

April 6, 2021

Shonan Health Innovation Park

## **Shonan iPark Signs Partnership Agreement with UK Science Ecosystem, via the National Horizons Centre**

### **MOU to Expand and Strengthen Shonan iPark's UK-Japan Life Science Innovation Network**

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Shonan Health Innovation Park (“Shonan iPark”) today announced that it has entered into a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) to establish partnership agreement with the National Horizons Centre (“NHC”), which sits at the heart of a bioscience cluster in the northeast of England from March 15th. Under the MOU, Shonan iPark and the NHC will combine efforts to organize joint initiatives, including training programs and opportunities to share knowledge and exchange ideas, to achieve their shared goal of realizing life science innovation.

NHC is a £22.3 million state-of-the-art investment, located on Darlington Central Park, in the UK, specializing in biosciences. With research, partnerships, and training at its core, the NHC brings together industry, academia, talent and world-class facilities to create real-world impact, discovering diseases earlier, developing novel treatments and delivering life-saving medicines quicker, safer and more affordably. With specialisms in disease-specific research, biomanufacturing and digital analytics and machine learning, the NHC works in an agile way to advance biosciences and healthcare research.

Darlington Central Park is also home to the Northern Bio-Accelerator Partnership. between NHC, FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, and CPI, which is a founding member of the UK government’s ‘High Value Manufacturing Catapult’ innovation initiative. The partnership serves as a hub for bioprocessing, biomanufacturing, and biopharmaceuticals in the UK’s northeast regions, forming a center of innovation in the area.

The collaboration between NHC and Shonan iPark covered in this MOU includes:

- Joint initiatives to develop talent in both organizations (tailor-made training programs, talent referrals, and Shonan iPark member visits to the UK’s northeast when international travel is permitted).
- Sharing of research themes and acceleration of joint research.
- Co-sponsorship of seminars for sharing academic expert knowledge.

“We are delighted to be able to work with members of Shonan iPark”, says Dr Jen Vanderhoven,

Director of NHC. “Both organizations have developed vibrant ecosystems and undertaken activities to fill the gap between academic research and commercialization. It will be an excellent opportunity to connect Tees Valley with Japan based on such common values and jointly explore new ways to develop and deliver innovative technologies in biosciences and healthcare.”

Dr. Toshio Fujimoto, General Manager of Shonan iPark says “I believe this partnership between the two science-based innovation centers will enable further sharing of knowledge and collaboration opportunities for researchers at both sites. It will be a privilege if together this agreement paves the way for bringing innovation communities in the UK and Japan closer.”

This will be the fourth partnership for Shonan iPark, which actively seeks collaboration with overseas ecosystems to accelerate innovation in life sciences. Shonan iPark will continue efforts to network with leading ecosystems around the world to develop a global life sciences ecosystem that serves to implement innovative ideas in society.

#### **About National Horizons Centre (NHC)**

The National Horizons Centre (NHC) is a £22.3m centre of excellence for the biosciences and healthcare sector. With research, partnerships and training at our core, the NHC brings together industry, academia, talent and world-class facilities to create real-world impact.

Together with its partners, the NHC prides itself on discovering diseases earlier, developing novel treatments and delivering life-saving medicines quicker, safer and more affordably. With specialisms in disease-specific research, biomanufacturing and digital analytics and machine learning, the NHC works in an agile way to advance biosciences and healthcare research.

Located at Darlington Central Park, in the Tees Valley in the North East of England, it sits at the heart of an ecosystem of life sciences excellence.

#### **About Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark)**

Shonan iPark is a science park founded in April 2018 by a pharmaceutical company. It convenes private and public sector organizations and academic institutions that widely range in terms of business type and scale and aims to be a space where health innovation can be accelerated. More than 2,000 employees (as of March, 2021) from more than 110 pharmaceutical, next-generation medicine, AI, venture capital, and government-related companies and organizations together form an ecosystem to enable such innovation.

<https://www.shonan-health-innovation-park.com/>

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