

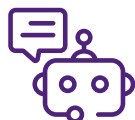
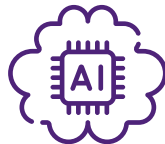


UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
SCIENCE PARK

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

**Every innovation
starts somewhere**

Our impact in 2023/24



Supporting business growth and enabling collaboration

2023/24 continued at the fast pace and ambition of the previous year to deliver growth.

Notable highlights included:

▲ Innovation and ambition:

Warwick Innovation Centre tenant, Moasure were King's Award winners for Innovation and International Trade. Initially supported through Ignite, the company has pivoted its business since 2018.

▲ **Inward investment:** the first four West Midlands Global Growth Programme 2-sponsored companies were welcomed to UWSP. These included: San Lab Robotics from Turkey, and Indian companies Xeed, Tranquility, and Jeanius Technologies.

▲ **Start-up beacon:** the Financial Times Special report on Europe's Leading Start-up Hubs recognised UWSP as one of the top 5% of hubs in Europe to start a tech business.

▲ **Partnership excellence:** the Business Ready and Ignite teams won the University of Warwick WOW Award and a UK Science Park Association Award for Partnerships, recognising consistent effectiveness in delivering value through the University of Warwick's Business Partnerships.

Community growth. Our community reached the milestone of 152 businesses and engaged with 890 businesses in our Business Ready, Ignite and Minerva Business Angel Network. This is set to grow as we launch our Non-Resident Membership offer in newly created Ignite Business Lounge in 2025.

New arrivals included AI specialists Raiven AI and Histofy, retail specialists Parklea Projects, and Swiss concrete specialists CEMEX.

Existing community members also grew at UWSP. Automotive supply chain companies LG Electronics and Embed both doubled their footprint, TEPI patch specialists Medherant expanded, drug delivery scale-up Nanosyrinx received £10m investment from Eli Lilly, and Moasure continued expansion to address global markets.



Connecting with businesses with talent. In addition to continued support from the University of Warwick Employer Connect team, the UWSP community engaged more than a dozen Summer interns from Warwick Business School. Through the Business Partnerships team, longstanding tenant Schneider Electric accessed the Degree Apprenticeships offer at Warwick to develop talent.

New faces. UWSP prepared for change as we looked to evolve our structure and welcome an expanded Board of Directors in the Autumn. The UWSP Board is now led by former Secretary of State Greg Clark under whose leadership UWSP is set to play a key role in the development of the wider Warwick Innovation District.

Years of celebration. Like buses, key anniversaries arrive in multiples. Having celebrated UWSP's 40th anniversary and hosted the UK Science Park 40th Conference in 2024, we are now looking forward to 2025 when we will mark the University of Warwick's 60th birthday and Minerva Business Angels' 30th anniversary. Along with our own expansion plans and the launch of our Non-Resident Memberships UWSP has an exciting year in prospect.

Mark Tock - Chief Operations Officer



Welcome from Greg Clark, Executive Chair of Warwick Innovation District

There is tremendous momentum in innovation here at Warwick. Last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Warwick Science Park - which won the UKSPA40 award for the best partnerships. This year the University marks 60 years since our foundation as an institution dedicated to doing things differently and making an impact on the world.

What is so exciting is that Warwick is well placed to help drive one of the most extraordinary times in the history of technology. In fields from AI and data analysis to life sciences to advanced manufacturing, from agritech to the creative industries our University, our Science Park and innovation centres and our business partners are at the forefront of innovation.

Key to all this is bringing people together - researchers with entrepreneurs, businesses with students, scientists and engineers with experts in creativity, investors with innovators. Many of the most compelling and transformational opportunities are where traditional boundaries are overrun. That is what you get by being part of Warwick - whether on campus or beyond, as a student, a researcher or as one of our Science Park partners. You couldn't be in a better team in 2025.

Celebrating 40 years of UWSP



Pictured: Saqib Bhatti (Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport and MP for Meriden and Solihull East) and Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick)

The 23rd of February 2024 marked a momentous milestone for the Science Park as it celebrated its 40th anniversary. This occasion was commemorated with a full year of celebrations and reminiscing about four decades of growth, innovation and economic impact. 2025 will be no less exciting with big celebrations planned, marking the University of Warwick's 60th anniversary as well as the 30th anniversary of our Minerva Business Angel Network.

The University of Warwick Science Park was officially opened in February 1984 by the former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, when it just had one building to its name.

Forty years on, firms who had made the Science Park their home came along to a celebratory event at the Venture Centre - the first building the Science Park ever had - along with current tenants, Science Park staff and VIPs.

Around 100 invited guests enjoyed welcome drinks and food before speeches by the Science Park's current Chief Operations Officer Mark Tock, and Saqib Bhatti MP, the Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport.

A plaque was then unveiled by Saqib Bhatti and Stuart Croft, Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick, to honour the occasion, followed by a ceremonial cutting of cake.

Mark Tock, COO of the University of Warwick Science Park, said: "It was such an honour to welcome so many people to our 40th anniversary celebrations and savour this historic milestone.

"Seeing some of the Science Park's most established tenants share stories with those who are here now was

lovely to see. While so much has changed in that time, the drive of companies here to bring their innovative ideas to life remains constant.

"Our work to improve and grow the Science Park does not stop, and we are already looking to the future with a plan to grow to 400-plus companies in the next 10 years, with further enhancements also on the horizon."

Saqib Bhatti MP added: "It's a great privilege to have been here at the 40th anniversary of the University of Warwick Science Park.

"It's a huge contributor to the national and regional economy, and science parks like this one are crucial to realising the commercial value of innovative ideas to truly benefit society.

"The University of Warwick Science Park is so important to our commitment to the UK becoming a technology and science superpower by 2030. All of the work going on at the Science Park is contributing to that."

Stuart Croft, Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick, said: "The University of Warwick is very proud of our Science Park and all that has been achieved since its official opening in 1984.

"Many of our students past and present have either interned at, worked for, or even founded highly successful firms based at the Science Park, and this exchange of knowledge is so important for us as a university and to the Midlands economy.

"We really enjoyed celebrating the occasion and we are looking forward to continuing our successful partnership in the years to come."

Scale Up Space

This year has seen the occupancy at the University of Warwick Science Park's Scale-up Space increase from 69.4% to 76.3% throughout its twelve tenant occupied buildings adjacent to the University of Warwick. Several existing tenant expansions have contributed to the increase in occupancy, reflecting the fact that UWSP is the perfect environment for business growth and innovation.

Expanding companies include Embed Limited, an automotive software manufacturer, who has doubled its floorspace; LG Electronics' automotive division, which has moved into a newly refurbished 5,700 sq ft office; Housemark Limited, a Coventry-based data business

that supports local authorities and housing associations to improve their tenants' experience; and Bosch Mobility UK who have consolidated its operations at UWSP, facilitating better collaboration and innovation.

We also have plans to create over 15,000 sq ft of lab space on site to address space shortages in the sector.

These expansions demonstrate UWSP's pivotal role in supporting the growth of high-tech businesses and fostering a collaborative environment that drives innovation and economic development.

Case Study: International Electronics company locates innovation hub at UWSP



Pictured (from left): Arun Srinivasan, Head of Bosch Mobility UK (front row, left) and Jennifer Greenway, Director of Corporate Finance, University of Warwick (front row, centre), cut a ribbon to officially open Bosch Mobility UK's new offices at iHouse, part of the University of Warwick Science Park

One of the world's leading technology companies has moved into a new office in Coventry.

Bosch Mobility UK has moved into iHouse at the University of Warwick Science Park, bringing together teams who had previously been based in three separate offices there.

The new office will be home to around 90 members of the Bosch Mobility UK team, including a host of software engineers who design and develop software for vehicles.

The company has had office space at the Science Park for more than ten years and Arun Srinivasan, Head of Bosch Mobility UK, said it is the perfect location for collaboration with academia and other partners.

Find out more
about Bosch
Mobility UK



Find out more
about Scale Up Space



The Venture Centre, Coventry

Occupancy at the Venture Centre remains exceptionally high at 91.6%, and demand will see further growth in the number of occupied units over the coming months. The 2023/24 financial year saw two new innovative companies join the Venture Centre, and another two existing tenants expanded into additional space to allow for business growth. Eight tenants also renewed their contracts with us, demonstrating their continued confidence in our innovative and supportive environment. In a recent customer satisfaction survey we received great feedback from our tenants giving us a satisfaction score of 5.95 out of 7.

In addition to its significant cluster of life science companies, the Venture Centre has also become

one of the landing hubs for the West Midlands Growth Company's Global Growth Programme, and has already welcomed four international companies to the centre within our key sectors: CleanTech, Health/MedTech, Future Mobility and DigitalTech. These tenants are being supported by UWSP's Business Support team, who will help the companies establish and expand their presence in the UK market.

We will shortly be launching our refurbished Ignite incubator units and new Business Lounge which will offer non-resident memberships to expand and add value our community.



Case Study: University spinout CryoLogyx's product tackles blood shortages



Pictured (from left): Jane Talbot, Dr Tom Congdon, and Dirk Schaefer in CryoLogyx's expanded lab at the Venture Centre, part of the University of Warwick Science Park

Pioneering research into blood preservation by a Coventry-based life sciences firm could combat blood shortages and save thousands of lives - both in hospitals and the battlefield.

CryoLogyx, a spin-out from the University of Warwick and based at the University of Warwick Science Park's Venture Centre, is developing the technology after it was able to expand its lab and office space.

The company, co-founded by Dr Tom Congdon and Professor Matt Gibson in 2021, has already patented technology that provides a molecular 'shield' to better preserve living cells when they are thawed after being frozen, allowing for higher-quality samples for pharmaceutical companies creating new drugs and therapies.

The technology was inspired by 'extremophiles' - species of animals, fish and plants that can survive in sub-zero environments thanks to their use of specialised proteins protecting their cells from any damage caused by ice.

Now, CryoLogyx is looking to develop a similar shield that protects blood cells in the thawing process, enabling high-quality blood to be accessed more easily in crisis situations.

Find out more about
CryoLogyx



Find out more
about The Venture
Centre



Warwick Innovation Centre and its management team continues to grow from strength to strength with a vibrant community of world renowned, award-winning businesses, representing sectors from AI, Automotive, R&D, Software and Technology.

We continue to support and encourage tenant engagement with networking as well as hosting an array of events from partnerships including Business Ready Support, Ignite Alumni, Warwickshire Skills Hub and University Departments which has resulted in 267 conference bookings within the centre for the reporting period.

Occupancy throughout 2023-2024 has remained high with an increase of 6.8% in Phase 1 & 2 and an increase of 9.9% in Phase 3. We have welcomed

four new tenants into the centre, three existing tenants have expanded into additional office space, and we have negotiated five lease renewals. We also welcomed five new Ignite tenants which resulted in full occupancy for our incubator space allowing for growth and development of start up companies.

In a recent customer satisfaction survey we received great feedback from our tenants giving us a satisfaction score of 5.95 out of 7.

We remain intensely proud of the Warwick Innovation Centre and the calibre of businesses that it attracts from the world of innovation and future technologies and look forward to continuing the success into 2024-2025.



Case Study: Firm behind award winning measuring tool hopes to break new markets with launch of new devices

Moasure, which the Sunday Times ranked as the 40th fastest-growing private company after boosting turnover by almost 120 percent in three years, has unveiled its second generation of products to increase accuracy even further and potentially break into new markets.

The company, based at the Warwick Innovation Centre—part of the University of Warwick Science Park—is behind the handheld Moasure ONE tool. This tool enables users to 'draw' an area in two or three dimensions before a diagram appears on a linked smartphone app showing the perimeter, area, volume, elevation changes, and more.

The device has been very popular in a variety of sectors, but most prominently in

landscape gardening in the USA, where outdoor space is typically much larger and inaccurate measurements of complex gardens can be incredibly costly if materials are over-ordered.

This success led to the firm turning over £8.8m last year and growing to 54 staff members after starting with just six during the pandemic. Moasure also received two King's Awards for Enterprise and recognition by the FT and Deloitte for its impressive growth, alongside a number of industry-based accolades.

It is one of many success stories for the Science Park, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, after initially supporting Moasure through its Ignite business incubation programme, offering flexible



Pictured (from left): Jane Talbot (UWSP), Mo Hussain (Moasure) and Alan Rock (Moasure)

office space and a range of business support.

Now, after refining the algorithms used to calculate measurements, Moasure has launched the Moasure 2 Series, encompassed by Moasure 2 and Moasure 2 PRO, which offer even higher degrees of precision

measuring – with the PRO version providing the most advanced level of motion-based measuring yet.

Co-CEOs Alan Rock and Mo Hussain feel that while growth has already been tremendous for Moasure, the new products will enable the firm to break into new markets.

Find out more about Moasure



Find out more about Warwick Innovation Centre



Blythe Valley Innovation Centre currently provides a home to 23 local businesses and is well established as a thriving and engaging business facility, serving the needs of its customers.

This is exemplified by a demonstrably happy client base, with one recent review typifying current experience:

“Office Heaven. Set in a stunning country park, the office is really modern, the front of house staff are beyond helpful and they only let in businesses after careful vetting. We are very happy here! Thanks BVIC staff for being amazing”. (Lee Desouza, Harrison Bridge Ltd). In a recent customer satisfaction survey we received great feedback from our tenants giving us a satisfaction score of 5.98 out of 7.

The continued development of third-party relationships, including, but not limited to, those such as; Birmingham & Solihull Growth Hub,

Oxford Innovation Advice and SMBC Employment & Skills, have delivered an unprecedented level of support activity within BVIC. More events have been held and hosted in the centre, than at any time during BVIC’s history (18 tenant/business events Aug ‘23 - Jul ‘24).

BVIC has continued to deliver, impressively, to its commercial requirements. 2023/24 saw the delivery of a (five year high) operating profit of £285k to UWSP’s Landlord partner, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. In addition to our commercial value we have also delivered £150k worth of social and local value.

In addition, centre Occupancy for the year peaked at 88%, despite the challenging market circumstances of recent years.



Case Study: Italian laser-marking company doubles UK turnover in first year at BVIC



Pictured: Andy Stewart, Centre Manager at Blythe Valley Innovation Centre, with Barrie Rice, General Manager of Lasit Laser UK, at Lasit Laser UK’s new offices

The company with its headquarters in Italy, chose to open a UK office at Blythe Valley Innovation Centre thanks to its accessible location and the quality of companies already based there.

A leading manufacturer of high precision laser-marking systems is on track to double its turnover since opening its first UK base at a leading science park in Solihull.

Lasit Laser UK is on track for year-on-year growth since settling into office space at Blythe Valley Innovation Centre, which is owned by Solihull Council and managed by the University of Warwick Science Park.

The firm supplies high quality, precision laser marking systems for identification marking in a variety of sectors, including vital marking on medical and automotive products. Permanent identification marks are mandatory in many industries for traceability purposes.

Laser marking is also used on a variety of items for aesthetic

purposes, such as branding on metallic bottles and other promotional items. Lasit Laser UK supplies its machines directly to businesses that wish to perform engraving in-house.

Its new office at Blythe Valley Innovation Centre includes a demonstration facility, with laser marking systems on site.

Following its move, Lasit Laser UK is set to double its turnover in year one and is set for year-on-year growth and could result in it hiring new staff to add to its team of five.

Barrie Rice, General Manager of Lasit Laser UK, said: “Many of our customers need reliable laser marking solutions to ensure their products are marked to a high standard which enhances the quality of their products.

Find out more about Lasit Laser UK



Find out more about Blythe Valley Innovation Centre



Financial Year 2023 / 24



78%

net promoter score



109

events



6,060

event attendees



890

businesses engaged



£11.2m

finance raised



Business support

Provision of access to finance, markets, incubation & skills support.

- ▲ Bespoke programmes
- ▲ Advisory
- ▲ Mentoring
- ▲ Coaching
- ▲ Workshops
- ▲ Networks
- ▲ Knowledge base
- ▲ Market consultancy

890

businesses engaged out of which 325 received substantive support

- ▲ New products to market
- ▲ Finance raised
- ▲ Companies created
- ▲ Significant turnover growth
- ▲ Innovation/IP support
- ▲ Further qualifications
- ▲ Students/apprentices placed
- ▲ Social innovations



153

jobs created



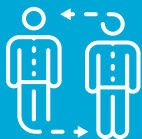
109

events held



6,060

attendees



University

Warwick Science Park offers wide ranging support to University of Warwick departments and students providing:

- ▲ Engagement
- ▲ Advice
- ▲ Workshops
- ▲ Mentoring
- ▲ Access to finance
- ▲ Joint projects
- ▲ Internship/graduate recruitment



242

students supported through workshops



118

students supported through panels



18

student start-ups mentored



4

spin outs supported



Access to finance

The Science Park offers a full spectrum of access to investment readiness support, facilitating access to grants, debt, equity and crowdfunding.

- ▲ Minerva Business Angel Network
- ▲ Access to local, national and international grants
- ▲ Connections with regional and national funds



96
pitches



£11.2m
finance raised



of which
grants and debt
£800k



97
investors



472
propositions
reviewed for
investment



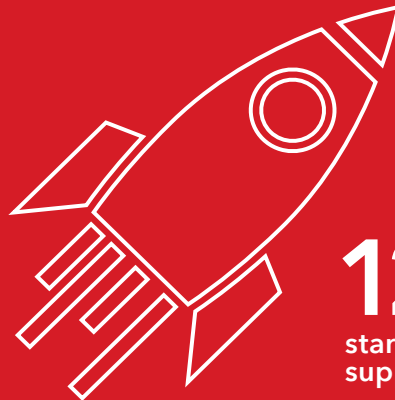
of which equity
£10.4m



Access to incubation

Ignite incubation is provided to young local businesses and University of Warwick spin-outs and start-ups.

- ▲ Targeted business support
- ▲ Mentoring/coaching
- ▲ Networks
- ▲ Workshops



128
start-ups
supported



19
Student / graduate
start ups mentored



8
events held



152
event attendees



Property

The University of Warwick Science Park provides space options ranging from 22 m² to 1,900 m². Office, workshop and lab space is available for tech-based businesses in the region.

- ▲ 4 innovation centres
- ▲ Commercial offices
- ▲ Starter units
- ▲ Grow on space



152
tenants



8%
tenant growth



16
companies went through
the Ignite incubator

Business Innovation Centre, Coventry



Occupancy at the Business Innovation has increased by 10.2% within the reporting period following on from the significant growth in 2022 - 2023. We have welcomed five new tenants into the centre, two of which are graduating Ignite tenants, one existing tenant has expanded into additional office space, and we have negotiated five lease renewals. In a recent customer satisfaction survey we received great feedback from our tenants giving us a satisfaction score of 5.98 out of 7.

The Business Innovation Centre has continued its vision to foster innovation and create community engagement with facilitation of networking events welcoming tenants, alongside partners from the Local based charity SOS, Coventry City Council, Warwick Business School, Department for Business and Trade, Warwick Manufacturing

Group and the Business Ready Support Team, which has resulted in 258 conference bookings within the centre for the reporting period.

It has been a year of change at the Business Innovation Centre, not only within our tenant community but also within the Centre Management Team. With our Centre Manager, Victoria Lynch progressing into the Head of Commercial role for UWSP, we welcomed Emma Turner in early March '24.

As we reflect on the past 12 months, we are proud of our diverse community of tenants and their accomplishments and growth. We look forward to the future and the continuation of business progression within the centre, along with growth of our tenant community.



5.98/7
Customer
Satisfaction
Score



Pictured (from left): Emma Turner, centre manager at the Business Innovation Centre, and John Newbold, UK Manager of Komtur Pharmaceuticals

Case Study: Pharmaceutical firm, Komtur, establishes UK market bridgehead

A pharmaceutical company which helps patients with complex needs access vital treatments that are not widely available is set to relaunch itself into the UK market after a move to Coventry.

Komtur Pharmaceuticals has opened a new office at the Business Innovation Centre in Binley, part of the University of Warwick Science Park, to help improve outcomes for patients with rare diseases or chronic conditions that need treatments that are not easily obtainable through organisations like the NHS.

The firm works with healthcare professionals and drug companies around the world to provide these treatments, and also helps brand-new medicines come to market

by supplying similar drugs to manufacturers for comparisons in clinical trials.

In addition, Komtur can help researchers, universities and startups manage the clinical trial process, enabling them to do the research and trials whilst Komtur manages the process.

Now, after its move to the Business Innovation Centre, Komtur is aiming to use the site's better location and the networking opportunities provided by the Science Park to re-establish itself in the UK market.

**Find out more
about Komtur
Pharmaceuticals**



**Find out more about Business
Innovation Centre**



Minerva Business Angels



Minerva Business Angel Network, is a prominent angel investment network. Established in 1994, the network focuses on high-growth tech companies, providing not only financial support but also valuable expertise from its investors. Minerva's success is reflected in Beauhurst's 2023 report, which named Minerva as the third most active angel network in the UK on a deal basis.

Applications to Minerva are at a high level, consistently attracting innovative companies. Over 470 applications were received in the period and fuelled by Minerva's contribution to Innovate UKs Investor Partnerships initiative, reflecting the network's strong reputation and the value it provides. Of these applications, 96 carefully selected companies pitched at 16 events, raising £1,158,479 of funding. In addition, the Minerva Birmingham Pitch Up competition is held annually in partnership with Aston University which is

co-located with Venturefest, the regions leading innovation and entrepreneurship conference. The competition has run for the past 9 years and provides the opportunity for companies to improve their ability to win investment, whilst boosting their business profile. Throughout this period, the competition has introduced more than 200 entrepreneurs to investors, facilitating over £65,000,000 in investments for the region's small businesses.

Minerva is looking forward to the coming year, which marks its 30th anniversary. This milestone will be celebrated with an anniversary event which will bring together key partners, stakeholders, and members of Minerva both past and present. With these significant developments, Minerva looks forward to continuing its mission of supporting innovative businesses and fostering growth in the tech sector.

Case Study: Bendi AI net £800k investment

Minerva provided critical support to Bendi through pitch opportunities in London and online, as well as a panel appearance promoting female founders and investors. This exposure helped secure Sam Tubb as chairperson and investor in Bendi's funding round. Winning the Minerva Pitch Up competition further boosted visibility, contributing to the involvement of lead investor Midven. Minerva's support and network were instrumental in enabling Bendi's successful funding round.

Bendi, an AI-driven platform for managing supply chain disruptions, sustainability challenges, and reputational risks, announced a \$1.04 million pre-seed funding

round led by Midven, part of Future Planet Capital. Other investors included Heartfelt Capital, Chasing Rainbows, Innovate UK, and angel investors.

Founded in 2020, Bendi's flagship platform, Prism, automates supply chain mapping and ESG risk assessments. Using AI, it analyses over 100 risk indicators in real-time across multiple data sources and languages, addressing challenges in identifying risks such as human rights violations and environmental hazards. This offers a faster, more cost-effective alternative to traditional manual methods like supplier audits.

The platform is timely, given stricter regulations like the



Pictured (from left): Mandeep Soor (Co-Founder & CEO), Benjamin Norsworthy (Co-Founder & Chief Research Officer) and Olivier Bacs (Co-Founder & CTO)

EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and the US Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which demand greater supply chain transparency and compliance. Bendi was co-founded by Mandeep Soor, Benjamin Norsworthy, and Olivier Bacs, combining expertise in strategy, sustainability, and software development. The founders' mission is informed

by personal and professional experiences, including Soor's childhood exposure to precarious labour conditions in the UK garment industry.

Find out more about Bendi AI



Find out more about Minerva Business Angels



UWSP, through its flagship mentoring programme, Business Ready has been successfully supporting companies since 2016. Funded through a combination of Government backed finance, managed by Warwickshire County Council, and supplemented by UWSP, the vastly experienced and talented Business Ready team continue to work with companies at every stage of their development.

Drawing on a team of more than 40 internal and external advisors, each carefully selected for their expertise and experience, we are typically able to provide a business with access to fully funded mentoring support, specific to their

business discipline and sector challenge be that innovation and commercialisation, start-up or scale-up, growth and resilience, or productivity and efficiency.

In the past year we engaged with 312 businesses (a 41% increase compared with the previous year), delivering around 1,500 hours of support, though a combination of one-to-one sessions and workshops. We continue to receive incredible feedback from the companies we support, and we have been nationally recognised, through the Financial Times, as being in the top 5% of start-up hubs in Europe.

Case Study: Quicktanks' turnover surges by over £450,000 in 12 months



Pictured (from left): Cllr Martin Watson (portfolio holder for Economy at Warwickshire County Council), Sophie Mutton, Brendan Mutton and Steve Tipson (Business Ready).

The Company

Quicktanks, based near Stratford, specialises in oil heating and storage tanks for residential and commercial properties. It is the sister business to Muttons Country Store, which offers a range of farming supplies. Quicktanks provides expert advice on choosing the right heating tanks, serving farmers and the rural community.

The Challenge

Despite steady sales, Quicktanks was struggling to grow due to limited time for a focused marketing strategy. Brendan found online marketing overwhelming and needed support to break through the growth ceiling.

The Solution

After success with Muttons Country Store, Brendan sought help from Business Ready at the University of Warwick Science Park. Advisor Steve Tipson identified a lack of online advertising strategy and recommended hiring an agency to manage online marketing, improving SEO and targeting potential customers.

The Results

Following the changes, Quicktanks' sales inquiries surged as its website ranking improved. Within 12 months, turnover increased by £452,000. This success has prompted Brendan to explore new markets and business opportunities.

Find out more
about Quicktanks



Find out more
about Business Ready



Ignite continued to operate at capacity in 2023/2024 which was driven by an increase in the volume and quality of applications. The average occupancy rate raised to 95% in the review period. Examples of joiners are a quantum computing company, a micromobility tech business and a biotech.

The Ignite Alumni Network has gone from strength to strength, celebrating its first anniversary. It continues to enjoy high popularity with our Alumni and has begun to get the attention from the wider business community having engaged with over 300 alumni businesses.

One of the highlights of the year was the successful application to be included in a special report of the Financial Times/Statista as one of

Europe's leading start up hubs. This places UWSP and Ignite into the top 5% of start up hubs in Europe and the only UK Science Park making it into this important listing.

Ignite Alumni businesses were again successful in receiving acknowledgements for their fast growth and performance. This includes Moasure who received two Kings Awards in 2024 and We Are Group, placing in the UK Fast Growth 50 Index of Fastest Growing Businesses in the Midlands.

Significantly enhancing business incubation and alumni relations at UWSP will be our newly created Ignite Business Lounge opening in January '25 at The Venture Centre. For further information please contact Dirk Schaefer, dirk.schaefer@uwsp.co.uk.

Case Study: Scale-up welfare tech business pays tribute to Science Park

We Are Group is a social business founded by entrepreneur Matthew Adam at the Ignite Incubator in Warwick innovation Centre in April 2012. During their time in the incubator, they successfully raised their first equity round with Minerva Business Angels and went on to become a long-standing commercial tenant at the Science Park. In 2019 they received further support from UWSP's Business Ready programme which resulted in raising £1.5m equity funding.

The company runs welfare and community programmes for central government, local authorities, social housing organisations and corporates, using a unique new welfare-tech platform they have developed. Some of their programmes include supporting people with digital skills, debt advice, employability bootcamps and mental health crisis.

They do this through a network of over 500 voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) community delivery partners, in more than 40 regions of the UK. Revenue for the business has increased to £6m in the latest

year following a 3 year 51% pa CAGR increase and increased their head count to over 80 staff. On the back of their impressive growth, the company made it successfully into the Sunday Times Fast Track 100

They have raised around £10m to date from multiple social impact investment funds including Ascension, Triplepoint and Si2

They accomplished a successful Series A in August 2023, led by Impact Partners in France, raising €6m, to help invest in their new tech platform, staff and office move.

They also secured two significant contracts this year, the latest being the £1 million per annum, five-year MAPS (Money and Pensions Service) Crisis Breathing Space contract. Launching in February 2025, it aims to support individuals in mental health crises with their money and debt management.

The team is led by Jonathan Prew, Managing Director, and an accomplished SLT from companies such as Capita and Serco.



Pictured: Matthew Adam, Founder Director of We Are Group

Find out more about We Are Group



Find out more about Ignite



Corporate partnerships delivering value to UWSP businesses

We are proud to see the success of our collaboration with Schneider Electric and invite other organisations to explore the value of working strategically with the University of Warwick and the University of Warwick Science Park (UWSP). By partnering with us, businesses gain access to a world-class talent pipeline, cutting-edge research facilities, and a thriving innovation ecosystem. This collaborative environment allows companies to tap into Warwick's renowned research strengths, access bespoke training programmes, and engage with industry-ready graduates who are equipped to meet real-world challenges.

UWSP, with its central UK location and STEM-focused business community, serves as a powerful hub for growth, connectivity, and innovation. Companies based at the Science Park not only benefit from direct access to Warwick's academic expertise and R&D capabilities but also become part of a dynamic, forward-thinking community that fosters partnerships, accelerates solutions, and drives sustainable business success. In turn, these businesses bring enormous value to the University, enabling real-world applications of research, enhancing the relevance of our teaching, and providing students with industry placements, apprenticeships, and research opportunities.

Initially the partners collaborated on talent development, with Schneider working with WBS to deliver executive and leadership training, and WMG to offer their degree apprenticeship programme. Further meetings between subject specialists and stakeholders within the two organisations began to explore shared areas of thought-leadership, and the potential benefits of working strategically.

The partnership has now established a programme development structure, around leadership, talent and R&D, and theme leads within each organisation advance strategic tasks, while the partnership leaders have an overview of the different commercial, talent, R&D, and executive education strands.

In little more than a year, through an extensive programme of consultation, the partnership has tailored the APEP electro-engineering degree apprenticeship to enhance industry-focused skills for real world applications. Although Schneider works with a number of universities to provide its programme of apprenticeships, the synergy between its values and expertise and those of Warwick is driving the business partnership forward to deliver a wider talent pipeline and to deepen learning and innovation.

Over the past year alone, partnerships like that with Schneider Electric have created over 30 student opportunities, ranging from degree apprenticeships and research projects to internships and graduate roles. These initiatives equip our students with essential skills, boost employability, and provide organisations with access to a diverse, highly capable talent pool.

To explore how your organisation can benefit from partnering with Warwick, our team is here to support you. Connect with Dr. James Dayus, Associate Director - Business Partnerships (james.dayus@warwick.ac.uk) to start the conversation. Together, we can drive innovation, deepen learning, and create meaningful impact for your business, our students, and society as a whole.



Delivering social and local value in the community

UWSP inspires next generation of Entrepreneurs

UWSP staff and its community engaged in many social and local value creating activities that showcased its commitment to charity, sustainability and community.

The Blythe Valley Innovation Centre (BVIC), operated by the University of Warwick Science Park (UWSP) is home to a thriving community of innovation and technology focused businesses. Recently, BVIC has been at the forefront of an initiative to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs through its engagement with local schools and colleges in the West Midlands.

As part of its outreach efforts, UWSP has introduced the 'Life Ready Programme,' designed to provide students with insights into entrepreneurship and the variety of career opportunities in the region. The initiative has reached more than 200 students across several institutions, including Solihull Sixth Form College, Alderbrook School & Sixth Form, and Coleshill

Heath School. Alongside UWSP a number of our tenants joined this effort which included Raiven AI and Moasure from Warwick Innovation Centre and VGC from Blythe Valley Innovation Centre.

Key activities of the 'Life Ready Programme' included workshops and presentations, a careers fair and a range of interactive sessions. The initiative has been well-received, with students expressing enthusiasm and engagement. Feedback from both students and educators highlighted the programme's success in demystifying entrepreneurship and inspiring confidence in pursuing business opportunities.

Through this UWSP and BVIC have made a meaningful contribution to inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs in the West Midlands. The programme underscores the region's assets as a hub for innovation and showcases the support available for budding entrepreneurs.

▲ Environmental Sustainability

A tree-planting event on The University of Warwick campus resulted in 87 trees being planted as part of a pledge tied to employee survey participation.

We supported the "We Can" initiative by an 11-year-old local resident to tackle food poverty by recycling aluminium cans.



▲ Charitable Contributions

Participation in the KidsOut Charity's GivingTree initiative, with 250 gift tags representing children's wishes distributed across UWSP's centres.

Tenants at the Business Innovation Centre in Binley, including TalentTech Recruitment, Treves, and TMS Consultancy, raised over £600 for two remarkable causes - St John Ambulance and Myton Hospice - through a series of bake sales and raffles.



A large donation of Easter eggs was made by the community at Warwick Innovation Centre to the MacGregor Children's Ward at Warwick Hospital.

Over 100 newborn hats were knitted by our staff and tenant community for George Eliot Hospital and University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire.





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Every **innovation** starts somewhere

