the history of inhibin and the need for improved immunoassays.

Talks on clinical applications included those from Dr. Geryl Lambert-Messerlian of the Womens and Infants hospital in Rhode Island who reviewed the use of inhibin in prenatal screening, Dr. F de Yong of Erasmus University Rotterdam who talked about the uses of inhibin assays in relation to cancer, and Professor F Wu from Manchester Royal Infirmary who described the use of inhibin B assay in studying male fertility.

The current range of clinical applications makes it likely that inhibin assays will soon be routine tools in many fields of medicine. Oxford Brookes University is pursuing the commercialisation of the inhibin assays in partnership with Serotec Ltd of Kidlington and Biotech Australia.



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Dr Allyson Reed chairing the recent Science Park Seminar



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Intellectual property and the computer industry

At a recent seminar in the Magdalen Centre Julian Asquith, of Oxford based Patent Attorneys, Marks and Clerk, described the procedures involved in gaining protection for intellectual property and the differences between Europe, Asia and the USA. Differences in patent law, especially those concerning the computer industry, were highlighted.

The February seminar was the first of a series of five to be held during 1999. All the seminars focus on issues of concern to local research and science based companies and are organised by The Oxford Science Park in collaboration with the Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce.

Seminars during 1999 will include the topics of electronic commerce, risk management, marketing of high technology products and forecasting.



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