

*Trus*TECH® is an NHS organisation that helps NHS Trusts in the North West to identify and protect innovative technologies, ideas and services that could be commercialised or shared to improve patient care. *Trus*TECH is part of the NHS Innovation Hub network and provides advice on managing innovation arising from all aspects of NHS healthcare provision.

*Trus*TECH was established in early 2001, as a partnership between Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust, the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Central Lancashire. Based in the Innovation Unit at Manchester Royal Infirmary (and with offices in Liverpool and Preston) *Trus*TECH works with Trusts in Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. It currently receives its core funding from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Health.

Innovation Management Service

When a potentially innovative technology or idea is identified, *Trus*TECH evaluates the novelty and potential market for the idea. It also provides advice on protecting the idea through legal rights (intellectual property rights [IPR]) and assists with further development and commercialisation (where appropriate).

*Trus*TECH can support product development by identifying other Trusts, academic researchers or commercial partners for specialist advice (e.g. for trials or prototype production). It also works on the behalf of the Trust to negotiate terms with suitable commercial partners for the manufacturing and marketing of a product. The most appropriate route for commercialisation is usually through a licensing agreement between the NHS Trust and a company, but *Trus*TECH can also support the establishment of spin-out companies through the development of Department of Health business cases.

*Trus*TECH's areas of expertise include:

- Biotechnology
- Diagnostics and Therapeutics
- Medical Devices & Equipment
- Software
- Training & Educational Materials
- Service Delivery Innovations

Service Innovation Scheme

*Trus*TECH recognises that not all innovations benefit from commercialisation. It is sometimes more appropriate to share innovations freely within the NHS. Improving processes and procedures plays a fundamental role in healthcare innovation and, with this in mind, *Trus*TECH has developed the Service Innovation Scheme.

Through the Service Innovation Scheme, set up in 2005, *Trus*TECH evaluates the effectiveness of NHS Service Innovations and raises awareness of successful services among other Trusts. The Service Innovation Scheme gives innovative Trusts recognition for successful innovations and encourages NHS staff to review and adopt innovative services.

Funding

*Trus*TECH can provide funding to assist the development of innovative technologies or devices through its Pathfinder Fund. A Service Innovation Bursary is also available from *Trus*TECH to aid the dissemination of innovative services across the wider NHS.

Contact us:

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