



**THEME:**

Research and Innovation

**FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):**

€8,779,853.05

**MATCH FUNDERS:**

Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Department for the Economy and the University of Glasgow

**LEAD PARTNER:**

Catalyst

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

University of Glasgow; Ulster University; Institute of Technology Sligo; Letterkenny Institute of Technology; LPE; Armstrong Medical; Denroy Plastics; Axial 3D; Leckey; Nuprint; Causeway Sensors; Abbott; GSK. And Clyde Biosciences

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

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**Start Date:** 01/04/2017

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## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

# Project Case Study: Life & Health Sciences Industry Survey Report March 2020

The North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (NWCAM) project aims to link research capability to industrial challenges using Advanced Manufacturing within the Life and Health Sciences (LHS) sector across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. It facilitates and co-ordinates collaborative research and innovation to develop LHS companies, including local capabilities that are critical to become more competitive in order to grow the regional economy to compete globally.

To support the growth of the LHS innovation ecosystem, NWCAM commissioned a survey of LHS-focused companies across the Region. The survey's purpose was to obtain an understanding of current, and future industry R&D interests, needs and challenges; and to gauge awareness of Advanced Manufacturing – highlighting its potential as an enabling technology to enhance industry competitiveness, efficiency and productivity.



**Key results indicated that:**

- 78% confirmed that they would be interested in engaging in cross-border collaborative Advanced Manufacturing R&D;
- 97% agreed that there is an engineering skills shortage in the region;
- 77% reported an awareness of Advanced Manufacturing as an enabling technology with the potential to improve commercial performance.

For a copy of the survey highlights please visit [HERE](#)

“The LHS survey report acts as a strong voice for the sector, bringing to the attention of governments and industry leaders a need for more investment in cross-border R&D, innovation and skills to allow LHS businesses to thrive. NWCAM exemplifies the key benefits to industry of engaging with advanced manufacturing and the report highlights a willingness by respondents to do so with the right support. The global COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the life-saving potential of 3D printing and precision engineering e.g. through ventilator and PPE manufacturing as well as scaling capability for vaccines and testing manufacturing. I would ask key stakeholders to consider the report's recommendations and invest in this critical capability.”

Dr Oonagh Lynch, Innovation Broker at Catalyst