

# PE & VC in Wales and South West England

Wales and South West England are emerging destinations for private equity and venture capital investment, and are currently home to 9% of all UK jobs directly supported by our industry.

With top universities like Bristol and Cardiff producing healthcare and life sciences spin-outs, a budding tech scene and many established businesses ready to take on global markets, Wales and the South West are stellar examples of how private capital's support can be found right across our nations and regions.

## JOBS

# 178,000

directly supported jobs or 9% of total UK jobs backed by PE and VC<sup>1</sup>

## JOBS

a further

# 367,000

indirectly supported through supply chains / consumer spending (6% of total indirectly supported jobs)<sup>1</sup>

## COMPANIES

# 114

companies supported by PE and VC in the South West (56) and Wales (58) in 2020, or 8% of total businesses backed that year<sup>2</sup>

## FUNDING

# £920m

was deployed into companies in the South West (£795m) and Wales (£125m) by PE and VC in 2020 to support their growth<sup>2</sup>

## VENTURE

# 58

companies received venture funding in 2020 (40 Wales / 18 South West)<sup>2</sup>

## GROWTH

# 41

companies received growth funding in 2020 (28 Wales / 13 South West)<sup>2</sup>

## SECTORS

# Tech

was the most prominent sector for investment in 2020 with 56 companies receiving support (28 Wales / 28 South West)<sup>2</sup>

Sources: <sup>1</sup>EY - [view report](#) / <sup>2</sup>BVCA Report on Investment Activity 2020 - [view report](#)

## Case studies

### MK Test Systems

Location: Wellington

Sector: Technology

MK Test Systems, based in Wellington, provides automatic test systems used in the aerospace, defence, rail, eVehicle and power sectors. Established in 1992, the business has built a reputation for market leading innovation and sells to some of the largest global manufacturers across 30 different countries.

Synova has supported the business since 2014, having identified its unique position in the market and great potential for further growth and innovation. Their investment has helped the business expand into new markets, invest in staff and new product development, and continue to build MK Test Systems as a world leader.

### Momentum Biosciences

Location: Cardiff

Sector: Biosciences

Based in Cardiff, Momentum Bioscience research and develop diagnostic tests that will have a significant impact on the life chances of patients who are suspected of having sepsis.

Supported by angel investment, venture capital funding, including multiple investments from the **Development Bank of Wales** since 2014, and the Future Fund, Momentum has developed an ultra-sensitive, two-hour test called SepsisSTAT® to detect the presence/absence of bacteria and fungi in blood. This financial support was particularly useful during the pandemic, when restrictions meant that a pilot study had to be extended. The funding gave the business sufficient breathing room to be able to continue the study, obtain results and get back on track.

### Micrima

Location: Bristol

Sector: Healthcare

Micrima, a Bristol University spin-out, was founded in 2006 to develop and commercialise a non-invasive breast imaging system using low frequency, non-ionising radio-wave (RADAR) technology. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women of all ages globally and early-stage detection has a significant, positive impact on survival rates.

Micrima's hardware and software patents will enable breast screening to be undertaken earlier, more frequently, at lower cost and in more locations. The company has been supported by **ACF Investors** since 2012. Their support has helped it develop the hardware and software from prototype stage, through extensive hospital trials and is now in use with Key Opinion Leaders at 5 sites across the UK and Continental Europe.

