



The research commercialisation office of the University of Oxford, previously called **Isis Innovation**, has been renamed **Oxford University Innovation**

All documents and other materials will be updated accordingly. In the meantime the remaining content of this Isis Innovation document is still valid.

URLs beginning www.isis-innovation.com/... are automatically redirected to our new domain, www.innovation.ox.ac.uk/...

Phone numbers and email addresses for individual members of staff are unchanged

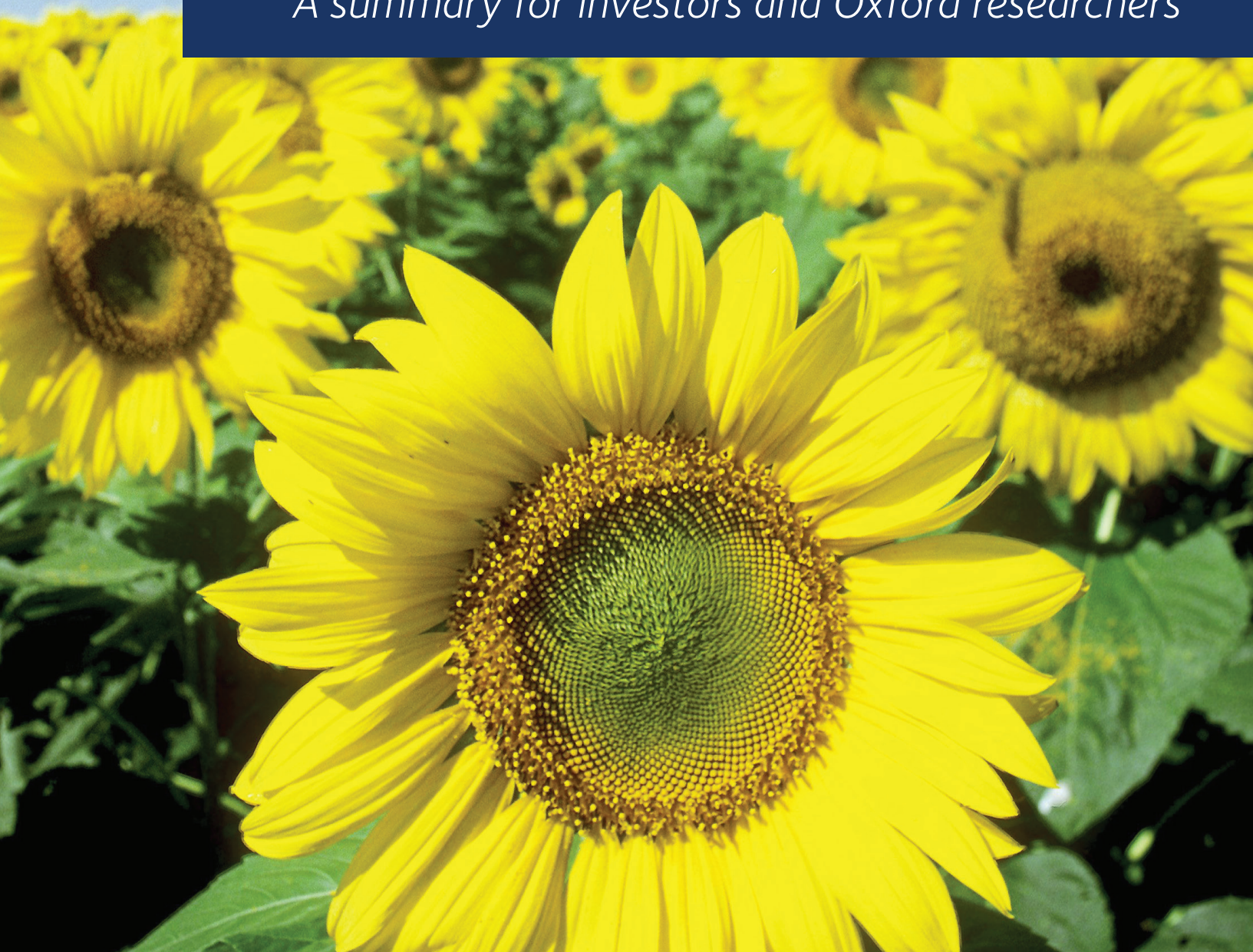
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ISIS
INNOVATION

- **UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE SEED FUND**
- **OXFORD INVENTION FUND**
- **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD ISIS FUND**

A summary for investors and Oxford researchers



SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIALISATION OF OXFORD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A wealth of opportunities

Each year, the University of Oxford generates a range of ideas and technologies of great relevance to solving the challenges of the 21st Century. Such innovations potentially have immense commercial value. Isis Innovation, the University of Oxford's technology and research commercialisation company, helps Oxford researchers protect and exploit their intellectual property.

This publication introduces three funds that represent opportunities for donors and investors, as well as for academics. Details on how to invest, donate or apply for funds are on the back page.

University Challenge Seed Fund

Back in 1999, Oxford was awarded one of 15 seed funds established as part of the UK Government's University Challenge Seed Fund Scheme. The scheme was set up to fill a funding gap for bringing university research breakthroughs (such as the high purity carbon modification illustrated below) to a point where their commercial usefulness could be demonstrated and the first steps taken to bring them to the market.

There have been some truly impressive success stories in the intervening years, with many of the early-stage technologies that have been backed growing into major players on the world scene.

The UCSF has invested in over 130 projects so far, with sums ranging from £2,500 to £250,000. This evergreen fund was recently replenished by a sizeable return from NaturalMotion's sale (see facing page).



Oxford Invention Fund

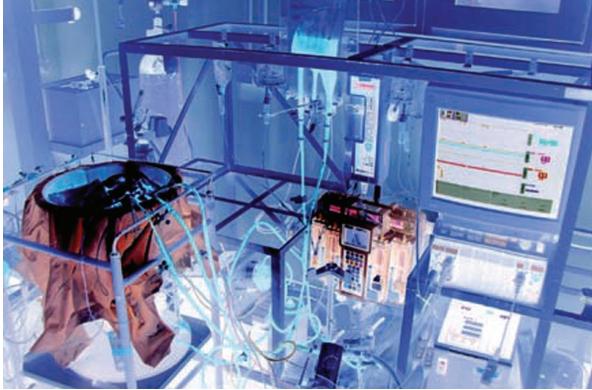
The Oxford Invention Fund (OIF) is an avenue for donors to support early-stage innovation and enterprise conceived at Oxford, and to see a return to the University from successful new business ventures.

The OIF supports research and infrastructure in the University, attracting contributions from industry, the finance sector and private individuals. The £1.5 million raised by the fund since its inception in 2010 has enabled the progression of some exciting innovations including glasses for the seriously sight-impaired and software to improve the diagnostic power of ultrasound scanning.

University of Oxford Isis Fund (UOIF)

Of the three funds, the UOIF serves as the only one open to investors. Managed by Parkwalk Advisors, with Isis Innovation as the Portfolio Advisor, this fund offers private investors an opportunity to benefit from EIS and SEIS tax relief where appropriate, whilst providing an additional source of investment for spin-out and start-up ventures.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT – SUCCESSES FOR INVESTORS, SOCIETY AND THE UNIVERSITY



OrganOx

This Oxford spin-out created a system enabling an organ outside of the body to self-regulate its blood flow that is now being used in hospitals. An early UCSF award was key to enabling the researchers to assess the effectiveness of their prototype device.

Four UCSF awards were ultimately granted, totalling £250,000. OrganOx Ltd was incorporated in 2008 after £1.5 million was raised from private investment.

NaturalMotion

US social games company Zynga finalised the acquisition of games company NaturalMotion Ltd for more than \$527m in 2014, representing one of the largest ever transactions involving an Oxford spin-out. The company spun-out from the research of then Zoology DPhil student Torsten Reil, initially funded by a crucial £23,500 grant from the UCSF, followed by a £59,086 grant from the OIF.



Intelligent Ultrasound

The software being developed by Intelligent Ultrasound, backed by OIF investment in 2012, enables high-definition imaging during pregnancy. The company will improve the quality and diagnostic power of the most widely used diagnostic imaging tool, ultrasound imaging, by developing software solutions to reduce the risk of incorrect or missed diagnoses and avoid costly, inconvenient re-scans.

Intelligent Ultrasound raised £610,000 at Seed Round. Andy Hill, the company's CEO, has predicted the technology will save the NHS £40 million each year.

YASA Motors

YASA Motors secured £1.45 million from a private investor to take lightweight electric motors developed at the University of Oxford's Department of Engineering Science to market. The inventors also received £75,000 in funding from the UCSF to build a prototype for use in high performance electronic vehicles.

In 2013, the Lola-Drayson racing car pictured below achieved the world land speed record for an electric car, harnessing the power of the YASA engine.



ACCESSING FUNDING AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Prolific pipeline

In commercialising the wealth of research from Oxford, Isis is the highest university patent filer in the UK and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, having created more than 100 new companies stemming from Oxford research over 25 years. Isis is also the source and interface for investment in Oxford technologies, enabling the translation of the most promising research to real-world clinical and commercial applications.

Funding for researchers

Beyond making representations on behalf of researchers to the three funds described in this document, we seek first-round investment in spin-outs from all investors – business angels, private equity, institutional investors, seed and venture capitalists – from the UK and internationally.

Rewards for donors

The Oxford Invention Fund welcomes benefactors, and anticipates that their involvement will lead to a lasting relationship with the University, the entrepreneurial companies launched via their support, and also with like-minded supporters, alumni and the University's dedicated researchers. Any return from successful new business ventures financed via the Oxford Invention Fund goes back to the Fund to be used over and over again.

Network for investors

Isis invites applications to our **Isis Angels Network**. Investors who join the network receive regular updates about exciting new projects available for investment. Members are also invited to biannual investment meetings/showcases. IAN membership is currently free and open to both investment professionals and private investors.



NEXT STEPS

Whether you are a researcher, donor or investor, if you require further information about any of the above, please contact Andrea Alunni, Seed Fund Manager at Isis Innovation Ltd.

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