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Dear Bob

I am very glad to learn of progress with the Oxfordshire Place Based Sustainable Growth Package deal and I am writing on behalf of Diamond Light Source Ltd and the wider Harwell Campus to express our unequivocal support to the Oxfordshire Growth Board for this initiative.

Diamond Light Source now has a global reputation as a leader in science and innovation, enabling over 5000 scientists from universities and industry every year to deliver world-leading research. However, it is just one of several world-class facilities at Harwell that together provide a Campus for science, innovation, technology and business that is recognized internationally for its strengths in biomedical research, space technology and advanced new materials and processes with applications as diverse as cleaner energy, sustainable transport and advanced manufacturing.

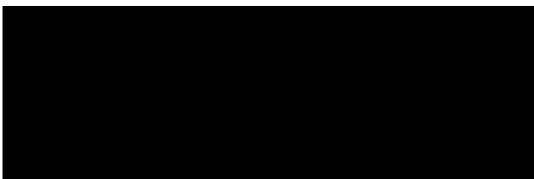
Harwell delivers all of these services both locally, attracting an increasing number of companies to set up operations of various scales (at the latest count these numbered 200, with 5000 people now employed on the Campus), and further afield as a hub with spokes extending to universities and businesses across the UK. Among the more recent new initiatives to exploit the uniquely strong combination of facilities at Harwell are the Rosalind Franklin Institute, developing new technology in the service of medical applications, and the Faraday Institute whose mission is to develop materials and manufacturing process for the next generation of batteries for the automotive sector. The latter, together with the recently funded National Satellite Test Facility at Harwell are also examples of the first wave of investment through the UK Government's Industrial Strategy. All of these initiatives have strong buy-in from industry in partnership with leading UK universities and promise to boost the local and national economy yet further through the creation of new jobs and revenue.

The quality of the local environment and the good working relations we enjoy with local partners in business, universities and public bodies play a key role in the success of current and future ventures at Harwell and *vice versa*. The Growth Package deal offers a unique opportunity to take forward our shared vision for sustainable, knowledge-led economic growth, accelerating the development and impact of work at Harwell, while also improving the quality of life for everyone in the region.

A key priority for us is to continue to attract or train highly skilled people to work at Harwell, and to retain them for as long as possible. Many of these people are at an early stage in their careers and affordable housing is usually their main concern in considering whether to move into the area or stay; local transport infrastructure too for commuting or interacting with other local partners – for example Oxford University – are also key. Therefore we applaud the prominence given to such developments in your proposal. However, we also believe strongly that there should be further investment in initiatives to encourage and enhance knowledge-led innovation itself and boost productivity. In general terms this will involve the development of innovation centres and infrastructure to enable business, often in partnership with leading university researchers, to further exploit the potential of world-leading facilities in Oxfordshire.

We support this initiative and look forward to further discussions and working with you as the deal progresses.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Andrew Harrison
CEO