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## Resilience in the Face of Setbacks: London Remains a Global Gateway for Life Sciences Turning Challenges into Momentum for London's Life Sciences Sector

Sector News

Investment

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The news that MSD has withdrawn from its planned £1bn innovation centre in King's Cross was disappointing for many of us working in and around life sciences. It is a reminder that there are still challenges in the UK when it comes to supporting therapeutic innovation, particularly around drug pricing and R&D investment.

But this does not mean the outlook is bleak. London remains one of the most exciting life sciences ecosystems in the world, and there are plenty of reasons to feel optimistic about the future. Just this week, Microsoft announced a £30 billion commitment to the UK's AI future, Google confirmed a new data centre in Waltham Cross, and NVIDIA has followed close behind with new partnerships that will strengthen the UK's digital and research infrastructure.

These investments in AI and data infrastructure will strengthen biotech, digital health and the life sciences SME community, ensuring London's life sciences remain globally competitive. London is already the leading health innovation outside the US, supported by a diverse population of more than nine million people, world-class universities, and eight research clusters from White City to Whitechapel.

This year has also shown just how strong London's innovation pipeline is. So far in 2025, more venture capital has been invested in London-based life sciences companies than anywhere else in Europe. That is a strong signal of confidence in what the city has to offer. . over the next eight years, more than six million square feet of dedicated lab and life science space will be built, more than double what Oxford and Cambridge have combined.

Alongside this, the government's new Life Sciences Sector Plan has set out a framework to address some of the very concerns highlighted by MSD's decision. By focusing on improving market access, supporting investment in R&D and creating clearer pathways for innovation to reach patients, the plan is designed to strengthen the UK's position as a global leader. For London, which already hosts the critical assets and infrastructure to support a thriving life sciences ecosystem, this represents an opportunity to build confidence and attract even more international investment.

Beyond investment and infrastructure, London also has a real strength in how the sector is working together to turn challenges into opportunity. London's life sciences community is more collaborative than ever, working with Greater London government through the London Growth Plan while continuing to produce world-class research and talent through its universities and institutes. This spirit of unity will be on display during London Life Sciences Week in November, which will bring together investors, researchers and innovators from around the world to celebrate the city's achievements and set out its vision for the future.

London has the talent, the infrastructure and the ambition to stay at the forefront of global life sciences. The opportunities are still here, and the story of London's role in shaping the future of health is only just beginning

Learn more about London's unique strengths in research, talent and innovation shaping global health 🖱️ <https://lifescience.london/>

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