

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SECTOR

Invest in Richmond upon Thames

We're London and more

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Great Place to Do Business

Richmond upon Thames is a unique borough which has a cluster of high value professional, scientific and technical companies and a strong green technology sub-sector. In particular, there are a number of consultants operating in this field.

There is excellent access to central London and the main motorway network connecting Richmond upon Thames to the rest of the UK as well as to Heathrow Airport. In addition, there are a number of thriving business networks which support the sector locally, including the Richmond Borough Chamber of Commerce as well as proximity to leading research universities for knowledge transfer.

Key companies include:

- **The National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** – one of the UK’s leading science and technology research facilities.
- **LGC** – the UK’s leading provider of analytical and diagnostic services. These include chemical and biochemical analysis and genetic screening, research, method validation, consultancy and analytical outsourcing.
- Saufflon Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- Livingston Group UK
- IKON Science Ltd
- Solar Century
- Gazprom
- Kew Botanical Gardens research facilities
- Butterworth Laboratories

Green technology

Key facts and figures

The Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector was estimated at £106billion in 2007/8. The sector grew by approximately 4% in 2007/8 and is forecast to grow by a similar pace over the next decade. Nationally there are estimated to be around 881,000 jobs, almost half in the low carbon sector and locally around 630 jobs, not accounting for self employed consultants and those in business services.

There is a cluster of companies that specialise in green technology, mostly within the collection and treatment of waste. Environmental business services are likely to be the main area of green sector commercial opportunities in the borough.

Key companies already here

- LGC and other energy conservation and environmental consultants across the Borough offer a range of services to help industry to meet their environmental and regulatory responsibilities.
- Evonik New Energies UK Ltd: a German owned company which converts waste into energy.
- NatSource Europe Ltd: a multinational asset management, advisory and research company, specialising in global emissions and renewable energy market.
- Green Gas: an international clean energy company that specialises in converting methane emissions from coal mines and landfill sites into clean energy and valuable carbon credits.
- Proper Oils: converts cooking oil into high quality biodiesel fuel.

Local business viewpoint

National Physical Laboratory

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL), as the UK's National Measurement Institute, is a world-leading centre of excellence in developing and applying the most accurate measurement standards for science and technology. Our products and services include calibration and testing for measurement and instrumentation companies, manufacturing industry and others. We are fortunate to be situated in the grounds of Bushy Park, near Hampton Court and close to Heathrow Airport, affording us excellent transport links to London, the UK and abroad. NPL is committed to supporting the local community with well over 10% of our 650 staff involved in corporate social responsibility and educational outreach activities."

Andrew Hanson (Outreach Manager) National Physical Laboratory (NPL)

Proper Oils

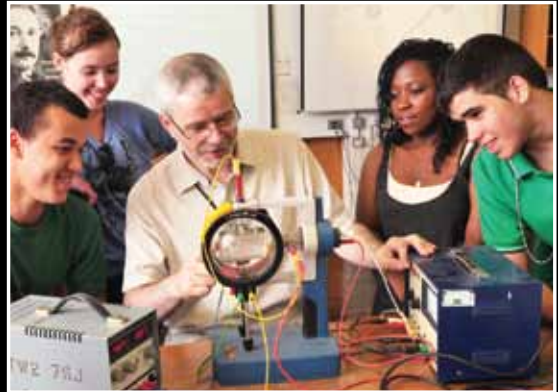
Proper Oils, based in Twickenham, started operations in April 2007 and collects used cooking oil from local caterers, refines it into the highest quality biodiesel fuel, and supplies it to local organisations. Sustainability is at the heart of what we do – by reducing the pollution and congestion when collecting; by providing local jobs; by keeping the money circulating with the local community; and by minimising our environmental footprint. We are also the proud winners of the Richmond Green Business of The Year Award!



Stephen Hurton MD, Proper Oils

People with skills and talent

Richmond upon Thames consistently beats London and UK averages in education, skills and training. With one of the highest proportions of highly educated residents in London, 56.9% of residents are educated to NVQ Level 4 and above compared to the London average of 38.6%.



There is a rich source of new talent for the professional, scientific and technical businesses with scientific graduates completing courses at a range of Colleges and Universities in the area. Including:


Kingston University: offering degree courses in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Civil and Construction Engineering; Geographical Information Systems and Science; Environmental Studies and Business and Environmental Management. They also offer bespoke research and support through their knowledge transfer partnership service.

Roehampton University: offering degree courses in Neuroscience and Immunology and Health Sciences

Richmond Adult Community College (RACC): offering courses in Health and Human Sciences

National Physical Laboratory (NPL): offers a range of practical, application based training courses, seminars and workshops.

Key facts and figures

- Research and Development (R&D) spending in the UK was dominated in 2008 by five sectors amounting to 59% of R&D. These include: pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, aerospace and defence, software and computer services, banks, automobiles and parts.
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- The most prominent of these in Richmond upon Thames are scientific Research and Development establishments employing around 1% of jobs, more than twice as high as in London and England.
 - It is one of the top boroughs in South London for professional, scientific and technical sector employment. Around 56% of employees are in the knowledge sector (May 2009) and there are 2,975 professional, scientific and technical units in the borough, representing 25.1% of the total businesses.
 - There are twice the level of jobs in R&D and almost eight times as many in technical testing and analysis jobs than in central London. In March 2009, there were 20 enterprises in R&D. Most are small except for the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) which has 650 employees. NPL's work on the National Measurement System contributes approximately £2billion per annum to UK GDP.