

YORKSHIRE INNOVATION FUND CASE STUDY:

# Technostics Ltd



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**Partner (RDP):** The University of Hull  
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## The Business...

Established in 2003, Technostics Ltd has developed into a market leader in the research and development of medical products used to treat:

- Gastrointestinal tract conditions
- Wound healing
- Weight loss

With a client base spanning eighteen countries, Technostics Ltd provides **innovative research and product development** for the NHS, overseas health services, hospitals, distributors of healthcare products and private patients, as well as for its own ground-breaking products.

Their signature product, Peptest, detects the presence of the aggressive stomach enzyme pepsin in patients within 15 minutes. This futuristic saliva-based test used to diagnose reflux spares patients from invasive procedures such as endoscopy.

Their small, highly specialised team also works in formulation development and the development of therapeutic polymers such as alginates used to treat conditions including obesity and heartburn.

After launching Technostics Ltd's commercial arm in 2009, Peptest reached the UK market in 2010 and is currently available in eighteen countries across the globe.



"We were keen to capitalise on bigger and better opportunities and knew we needed to broaden the business and expand our areas of knowledge"

**PROF PETER DETTMAR**

## The Need for Innovation...

Peter and Dr Vicki Strugala (Research Manager) were no strangers to partnerships with academic institutions when they approached the Yorkshire Innovation Fund in the spring of 2014.

"Business was progressing well", says Peter. "However, we were keen to **capitalise on bigger and better opportunities** and knew we needed to broaden the business and **expand our areas of knowledge.**"

## The Role of the Yorkshire Innovation Fund...

Following an initial enquiry to the University of York, Technostics Ltd were awarded a Small Innovation Project in the spring of 2014. This **secured funding for much-needed technical expertise** in the development of smart phone and app technologies related to the development of healthcare diagnostic products.



Several months later, Peter and Vicki were awarded a Research and Development Project (RDP) – a more substantial and longer term package of innovation support. Working with Professor Alyn Morice in the Department of Academic Medicine at the University of Hull, the RDP enabled Technostics Ltd to widen its use of Peptest in the treatment of chronic cough and airways reflux.

## The Impact...

In a sector in which it can take a decade to bring a product to market, Technostics Ltd's business development is tracked over years rather than months. Just one year on from their first contact with the Yorkshire Innovation Fund, Peter and Vicki are confident their partnerships with the universities of York and Hull will help them to broaden the range of uses for their products in years to come.

## The Future...

Expanding into new markets - particularly China where there is huge potential – is high on Technostics Ltd's list of priorities. There are also plans to register Peptest for use in the USA.

Technostics Ltd are currently seeking licences for chronic wound care and weight loss products and are about to embark on a development programme for a new gastro-intestinal product.



## About The Yorkshire Innovation Fund...

**The Yorkshire Innovation Fund brings together ten of the region's higher education institutions to help small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Yorkshire and Humber region to grow.**

Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the fund helps small businesses to develop ideas for new products, services or processes by funding collaborative projects with the region's universities, drawing on their expertise, specialist equipment or facilities to develop ideas which result in business growth.

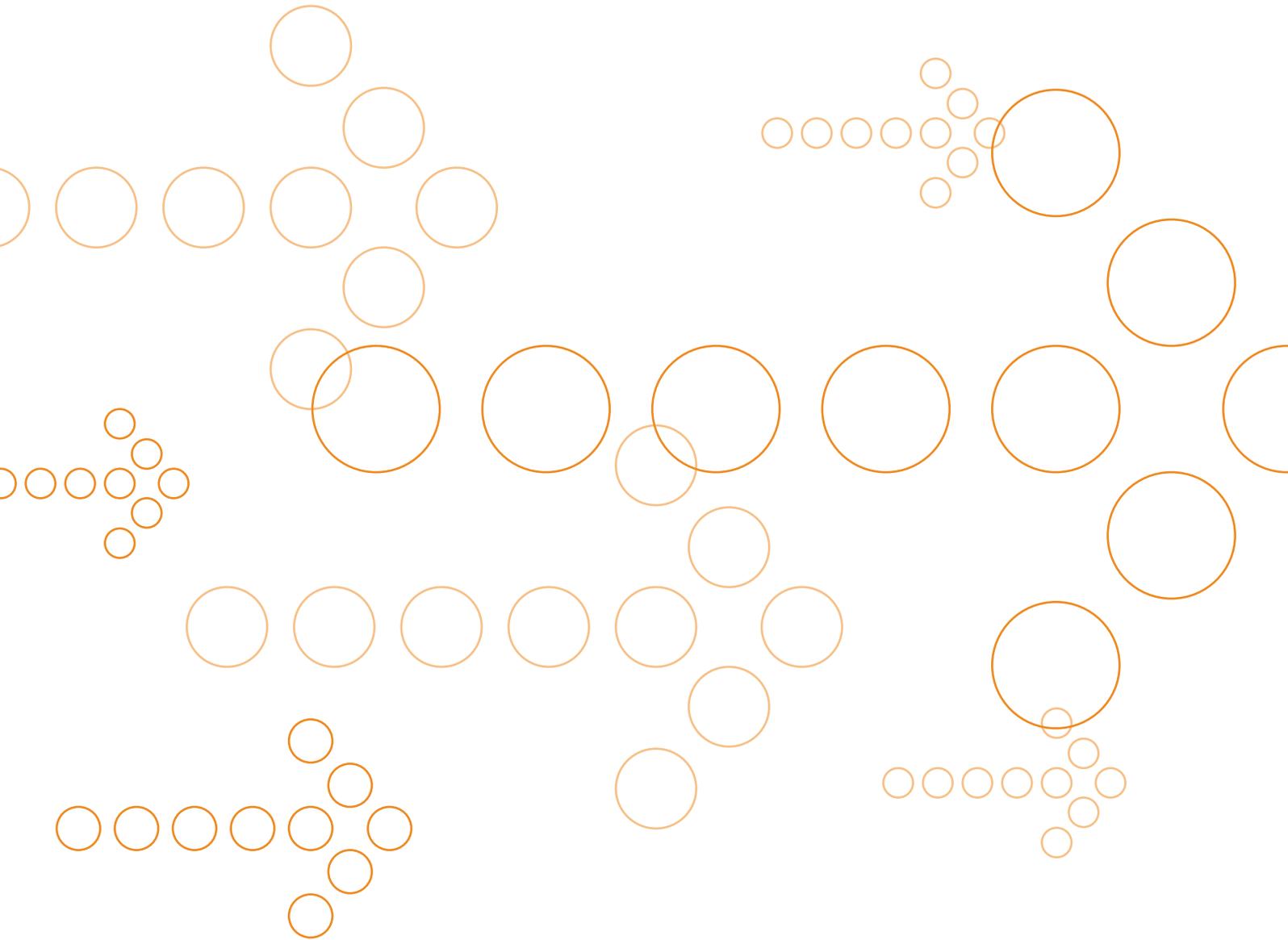
The project has attracted £3.06million of investment from the ERDF as part of Europe's support for local economic development through the Yorkshire and Humber ERDF Programme 2007-13. Partner universities contributed a further £1.87m, bringing the total investment to £4.93m. The project team are based at the University of Bradford.

The delivery partners are: The University of Bradford, The University of Huddersfield, The University of Hull, The University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds College of Music, Leeds Trinity University, Sheffield Hallam University, The University of York, York St John University. The University of Sheffield is a strategic partner.

### **Yorkshire Innovation Fund**

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Research and Innovation

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