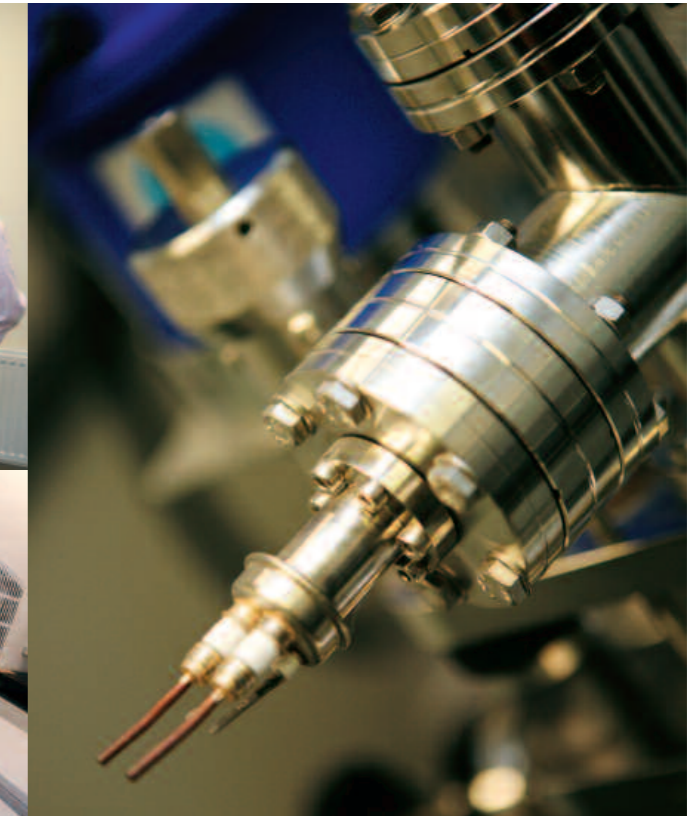




Sir Harry Kroto and wife Margaret

BELOW: The North Campus team with Vickie Roberts from Olympus UK;
BOTTOM LEFT: Conference facilities



WINNING FORMULA

A distinguished guest is returning to Sheffield to see the centres of excellence dedicated to his groundbreaking work.

Nobel Prize winner Sir Harry Kroto will return to Sheffield this month to visit the research institutes named in his honour.

The alumnus of the University of Sheffield and his wife Lady Margaret are attending the Annual North Campus Symposium on 23 June.

The North Campus is the base for the Kroto Innovation Centre & III-V Centre and the Kroto Research Institute as well as the Sorby Nano Investigation Centre and the North Campus Conference Centre.

Sir Harry was a student in Sheffield obtaining a first class degree in chemistry in 1961 and a PhD in 1964. Currently he is professor of chemistry at Florida State University.

In 1996 he was knighted for contributions to chemistry and later that year, together with two others, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for the discovery of C60 Buckminsterfullerene, a new form of carbon.

To mark his achievements, the University of Sheffield named the "Kroto Research Institute" at the North Campus in his honour in its centenary year when it acquired the North Campus on Broad Lane from the Health and Safety Executive.

The move heralded a major expansion of the university's science and engineering facilities and the North Campus became a UK hub for multidisciplinary science and engineering. It is believed to be the UK's largest dedicated multidisciplinary research facility and the bringing together of science and engineering research has allowed strong engagement with industry.

The university actively collaborates with businesses and the expertise of its top scientists provides solutions to a range of pressing problems faced by companies. The collaboration has also enabled businesses to develop their own expertise to take on new opportunities.

Together with an on-site purpose built commercial innovation centre this multidisciplinary research has made North Campus a centre of gravity for industrial engagement.

Professor Geof Tomlinson, director of North Campus, commented, "It is encouraging to see how the investment in multidisciplinary research and business engagement is making a real impact, in a relatively short time. North Campus has become recognised both nationally and internationally as a great example of the benefits of co-locating experts from different disciplines, in terms of the impact upon both the innovative nature of the research and the ability to address industry's and society's pressing problems. We are already looking at the expansion of the facilities for both research and high-tech businesses"

Sorby Nano Investigation Centre

Supported by the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and the European Regional Development Fund, this centre offers businesses an expert and cost effective analytical micro and nano scale investigation service providing businesses with results which would be beyond their grasp.

Sorby Nano scientists, under the directorship of Professor Mark Rainforth, an international expert in material science and

engineering, use the latest microscopy techniques capable of analysing the most demanding samples from advanced materials to biological specimens, from a single test to a complex development.

Kroto Innovation Centre

This is a rapidly developing business incubator for technology start-up companies. Based in the heart of North Campus, in the Nanoscience & Technology building, it offers expert support to fledgling and high-growth technology-based companies providing dedicated and open-plan offices, bespoke product test laboratories, managed clean room facilities and business support.

The business incubator on North Campus has recently merged with the Sheffield Bioincubator under Mark Sanderson who will be business development manager for the two sites.

EPSRC National Centre for III-V Semiconductor Technologies

Internationally known for the production of state-of-the-art compound-semiconductor epitaxy and device fabrication using III-V semiconductors, the EPSRC National Centre for III-V Technologies provides collaborative access to world class expertise and facilities, enabling top-rate scientific research in the physical, engineering and biomedical sciences.

This has been achieved by the provision of the highest specification epitaxial materials and characterisation, advanced technologies for device fabrication, and the provision of custom opto-electronic and electronic devices. Scientists at the centre work with a large number of UK research groups. The majority of this research is with academic groups, supported by grants from the EPSRC, but it also has BBSRC and Defence, DTI, EU and Industrial collaborations.

Conferencing

The North Campus conference centre is an attractive, newly created facility, available for meetings, conferences and networking events. With full audio visual equipment, the centre holds a capacity of up to 150 and has flexible seating, which can be set up to user requirements.

The facility offers a variety of packages which can be tailored to individual needs. It offers conference and training facilities right in the heart of Sheffield and has catering on request.

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