

Innovation Voucher Case Study

Cairn

Research



The business need

Cairn Research is a European scientific instrument manufacturer. To help the business expand their portfolio and give them a route into an exciting new field of microscopy, Cairn Research wanted to use an Innovation Voucher to build and test a commercial prototype of a lightsheet illuminator module for fluorescence microscopy. This is a valuable tool for biological imaging to increase spatial resolution and reduce phototoxicity, enabling long term measurements.

The expertise

The work to create the prototype was conducted both at Cairn's facilities in Kent and in Dr Philippe Laissue's laboratory. Dr Laissue is the Senior Research Officer from the University of Essex School of Biological Sciences.

Cairn wanted to produce three prototype units for Dr Laissue and their highly skilled engineers to test, with the aim of validating the most successful system and boosting the company's scientific profile as an innovator.

Follow on collaboration

Dr Laissue from the University of Essex was successful in applying for a Royal Society Fellowship. He worked with Cairn to develop a completely novel light-sheet illumination device to give state-of-the-art field uniformity and removal of obscuration artefacts when inspecting items through a microscope.

Ready cash to stimulate growth

You can use Innovation Vouchers to fund any innovative project that involves accessing our expertise. All projects must be delivered by the University of Essex and should result in innovation that will help stimulate business growth or unlock new opportunities. Our Innovation Voucher scheme does not support existing business activities, functions, or capital items, but consumables may be included.

