



Driving an Innovation Economy in Norfolk and Suffolk

Julian Munson, Head of Enterprise Zones and Innovation



November 2017 – Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy highlights the need to link up our innovation hubs and wider business support offer.



March 2020 – Concept for Connected Innovation is proposed at the Innovate UK regional conference at Norwich Research Park, to create a regional network of 12 innovation hubs.



July 2020 – Connected Innovation is incorporated into delivery plans of New Anglia Innovation Board and the Industry Council for Digital Tech. Proposals were developed.



January 2021 – successfully awarded funding from Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund and Norfolk Strategic Fund enabling the project to commence.



April 2023 – awarded funding from New Anglia LEP and UK Shared Prosperity Fund extending the programme for a further 2 years to March 2025.



The programme was launched by New Anglia LEP in Spring 2021 to help address regional innovation challenges in Norfolk and Suffolk and to drive stronger collaboration across the innovation hubs (12 initially).



Focused around cross sector innovation, business support and addressing key agendas such as clean growth/net zero and the productivity gap.



Provides subject-matter expertise on technology trends, knowledge transfer and strategic innovation through challenge led events.



Responding to the challenges and opportunities within the Innovation Hubs and Clusters across Norfolk and Suffolk including greater access to innovation funding/investment.



Suffolk Hub Partners

INNOVATION LABS



THE EPICENTRE

FREEPORT EAST

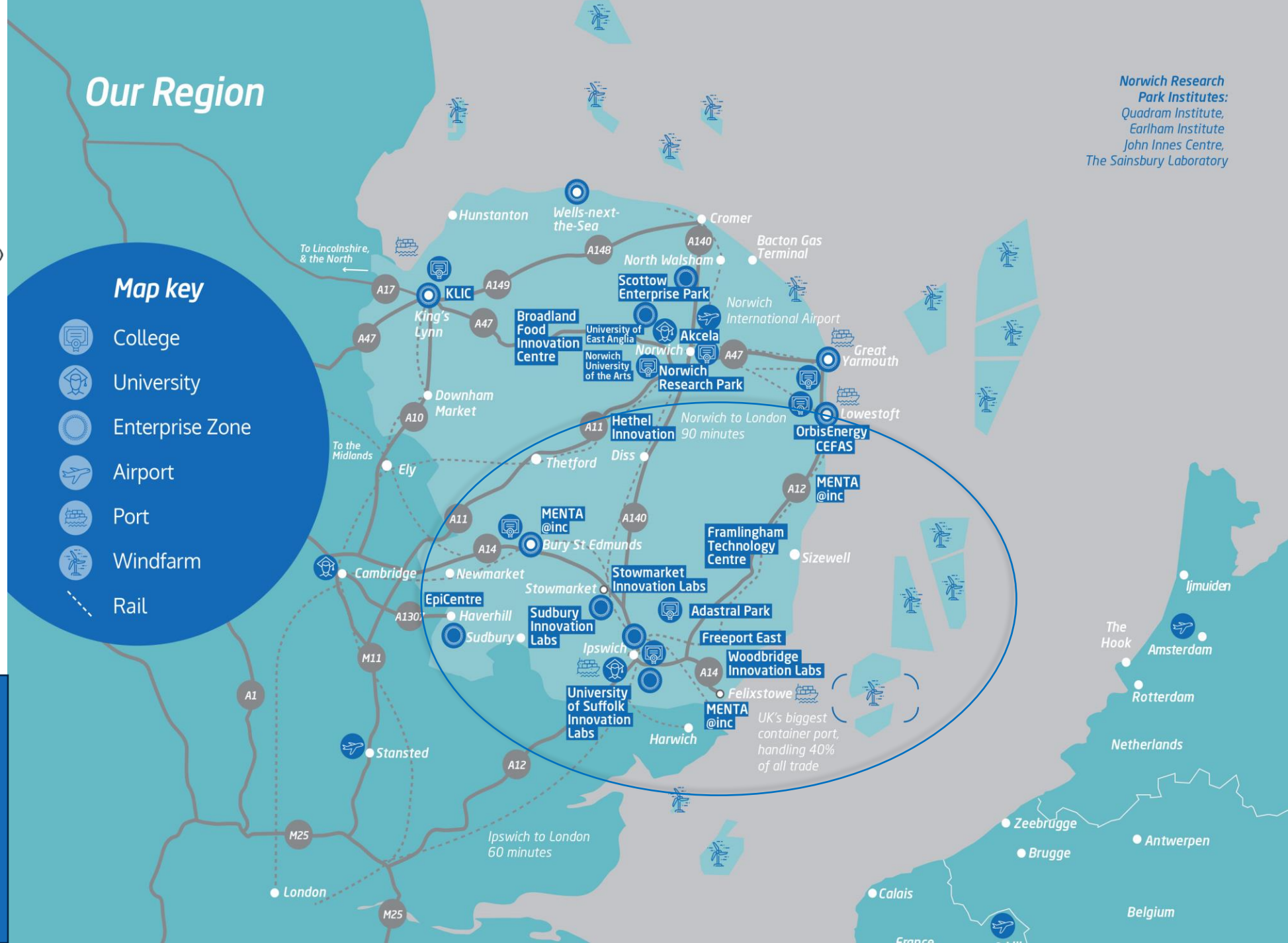
FELIXSTOWE
GATEWAY 14
HARWICH

A GLOBAL FREEPORT FOR A GLOBAL BRITAIN

INNOVATION

MARTLESHAM

Our Region



Map key

- College
- University
- Enterprise Zone
- Airport
- Port
- Windfarm
- Rail

Norwich Research Park Institutes:
Quadram Institute,
Earlham Institute
John Innes Centre,
The Sainsbury Laboratory

UK's biggest container port, handling 40% of all trade

Ipswich to London 60 minutes

Norwich to London 90 minutes

To Lincolnshire, & the North

To the Midlands

Driving an Innovation Economy – Focus Areas



Enhanced links
with the industry
council, cluster and
sector groups



A focus on
innovation and new
technology through
cross sector activity



Greater engagement
with finance and
business support
networks



A greater focus on
Science, Research,
Development and
commercialisation



Developing thematic
discussions and action
around new
opportunities and
challenges



Exploring / Showcasing
emerging opportunities
including Marine
Science, Agri & Aqua-
tech, Space Tech & AI



Promotion of
development
opportunities linked
to Enterprise Zones,
Freeport and HPOs

Connected Clusters



Health and
Life Sciences



Food and
Agri-tech



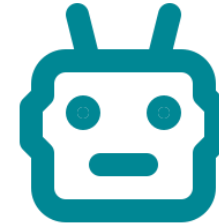
Manufacturing
& Engineering



Energy



Marine
Science



AI and
Robotics



Digital Tech



Space



Creative
Industries

Connected Clusters

- Connected Innovation delivered the FinTech workshop at Aviva that kickstarted the Norfolk FinTech Futures work, led by Tech East and supported by Norfolk County Council. The Connected Innovation team continue to support this work with potential opportunities to focus on Suffolk in the future.
- Working with Hydrogen East to deliver events showcasing the opportunity across multiple sectors in both Norfolk and Suffolk. Potential to support the development of a hydrogen roadmap.
- Leading on the Create Growth Programme, which sees the delivery of Creative East's scale-up and investment readiness programme and promotes the locked-off Innovate UK funding for the region.
- Secured the £7.5m Innovate UK Agri-Tech and Food Tech Launchpad for the Eastern region – promoting this opportunity and signposting local support on offer through the Innovation Grant Mentoring Project and Innovate UK Business Growth service (previously EDGE).

Connected Clusters

- Supported the work delivered by Hethel Innovation, UEA and Cefas on the Algae Innovation Platform and Seaweed Innovation Project.
- Working with Game Anglia and regional partners to support the Gaming Cluster. £3k has been secured for University of Suffolk to work with Norwich University of the Arts and wider partners to deliver 3 events in the two counties and help scope proposals for a regional Gaming Cluster.
- The team led the bid to UKSA to create Space East and have to date funded many of the key events focusing on offshore wind, manufacturing & engineering, agri-tech, etc.
- Worked with the Space Cluster Manager, Satellite Applications Catapult, BT, Suffolk CC and East Suffolk Council to secure a Space Enterprise Lab at Adastral Park.





Regional Cluster Partners

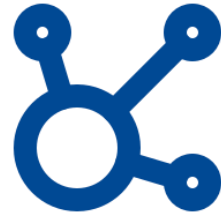


Connected Innovation Outputs to Date



Innovation
Hubs in the
Network

25



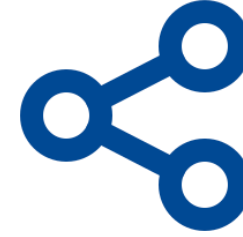
Network
Collaborations /
Introductions Made

150



Research / Academic
Institutions in the
Network

10



Engagements
with wider
organisations

41



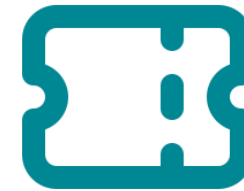
Businesses
within the
network

800+



Connected
Innovation Events
Hosted / Supported

45



Businesses /
Organisations
Attending

1,500+

New Anglia Innovation Board

“The New Anglia Innovation Board has created a platform which brings together the strategic leaders of our main innovation hubs and clusters, including organisations that are driving the innovation ecosystem, across education, public and private sectors, working closely with organisations such as Innovate UK and Catapults.” - Chair, Johnathan Reynolds



The Innovation Board has four ambitions for growth:

- Norfolk and Suffolk are recognised as a centre for pioneering ideas, meeting the challenges we face globally
- Science and innovation are net contributors to the Norfolk and Suffolk economy
- A highly skilled workforce equipped with the skills necessary to access the techniques and business practices needed for innovation
- Existing assets continue to strengthen and develop into a pan-regional innovation ecosystem

Regional Innovation Local Action Plan with Innovate UK



The Innovation Board oversees the implementation of the New Anglia Innovation Action Plan, a formal agreement between Innovate UK, Innovation Board with Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council. The Action Plan has the following key core areas and actions;

- **Strategic Partnerships** to ensure we have the necessary relationships to deliver this plan and grow the Norfolk and Suffolk economy through innovation, maximising local strengths and capabilities.
- **Innovation Support** that is targeted at priority clusters and meets the needs of local businesses and entrepreneurs, sharing expertise and data so we can take more informed actions.
- **Communication and engagement** to ensure we're reaching, engaging and inspiring more entrepreneurs and business leaders to innovate.

Relationship with Innovate UK



UKRI Innovate UK KTN

↑ > [OPPORTUNITIES](#) >

Launchpad: agri-tech and food tech in Eastern England

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £2m for business led projects in the agri-tech and food technology cluster in Eastern England.



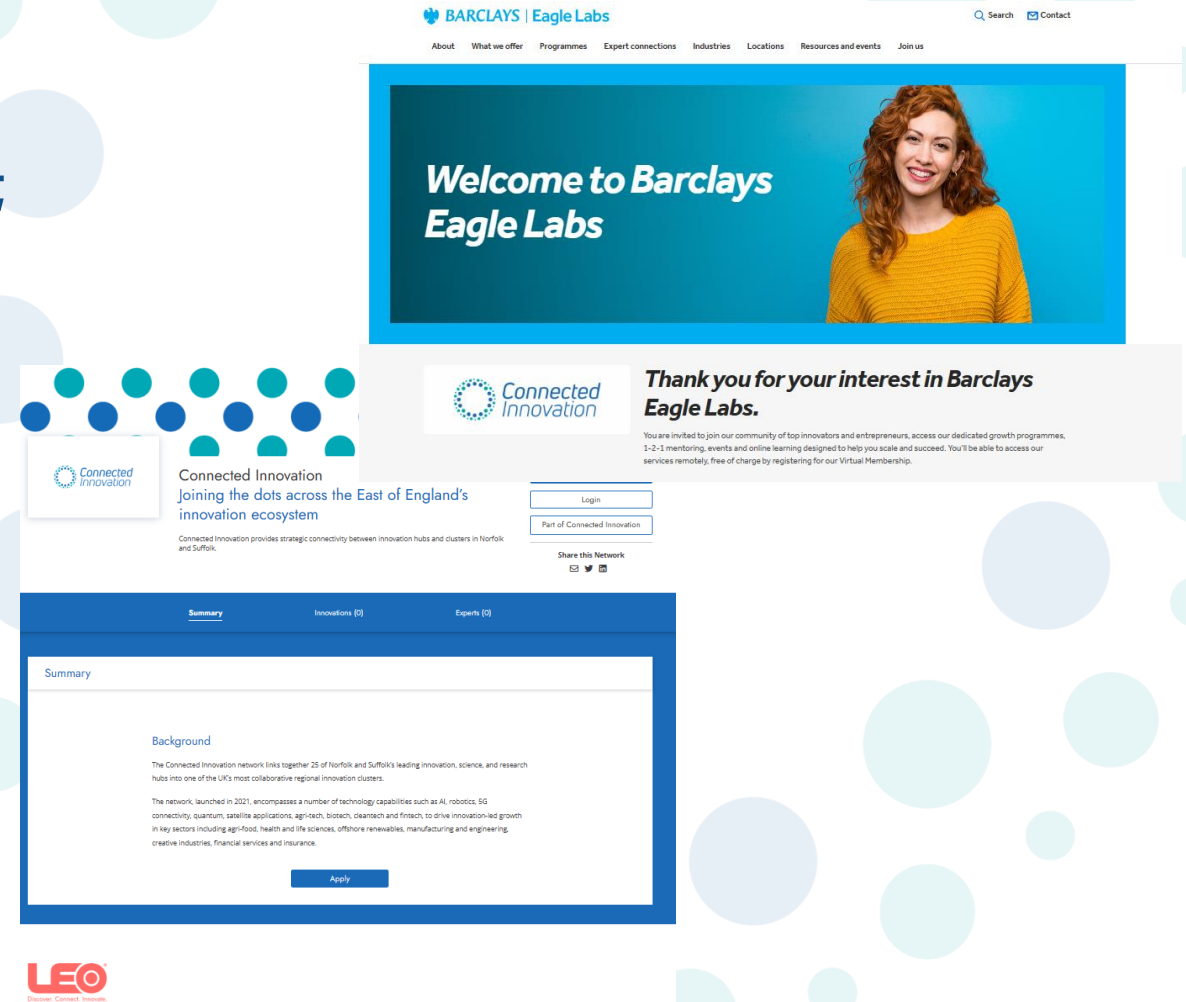
Create Growth Programme

Helping businesses in England convert their creative potential into creative growth.



Relationship with Key Partners

- High Growth & Scale-Up team at New Anglia Growth Hub
- Innovation Grant Mentoring Project (IGMP)
- Growth Through Innovation (GTI) Fund
- Finance & Investment Partners (Sub-Group) incl. ;
 - Fleximize
 - British Business Bank
 - Anglia Capital Group
 - Inngot
 - Finance East
- Barclays Eagle Labs
- Leading Edge Only (LEO Platform)
- Norfolk Developers
- Ipswich & Suffolk Tech Network
- Tech East, Agri-TechE etc.
- Universities, Colleges and specialist centres e.g. DigiTech Centre (Adastral Park), XR Lab (West Suffolk College)



The screenshot displays the Barclays Eagle Labs website. At the top, the Barclays Eagle Labs logo is visible alongside navigation links: About, What we offer, Programmes, Expert connections, Industries, Locations, Resources and events, and Join us. A search icon and a contact icon are also present. The main banner features a woman in a yellow top with the text "Welcome to Barclays Eagle Labs". Below this, a "Thank you for your interest in Barclays Eagle Labs." message is shown, along with a brief description of the community and an invitation to register for a Virtual Membership. A registration form includes fields for "Login" and "Part of Connected Innovation". Below the form, there are social media sharing options and a "Share this Network" button. The page also features a "Summary" section with a "Background" heading and a paragraph of text. At the bottom, there is an "Apply" button and the LEO logo.

Connected Innovation Delivery Team



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Chair, Connected
Innovation Network



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Katie Snell
Connected Clusters
Lead



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Lead



**Innovation Prospectus
– Norfolk and Suffolk**