



# Overcoming Barriers to Growth

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RSC Enterprise Meeting

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# Overview

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- Four areas of support
  - Image / Marketing
  - Skills
  - Innovation
    - Organic Materials Innovation Centre (OMIC)
  - Sustainable development
- Support from within the North West and UK



# Image / Marketing

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- Support with improving a company's image is available:
  - UK – Chemical Industries Association (CIA, [www.cia.org.uk](http://www.cia.org.uk)) & specific trade associations
  - NW - Chemicals Northwest can offer support with
    - Industry promotion
    - Improving company communications
    - Developing media relations
    - Raising awareness and understanding of the application of the chemicals sciences within schools.



# Skills

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- Support to develop the skills of your employees is available from:
  - UK wide – Cogent the chemical sector skills council. [www.cogentplus.co.uk](http://www.cogentplus.co.uk).
  - In the NW – Chemicals Sector Skills and Productivity Alliance, chaired by Chemicals Northwest with representatives from Learning & Skills Council, Cogent, Business Link and the NWDA. [www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk](http://www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk)



# Innovation

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- Support for Innovation is available through:
  - UK – Chemistry Innovation Knowledge Transfer Network (CI-KTN, [www.chemistryinnovation.co.uk](http://www.chemistryinnovation.co.uk))
  - NW – The Organic Materials Innovation Centre (OMIC [www.omic.org.uk](http://www.omic.org.uk)) a DTI sponsored UIC.
- Finance
  - Business Link [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk) can help connect companies with finance such as R&D Grants, Capital grants, R&D Tax credits etc



# Innovation - OMIC

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- DTI sponsored University Innovation Centre.
  - Independently managed partnership between industry and academia to help industry to innovate and grow through tailored knowledge transfer / collaborative R&D projects.
  - OMIC collaborates with companies across the UK and beyond.
  - Strengths
    - *Complex Fluids* – formulation of colloids, “active” ingredients in aqueous media, direct write fluids, and polymer solutions
    - *Organic Electronics* – novel conjugated oligomers and polymers for organic semiconductor devices, including solar cells
    - *Biomaterials* – polymer systems for drug delivery, implants, regenerative medicine
    - *High performance materials* - nanocomposites, membranes, hydrogen storage, polymeric sensors, smart packaging, technical textiles.



# Sustainable Development

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- Support for sustainable development is available:
  - UK – Chemistry Innovation
    - Sustainable technologies & sustainable manufacturing
  - UK – National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP, [www.nisp.org.uk](http://www.nisp.org.uk) )
    - Supports improvements in resource efficiency by companies working together
    - Covers waste materials, energy, water, logistics etc
  - NW – Chemicals Northwest can assist with
    - Resource efficiency, continuous improvement, impact of upcoming legislation
    - Land reclamation



# Summary

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- Considerable support available at both UK and NW level
- Representatives from Chemistry Innovation - KTN, Chemicals Northwest and Business Link available to answer your questions.
- Summary sheet available