

INSIDER

QUARTERLY INSIGHT ON OXFORDSHIRE'S SCIENCE & TECH SECTORS

EDITION 5 AUTUMN 2019

AI AND ROBOTICS:

BUILDING AND
PROGRAMMING FUTURE
ECONOMIES WORLDWIDE

INSIDER STATS:

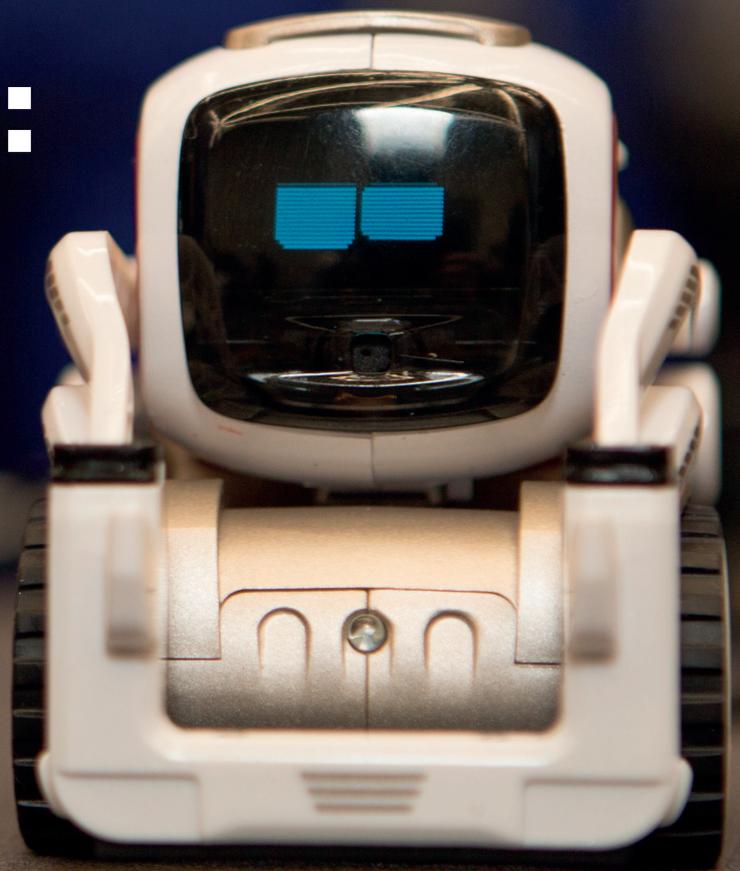
Oxford – the best city 'to live and work', says latest PwC report

NEWS IN BRIEF:

Oxfordshire Energy Strategy to 'galvanise pioneers in clean growth'

OXLEP UPDATE:

'Long-term' Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy is 'backed by business community'



The image shows a large, modern building with a glass facade and a dark, angular roof structure. The text 'The Schrödinger Building' is printed in white on a dark, curved surface in the foreground. An orange banner at the bottom of the image contains the text 'OXFORDSHIRE BUSINESS SHOWCASE'.

The Schrödinger Building

OXFORDSHIRE BUSINESS SHOWCASE

OXFORD SCIENCE PARK'S LATEST ARRIVAL EXPLAINS WHY OXFORDSHIRE WAS CHOSEN AS THE UK AND IRELAND BASE FOR ITS ROBOTIC SURGERY BUSINESS

Intuitive develops innovative, minimally invasive surgical platforms and future diagnostic tools to help solve complex healthcare challenges around the world. The company was founded in the USA in 1995 with a belief that minimally invasive care is life-enhancing care.

Over the past two decades, the company's da Vinci robotic-assisted surgical system has taken robotic-assisted surgery from 'science fiction' to reality. Da Vinci by Intuitive can be used to perform soft tissue surgical procedures, across a variety of specialty areas including urology, gynaecology, thoracic and colorectal, among others.

Since the first da Vinci system was installed, over six million procedures have been performed by tens of thousands of surgeons worldwide.

There are currently more than 80 da Vinci systems installed at hospitals in the UK and Ireland, with more than 18,000 procedures completed annually.

In recognition of the importance of the UK market and the need to work closely with both NHS trusts and private hospitals to support the increasing adoption of robotic-assisted procedures, a centrally-located country management hub became essential for Intuitive.

Phil Bradshaw, General Manager UK and Ireland at Intuitive, said: "Our first port of call was the Department for International Trade who have a well-established process for matching incoming companies to regions that match their requirements.

"It was incredibly straightforward. DIT gave guidance and helped inform our thinking, as did the LEPs, initially through sending background information and then facilitating visits to several sites."

Sebastian Johnson, Head of Innovation and Inward Investment at the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), received the DIT's request in respect of Intuitive.

He said: "We get scores of requests direct and via the DIT every year, especially in respect of companies in the life sciences or robotics sectors, where the county has particular strengths."

What OxLEP was able to offer Intuitive was a pre-eminent location for life science companies in the UK, and around the world. Not only is it home to one of the world's greatest universities, but Oxfordshire is also home to many world-leading life sciences businesses, and a renowned NHS teaching trust.

The Oxfordshire cluster spans a range of life science enterprises including drug discovery and development, diagnostics, medical

devices, digital health, precision medicine and regenerative medicine.

This diversity forms an ecosystem for innovation, which is supported by over 25,000 employees with critical skills in the life sciences and healthcare, some 6% of the population. Its geographically central location, with easy access to London Heathrow and other transport hubs, only adds to the appeal.

"We came on a visit which took in science parks at different stages of development and with communities specialising in different aspects of medical science," continues Phil Bradshaw.

"We were particularly attracted to the scientific focus at the Oxford Science Park and we decided to take space in a prime location within the new Schrödinger Building, a £13 million state of the art office and laboratory facility near to the existing Sadler Building, the focal point of the site."

In the next year, Intuitive will continue to grow its presence in Oxford and across the UK, with many of the new team members located at their new Oxford HQ and robotic training facility.

Phil Bradshaw concludes: "OxLEP has already introduced us to a number of like-minded organisations in the county and it's great to start putting down firm roots. We look forward to becoming an integral part of the vibrant life sciences sector here in Oxfordshire."

Go to: www.intuitive.com to find out more.



AI AND ROBOTICS: A GLOBAL FUTURE WITH OXFORDSHIRE RIGHT AT ITS CORE

A look back on our fifth House of Commons economic briefing, focussing on Oxfordshire's strengths in AI and robotics.





October's event has directly-led to follow-up discussions with investors, government departments and foreign embassies.

OXLEP TAKES OXFORDSHIRE'S 'GLOBALLY-SIGNIFICANT' AI AND ROBOTICS SECTOR TO WESTMINSTER AUDIENCE

Oxfordshire's 'world-class' artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics capabilities are 'open for business' – that was the message the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) took to Central London in October, as it staged its fifth House of Commons economic briefing.

It was the latest briefing held in Westminster, which saw OxLEP 'taking the Oxfordshire economy' to a national stage. Each event has seen OxLEP promote a transformative technology highlighted in the county's 2017 Science and Innovation Audit.

This briefing focused on AI and robotics and was hosted by Robert Courts, on behalf of all standing Oxfordshire MPs.

The event highlighted some of Oxfordshire's internationally-competitive AI and robotics assets, including keynote discussions led by industry expert Professor Stephen Roberts of the University of Oxford and Phil Bradshaw of Intuitive – a robot-assisted surgery company, who recently moved to the world-renowned Oxford Science Park.

There was also a panel discussion featuring key industry leaders, including Professor Gina Neff of Oxford Internet Institute, Dr Rob

Buckingham of the Culham Science Centre-based RACE – or Remote Applications in Challenging Environments – and Jim Wilkinson from Oxford Sciences Innovation.

The panel was chaired by Dr Matt Perkins, CEO of Oxford University Innovation.

Around 80 guests attended the exclusive event, including investors, foreign embassy representatives and companies working in AI and robotics.

The series of House of Commons briefings have highlighted how Oxfordshire's transformative technologies, alongside the county's world-class research and development capabilities, could bring major global opportunities boosting the UK economy.

The county's Science and Innovation Audit has suggested that, alongside AI and robotics, four other transformative technologies – connected and autonomous vehicles, space and satellites, technologies underpinning quantum computing and digital health – collectively has the potential to add up to £180 billion GVA growth to the UK economy by 2030.

OxLEP's first economic briefing took place in September last year, with a focus

on connected and autonomous vehicles – highlighting global, Oxfordshire-based influencers Oxbotica and Street Drone – with a second briefing in January looking into the economic potential of space and satellites.

A third briefing, which looked into Oxfordshire's digital health capabilities, took place in March, with a fourth focusing on quantum computing in May.

Nigel Tipple – Chief Executive of OxLEP – said: "The key message we will continue to take to Westminster is that Oxfordshire is very much open for business, particularly in-light of the recently-launched Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy, which has an aim of supporting the county to become one of the world's top-three global science and innovation ecosystems by 2040.

"With a GVA of £23 billion per annum, we are one of only three net county contributors to the Exchequer, with a track record of nurturing genuine innovation and taking it to a world-stage.

"Oxfordshire is recognised globally as a place that can support innovation-led growth, greater productivity and major 'place potential' as we move towards an ever-increasing internationally-focussed economy."



**OUR NEXT
BREAKFAST EVENT
IS SCHEDULED
FOR EARLY NEXT
YEAR FOLLOWING
THE CONCLUSION
OF DECEMBER'S
GENERAL ELECTION,
WITH A FOCUS ON
THE LIFE SCIENCES
SECTOR.**

To register an interest for future briefings
please email info@teamtala.com

INSIDER STATS

OXFORD TOPS MAJOR ECONOMIC AND WELLBEING POLL

Oxford has been named as the top UK city for economic success and wellbeing of the community for the fourth year in a row.

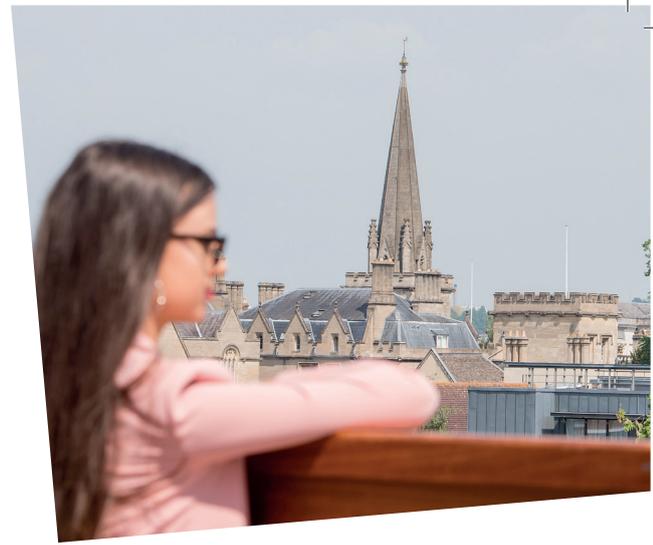
The Demos-PwC Good Growth for Cities report – released in early-November – was created in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis as a response to the sense that cities need to look beyond GDP to measure economic success.

The report measures the performance of UK cities against 10 indicators: employment, health, income, skills, housing affordability, owner occupation, transport, environmental factors, income inequality, and new business start-ups.

Oxford ranked as the top city in the UK with an index score of 1.09 – beating its 2018 index score of 1.03 and its score of 1.02 in the prior year.

The city scored highest in the indicators for income (3.09), skills of those aged 25+ (2.55) and jobs (2.45). All three of these measures scored higher than in 2018.

Oxford pulled away from the second and third place cities, which both saw their scores fall – Reading from 0.99 in 2018, to 0.95 in 2019; Southampton from 0.82 in 2018, to 0.79 in 2019.



INSIDER HAS THE LATEST ECONOMIC STATISTICS FOR THE COUNTY:

- £23bn GVA per year, one of just three net County contributors to the exchequer
- Home to the number one 2019 Times Higher Education's globally-ranked university – the University of Oxford was also number one in 2018
- The number one concentration of science research facilities in Western Europe
- The UK five-year survival rate for businesses born in 2011 and still active in 2016 was 44.1%, Oxfordshire averaged 49.3%
- £180bn global potential for the UK economy through the four transformative technologies identified in our Science and Innovation Audit

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW STRATEGY CAN PROVIDE THE 'BUILDING BLOCKS' FOR A STAND-OUT, LOW-CARBON ECONOMY IN OXFORDSHIRE

Senior business bosses from across Oxfordshire gathered in Bicester as a new and ambitious energy strategy for the county, with the ability to create a 'stand-out' low-carbon economy, was officially launched on 5 November.

The Oxfordshire Energy Strategy will help to support the county play its part in addressing climate change, challenging the county to commit to reducing emissions by 50% (compared with 2008 levels) by 2030 and set a pathway to achieve zero carbon growth by 2050, or sooner.

It also aims to secure a smart, modern, clean energy infrastructure and responds to the Government's 'clean growth' grand challenge, recognising 'the major opportunities and need' to move to cleaner economic growth through low-carbon technologies and the efficient use of resources.

The Oxfordshire Energy Strategy was launched at the recently-opened Eco Centre at Elmsbrook in Bicester – itself, a building designed to be eco-friendly and sustainable with aspirations to be the first non-domestic building in the UK to achieve 'Passivhaus Plus', a rigorous standard for energy efficiency, developed by the Passivhaus Institute in Germany.

It's hoped the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy can provide the building blocks for a stand-out, low-carbon sector too.

Currently – the county's low-carbon sector already makes a significant contribution to Oxfordshire's overall economy, generating £1.15bn a year (around seven per cent of Oxfordshire's overall GVA).

The strategy suggests that it can help to spearhead a further £1.35bn annually to the local economy through the low-carbon sector, potentially leading to over 11,000 new jobs by 2030.

In doing so, it would also mean the county will deliver emission reduction targets in-line with local and national expectations, meaning the strategy will play a key part in addressing climate change too.

MOTORSPORT UK MOVING TO BICESTER MOTION IN 2020

Motorsport UK has announced plans to move to Bicester Motion.

The move reflects a wider long-term vision for Motorsport UK to promote the sport and to engage with new audiences; as well as delivering genuine benefits to the clubs and grass roots of the sport.

Motorsport UK has been based in Colnbrook, near Heathrow, since 1988 in a location that has become increasingly remote from the needs of

its members. By contrast, Bicester Motion was launched to the automotive world as a hub for enthusiasts of the past present and future of the car to meet, work and enjoy their automotive passions.

It is being developed to ultimately become a unique and vibrant automotive tourist destination.

BUSINESSES AND EDUCATORS COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF OXFORDSHIRE CAREERS HUB

Following a successful pilot of first wave Careers Hubs – launched by the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) last year – Oxfordshire was in October announced as one of 20 locations to welcome new Careers Hubs.

Building on success detailed in the recent report from the Careers & Enterprise Company, 'Careers Hubs: One Year On', Oxfordshire Careers Hub sees 24 local schools – including special educational needs schools and a pupil referral unit – working together with universities, training providers, businesses and career professionals.

Sally Andreou, Skills Hub Manager, said: "Becoming a Careers Hub brings exciting new opportunities to our schools and businesses.

"It will enable us to further develop links between employers and educators and contribute to the body of evidence around the success of working collaboratively to achieve the Gatsby Benchmarks."

To receive regular news updates from OxLEP, please email robert.panting@oxfordshirelep.com

'WORLD-CLASS' SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STRENGTHS SET TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY AND OPPORTUNITIES THANKS TO NEW LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Key business figures from some of the most-dynamic companies in Oxfordshire and beyond – alongside academics and civic leaders – gathered in central Oxford as a new and ambitious economic growth strategy for the county, with the ability to 'be at the forefront of a future, globally-facing UK economy', was officially launched on 4 September.

The Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy sees the county directly-respond to the UK Industrial Strategy, launched by Central Government in November 2017. It replies to the national blueprint, which aims to increase growth and productivity nationwide, as well as creating 'more prosperous communities'.

The county's Local Industrial Strategy was launched by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) at its annual event, held at the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford.

Working alongside around 300 organisations – as well as Central Government itself – OxLEP have developed a strategy that aims to position the county as one of the world's top-three 'innovation ecosystems' by 2040, led-by Oxfordshire's global strengths in science and technology.

Five 'foundations of productivity' cited in the UK Industrial Strategy – namely 'ideas', 'people', 'infrastructure', 'business environment' and 'places' – have also been reflected in the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy to help the county achieve this 2040 ambition.

The strategy also hopes to build-upon the county's recent economic growth performance which – between 2012 and 2017 – has seen a total of 50,000 new jobs created in Oxfordshire, this alongside an average five-year business survival rate of 49.3 per cent for those born in 2011, more than five per cent above the UK average, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The county is also one of just three net contributors to the UK economy, with a current GVA of £23bn per year.

It's hoped that by 2040, not only will the county's GVA potentially be doubled to £46bn per year, but for every £1 invested in Oxfordshire, £4 can be returned to the UK economy.

Jeremy Long – Chair of OxLEP – said: *"Alongside our many key partners, we have created a highly-ambitious strategy for Oxfordshire to place us at the forefront of a future, globally-facing UK economy."*

"It is a strategy that details how we can reach our full-potential, raising productivity and boosting our unique innovation assets."

"Importantly, the strategy is built upon input from our business community, recognising and prioritising local need, feeding directly into other key Oxfordshire strategies, including Oxfordshire Plan 2050."

OxLEP added that the strategy aims to set 'clear pathways' for young people to develop the skills needed to secure employment opportunities within the county's globally-competitive science and technology companies, as well as promoting innovation in low-carbon technologies, positioning Oxfordshire as a genuine leader in clean growth.

The strategy states that will be 'inclusive, place-sensitive and sustainable, responding to increasing concerns around climate change' as well as 'enhancing the natural environment and the quality of life for everyone in Oxfordshire'.

The strategy also sets-out how the implementation of new technologies can benefit people in Oxfordshire.

The strategy's ambition is also to be enhanced by a number of key transformative technologies – all of which already boast significant national and international reach.

Nigel Tipple – Chief Executive of OxLEP – added: *"Our four transformative technologies – namely connected and autonomous vehicles, space and satellites, digital health and technologies underpinning quantum computing*



– have the potential to add up to £180bn to the UK economy by 2030.

"These technologies are central to the evolution of the Local Industrial Strategy. As a county, we excel in them, they have global reach and they can act as a key driver for the UK economy, post-Brexit."

"No other part of the UK has the breadth and depth of assets, knowledge capability, skills and business capacity, which also makes Oxfordshire a leading location for investment, as well as having the genuine ability to attract the world's most talented people."

**For more information, go to:
www.oxfordshirelep.com/lis**

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European Union
European Regional
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Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership