

## ABHI Welcomes the Launch of the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy



The MedTech sector's vital role in improving patient outcomes, driving economic growth and reducing healthcare costs, was recognised in the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy which was launched today. ABHI congratulates Professor Sir John Bell, who worked with a variety of partners to produce the report, for setting-out ambitious and comprehensive proposals which will boost the MedTech industry, as well as the broader life sciences sector, for the benefit of the economy and patients.

The strategy contains several positive recommendations for the MedTech industry, many of which were the consequence of continued Member input into the consultation process. Of note is the importance of increased collaboration with the NHS, emphasised throughout the document. There is also significant opportunity to maximise the possibilities that healthcare data holds for medical research. Proposals to strengthen existing, and nurture emerging clusters, will aid the growth of MedTech companies and realise their potential. It is particularly pleasing that one or more of the Digital Innovation Hubs will be focused solely on MedTech, complementing the 4 – 6 MedTech Centres of Excellence.

ABHI is working with the Office of Life Sciences (OLS) to reconstitute a formal Ministerial MedTech Forum that will bring together representatives from government, our diverse sector, the NHS, and other partners. Through this forum we will work with OLS to ensure MedTech specific elements are taken forward. This includes:

1. A focus on driving high levels of sustained NHS collaboration.

We welcome and support the statement that, 'any credible life sciences strategy in the UK must have the NHS as an active participant'. For NHS-industry partnerships to succeed, and to address the UK's long-standing challenge of adopting new technologies, the recommendations of the Accelerated Access Review must be rapidly implemented. The report acknowledges our concern that the UK commercial environment needs improving and highlights that greater flexibility in contractual arrangements is needed.

2. Prioritising the roll-out of a robust MedTech specific export programme.

The report recognises that the UK runs a small life sciences trade surplus. Further investment into the Department for International Trade will be a significant opportunity to increase this through a targeted exporting support campaign for the UK's MedTech SME community.

3. Mutual recognition of the EU-wide system of medical device regulation.

As Britain prepares to leave the EU, continued convergence with the European-wide regulatory system will be critical in ensuring the MedTech sector continues to attract foreign investment, whilst guaranteeing that UK companies have the strongest domestic market to partner and from which to export.

ABHI looks forward to working with all parties to ensure the successful implementation of this unique opportunity for the United Kingdom.

ENDS

**Association of British Healthcare Industries Limited**

107 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8TZ | T: +44 (0)20 7960 4360 | E: [enquiries@abhi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@abhi.org.uk) | [www.abhi.org.uk](http://www.abhi.org.uk) | [@UK\\_ABHI](https://twitter.com/UK_ABHI)  
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## About ABHI

The Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI) is the industry association for the medical technology sector in the UK. ABHI's mission is to champion the benefits and use of safe and effective medical technologies to deliver high quality patient outcomes. With over 260 members, ABHI leads the advocacy of the industry in order to advance access to medical technology. Our membership includes some of the leading multinational businesses in the sector in the UK right the way through to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

For further information, visit the ABHI website: [www.abhi.org.uk](http://www.abhi.org.uk)

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