

Scotland:

Where Knowledge and
Innovation Connect

It may be one of the smaller landmasses on our planet, but in terms of culture, character and economics, Scotland is a giant.

It conjures images of kilts, whisky and tartan, rolling mountains, beautiful valleys, lochs and lakes.

But today's Scotland is more than this.

It's modern, forward thinking, knowledgeable, welcoming, high-tech, intelligent and quite a lot more...

Increasingly, the value of thought and intelligence is paramount. In business, this means high knowledge, value-added research, design and development, which is at the very core of Scotland's commercial future.

To capture the character of Scotland you'll need to visit, but for the time being, read on, then go to:

www.sdi.co.uk for more details.

www.sdi.co.uk

Scotland > Innovates

Across a wide spectrum of industry sectors, Scotland keeps pace with and often sets the new standard for innovation.

Some current developments include, in the field of biotechnology, a collection of over 560 life science organisations, more than a hundred of which are medical devices companies. This is supplemented by over 40 clinical and non-clinical research companies. Specialist activities include pioneering work in the fields of oncology, nanotechnology and bio-manufacturing.

Furthermore, in the microelectronics industry, Scotland excels in design, and research and development in a range of disciplines, including fibre optic communications, system-on-chip, imaging and sensors and integrated circuits. All of which is ably served by an education system that includes many universities with their own specialist optoelectronic departments.

Scotland has an outstanding record of achievement in developing leading edge technologies for the energy sector, with our companies investing heavily in research and development.

Add to this over 1,000 software and e-business companies, supported by an advanced telecoms and broadband infrastructure, dealing in everything from data management systems to ISP services.

And finally, the financial services sector in Scotland, which has a long history and a bright future, thanks to a wealth of people skills and an ability to adapt to changing customer expectations by using technology to roll out new e-banking and online trading services.

The people who work in these industries and drive them forward are continually striving for newer, better, more effective ways of working—all of which is set to keep Scotland at the forefront of innovation.



Setting the scene

As our world shrinks and our minds expand, Scotland is well equipped to deal with the new knowledge economy.

The vision is to create a Smart, Successful Scotland and implementation is well under way. Already, on a global scale, Scots at home and abroad are trading in knowledge on a daily basis.

Who can help?

Harnessing all this power is a government-funded agency aptly named SCOTTISH DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL.

They act as a gateway to Scottish knowledge and trade, combining a one-stop shop for inward investment and Scottish exports, as well as a full range of added-value services. This means developing the needs of both Scottish businesses and other leading-edge industries around the world.

Scottish Development International has a network of offices around the world that acts a single doorway for companies and organisations to tap into Scotland's key strengths in knowledge, high level skills, technology and innovation.

Global companies need expertise - the best people and the best technologies. Scottish Development International aims to work with global companies to use Scotland's renowned R&D capability, through building technology and trade alliances and creating new channels to market by assisting with corporate expansions and inward investments.

So what does this mean in practice?



What's on Offer?

Here are some of the activities that Scottish Development International is involved in.

- > Encouraging technology and trade alliances—in everything from biotechnology to creative industries, helping like-minded individuals and companies, in Scotland and around the world, pool and share their growing base of knowledge.
- > Assisting with corporate expansions and R&D outsourcing in Scotland—through every stage of the process, from advice on financial assistance and property searches, to technology and investment opportunities, plus information on labour rates, transport infrastructure, education and quality-of-life issues.
- > Brokering partnerships between the private sector and education—helping organisations with the selection and appointment of a suitable research partner in a world-class university or specialist institute.
- > Maximising financial assistance—for both manufacturing and service operations, from a variety of sources, to help with research, design and development projects with a high knowledge content.
- > Seeking new channels—for forward-thinking companies in global markets.
- > Continuously striving for improvement—in the service offered to parties interested in Scottish knowledge.
- > Assisting with product and technology licensing—to forge ever-closer links with key industry players.
- > Collaborating with overseas venture capitalists—to bring more investment into expanding companies in Scotland and elsewhere, for the benefit of both parties.
- > Attracting talent—growing the pool of technology professionals across a spectrum of knowledge industries, which results in an expansion of Scotland's people skills and a host of superb career opportunities.



How Does It Work?

Scottish Development International uses a combination of carefully selected field experts, operating in markets throughout the world, supported by a massive “back-office” infrastructure based in Scotland.

This means that on a local level, they can offer an in-depth level of understanding of the market, while, at the same time, being able to draw on a vast pool of expertise across a range of specialist areas.

The pay-off

Whether you’re looking to invest in, or trade knowledge out of Scotland, with experts from Scottish Development International to help you, you’ll be in professional hands.

Contacting these experts ensures you full access to Scottish knowledge, research, technology, innovation, people and wit. They can help your business exploit Scotland’s key strengths in knowledge-based industries, high-level skills, technology and innovation.

You’ll find more details at: www.sdi.co.uk



energy > microelectronics

The Scots have a legendary thirst for knowledge. And it seems they always have.

Not only have they given the world some of its most useful inventions, but they've also built some of the most impressive universities you'll find anywhere. Perhaps these two facts are connected. Here are just a few things we can thank the Scots for discovering, inventing or pioneering...

- > Penicillin
- > Telephone
- > Television
- > Cloning
- > The p53 gene

Scottish people have a very strong work ethic and they put it to good use at an early age as they grow, develop and learn. The education system is world-renowned and it is the model adopted by France and America amongst others.

This includes a strong emphasis on vocational training, especially in the fields of science and technology.

There are a variety of universities and colleges, some world-renowned, like St. Andrews and Edinburgh, plus a superb network of research institutes, resulting in one of the highest levels of graduates per capita in Europe. In spite of having only 9% of the UK population, Scotland still manages to produce 17% of graduates in medicine and 21% in computing science.

Collaboration between universities and commercial business is commonplace, most often in the fields of research and development. The results have yielded advances in technology and life sciences with the added bonus of developing students for tomorrow's workplace.



To find out how your company can connect with
Scotland's knowledge and innovation, please contact
Scottish Development International's Scottish HQ:

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