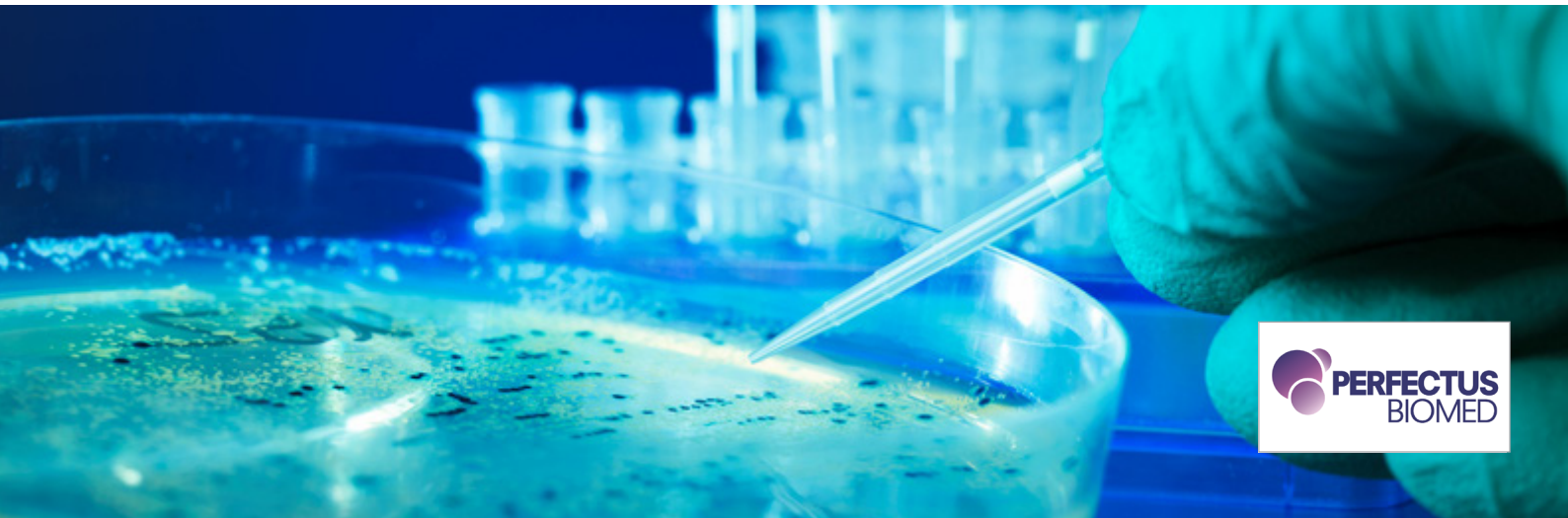




Biomedical start-ups grow stronger with I-TAC



The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)'s Innovations Technology Access Centre (I-TAC) has enabled microbiology start-up company Perfectus Biomed to expand and secure investment.

The challenge

Perfectus Biomed provides bespoke assays for assessing antimicrobial technologies. Initially focussed on wound care applications, Perfectus was the first company in Europe to specialise in the removal of biofilm-encased microorganisms. 80% of the world's bacteria exist as part of a biofilm, so their methods are more applicable to real life scenarios than standard EU tests, which use easily treated, free-floating planktonic cells in their assays. It can be difficult for a start-up like Perfectus to attract the investment it requires to support rapid growth and to gain affordable access to the expensive equipment and laboratory space required for bespoke research.

The solution

I-TAC provided Perfectus Biomed with a flexible environment in which to expand their business, within a wider network of STFC expertise. Enabling the company to manage costs during the initial stages of the business has been critical in allowing Perfectus to flourish in the long term. From access to high specification equipment and lab space, right through to identifying sources of investment, I-TAC provided an invaluable service that strongly supported the success of this pioneering start up.

The benefits

In less than a year, Perfectus Biomed has expanded from a sole trader to a company employing several permanent staff. I-TAC provided Perfectus with the flexibility to expand at their own pace from a small, shared laboratory to larger standalone premises, whilst remaining on campus to absorb the benefits of the wider scientific community. Business support from I-TAC has assisted the company in securing significant investment from both the North West Fund for Biomedical and the Rainbow Seed Fund. STFC is a partner in the Rainbow Seed Fund, which enables spin-outs and SMEs on campus to pursue investment. I-TAC has also connected Perfectus with other organisations such as UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Growth Accelerator, which have respectively enabled the company to re-launch its website and obtain good laboratory practice (GLP) and ISO standards. The start-up can now set their sights on further developing their technological services into areas of application, such as surface antimicrobials, dentistry, contact lenses, surgical implants and water treatment.

"We are very grateful to STFC for their support to date. I-TAC and the surrounding campus has supported Perfectus Biomed throughout the very early stages of growth. The provision of flexible office and lab space allowed us to grow without changing premises, while the on-site business support provided us with contacts and knowledge to help us secure the investment required to further develop the company."
– Samantha Westgate, CEO, Perfectus Biomed.

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For more information about how your business could benefit from access to I-TAC:

Tel: +44 (0)1925 603708

Email: innovations@stfc.ac.uk

Twitter: @STFC_B2B