



CQ  
Case Study

**Sygnature Discovery** helps BioTech and pharmaceutical companies to be more efficient and flexible in carrying out drug discovery research.



Situated in Nottingham's Creative Quarter Sygnature Discovery is the UK's largest independent provider of integrated drug discovery. The company provides the highest quality scientific expertise to pharmaceutical, biotech companies and academic departments worldwide and accelerates the development of new medicines to combat debilitating conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, respiratory failure and heart disease.

Founded in BioCity ten years ago by CEO Dr Simon Hirst, Sygnature has experienced rapid growth and now employs nearly 100 talented scientists plus additional support staff. As part of the growth plan the company re-invested £2.5 million to create four spacious and superbly equipped modern laboratories, built to the company's unique and precise specifications.

Sygnature has built a reputation for scientific excellence which attracts highly experienced medicinal chemists, bioscientists and computational chemists to live and work in Nottingham. By providing access to novel technologies and innovative ways of working they deliver on complex medical research projects in collaboration with academics and top scientists based in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies around the world.

Simon Hirst talks here about the decision to be based at BioCity, 'It was a carefully considered business decision to locate Sygnature Discovery in the East Midlands over other UK cities with medical research hubs, and specifically in BioCity, which is now part of Nottingham's Creative Quarter. The infrastructure at BioCity meant that the laboratory set-up was very efficient and most

importantly there was space for the company to expand. Nottingham's Creative Quarter has proved a popular choice with excellent communication links and plenty of attractions in the city'.

Significantly Sygnature celebrated ten years in business in October 2014 with a symposium to celebrate world-class science. Distinguished guest speakers were invited from around the country to discuss the achievements, developments and challenges in the modern drug discovery industry. The successful all-day event was held in Nottingham and attended by over 200 delegates.

Commenting Dr Simon Hirst said, 'The company has experienced significant growth over the past ten years and we have plans to continue to expand in size and capability range and enter new global markets'.