

PRESS RELEASE
Babraham Research Campus

26th July 2007
Cambridge, UK

New Bioincubation Facilities on the Babraham Research Campus set to open in September 2007

Meditrina, BBT's latest Bioincubator building on the Babraham Research Campus, will be completed and handed over on 24th August 2007, nearly a month ahead of schedule. The new facility provides purpose built office and laboratory accommodation; fully fitted units of 1,000 sq ft ready for immediate occupancy by young and growing bioscience companies. BBT commissioned this building to meet the incubation demands on the Campus and construction commenced on site in September 2006.

Delighted that the new bioincubator will be completed to a high quality finish ahead of time, David Hardman, CEO of BBT said, "This means that we can offer a further 20,000 sq ft of purpose built incubation space to early stage bioventures looking to develop biomedical products and services in the region. We are pleased that just over half of the building has already been leased to tenants either growing out of our existing facilities or relocating to the Babraham Research Campus, adding to the 26 companies currently residing in our other buildings. Indeed expressions of interest in the remaining space could exceed that available in Meditrina."

Interest in the Babraham Research Campus has been such that, even with the new buildings, the facilities have been fully subscribed since 2001, a reflection of the exceptional facilities available and flexible, competitive terms. Arakis, Procognia and Biowisdom are some of the campus' notable alumni.

Meditrina, named after the Roman goddess of medicine, was part-funded by a capital grant of £2 million from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) in partnership with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) enabling the construction of this state-of-the-art £7million Bioincubator.

Mark Aspinall, Head of Innovation at EEDA, said: "The Meditrina building will help to boost the region's exploitation of the bioscience sector and in turn help to grow the regional economy further. It will increase the support for early stage bioventures wanting to establish themselves in the East of England and will bring international recognition and investment to the region."

As the date for Practical Completion approaches Chris Murphy, Managing Director, of Marriott, the constructors, said that the success of the project was a result of the excellent relationship established with all members of the team, Client, Contractor, Designers and Supply Chain partners working together to achieve a common goal.

Even before Meditrina is handed over, BBT is contemplating the business case for the next building. "We hope to start construction of Maia (appropriately named for the rapidly developing Babraham Research Campus after the Roman goddess of growth) during 2008; a building that would offer a mix of incubation and grow-on space."

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Notes for Editors

Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd is the wholly-owned subsidiary and trading arm of the Babraham Institute. Coalescing scientific, technological and commercial excellence, BBT delivers the Knowledge Transfer remit of the Institute through the wider landscape of the Babraham Research Campus, catalysing opportunities for enterprise across the academic and commercial divide. BBT brings together all the elements to support innovation and enable the successful exploitation of research in the biomedical sector based on technologies emanating from the Babraham Institute and bioventures relocating to the Babraham Research Campus.

BBT has taken a prominent role regionally, initiating and leading partnerships to promote knowledge and skills flow and has established a reputation for successfully translating innovative science into viable business opportunities through partnerships for wealth creation. This is stimulating inward investment to the campus and contributing to regional development. Building on the success of the incubator model, BBT established a new venture, Aitua Ltd, formerly 'Babraham BioConcepts Ltd'. Aitua works closely with innovators to create and nurture emerging companies from world-class science and technology deriving mainly from the Babraham Institute or locating to the Babraham Research Campus. It will provide seed and early round funding, inject specific expertise and provide access to facilities to companies.

BBT's activities support wider investment in the life sciences to generate and sustain growth of the region's healthcare economy. Website: www.babraham.com

The Babraham Institute is an independent charitable organisation, sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, carrying out world-leading innovative research and advanced training with relevance to the biomedical, biotechnological, pharmaceutical and healthcare research and user communities. The Institute's research focuses on the mechanisms of cell signalling and gene regulation, which underlie normal cellular processes and functions, and on how their failure or abnormality may lead to disease. As such, Institute scientists are striving to find cures for conditions where there is currently no treatment or where the existing treatment is not fully effective or causes serious side effects. The latest technologies are being used to study the basis of conditions such as neurodegenerative disorders, foetal abnormality, cancer and diseases of the immune and cardiovascular systems. The commercialisation of the Institute's research is managed by its trading subsidiary, Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd. The Babraham Research Campus is located six miles south-east of Cambridge. Website: www.babraham.ac.uk

About the East of England Development Agency: The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) is the driving force behind sustainable economic regeneration in the East of England: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The vision for the East of England is to create a leading economy, founded on a world class knowledge base, creativity and enterprise to improve the quality of life for all who live and work here. For further information visit www.eeda.org.uk

About Marriott Construction: Marriott Construction is an operating division of Kier Regional Limited, covering the East Midlands and Northern Home Counties from offices in Rushden, Northamptonshire and Nottingham. The company, established in 1890, has an annual turnover of £120M and employs more than 270 staff. www.keir.co.uk.