

A close-up photograph of several green wheat stalks in a field. The stalks are in various stages of growth, with some showing developing grain heads. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of similar wheat, bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and yellows, with a slight pinkish hue at the bottom of the image.

FOOD & DRINK INNOVATION

#SCOTLAND|SNOW

WELCOME TO SCOTLAND

FÀILTE GU ALBA

The small country making a big impact on the global landscape.

Scotland is where you will find excellence in education, a flair for invention and a penchant for research.

It's a place where great minds connect, and where health, happiness, equality and sustainability come together to produce a dynamic business environment with global impact.

You'll find us progressive and pioneering. We're proud to have a global reputation for producing world-class food and drink, thanks to excellence in innovation, a sustainable approach to manufacturing and some of the highest food safety standards in the world.

The shining jewel in our crown is our people. By locating in Scotland, you'll access a highly educated, loyal workforce with a strong work ethic. We will work with you to meet your business and workforce needs and you'll be connected to a culture of research, innovation and creativity.

Scotland is a land of great natural beauty and strong heritage and our warmth and generosity are world renowned. Collective wellbeing is at the heart of our economic policy and we believe that long-term growth will come from prioritising our people and our planet.



In fact, we've set an ambition to be among the lowest carbon and most efficient food producers in the world by 2032, and we're on track to achieve just that. We have also opted out of the production of GMO crops to preserve the clean, green environment that supports our food and drink sector.

Many global businesses which share our values have already chosen to locate, operate and grow in Scotland and we'd love you to join them.

We're here for you throughout the journey – you will be supported before, during and after you locate in Scotland.

Now is the time to invest in Scotland. So come on in; be part of Scotland's continuing success story.



Fair Work



Net Zero



Inclusive Economic Growth

SCOTLAND'S OPPORTUNITY

Scotland is leading the way in food and drink innovation. We have the resources, the expertise and the ambition and can offer the following investment opportunities.

DRINKS & FERMENTATION

The success of Scotch whisky is well documented, yet our distilling industry extends far beyond whisky to world-class gin, rum and vodka. And with over 90 craft breweries producing innovative beers, Scotland has a very diverse and popular drinks industry.

Opportunities now exist for companies interested in the production of Scottish low and zero alcohol products, and for those which can contribute distilling / brewing expertise. We also welcome companies which can support supply chain development and advise on alternative energy sources, including carbon capture from fermentation.

NET ZERO PACKAGING / CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Building on a global reputation for natural, environmentally sound food and drink products, we are keen to work with businesses to help address the challenge of making packaging as circular, waste-free and invisible as possible. We are seeking innovation both in terms of packaging products and also potential routes to market / collection models.

Of particular interest are companies with SMART or sensor technologies, and those which can offer lightweighting solutions.

'HEALTH-ENHANCING' PRODUCTS

With a larder full of high-quality ingredients, such as oats, iron-rich vegetables and oily fish, Scotland is well placed to play a leading role in the health food revolution.

There is an opportunity for manufacturers of functional food products to locate in Scotland and benefit from the halo effect granted by using ingredients and produce with strong Scottish provenance.

Companies developing innovative products will also benefit from the expertise of our strong academic sector and join other global brands which have established innovation centres in Scotland.

VALUE ADDED FOOD PROCESSING

Scotland has a global reputation for animal welfare, quality assurance and integrity, and our agriculture and aquaculture sectors feed into a multi-billion-pound food processing industry.

Scottish dairy herds are among the most efficient in Europe and our abundant rain and lush grass make Scotland one of the world's best places for milk and sustainably grass-fed animal husbandry.

There are opportunities for companies with expertise in value added processing, particularly within the dairy, seafood and beef & lamb sectors, and we would welcome input from companies which can help improve our packaging and automation.

THE RIGHT TALENT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Want to attract and retain the right talent to maintain your competitive edge?
Come in – we've been waiting for you.

We often say that people are our greatest asset and in fact, our workforce is internationally recognised as one of the best trained, most reliable and cost-competitive labour forces in the world. This, combined with our famous work ethic, means that your company will benefit from a hard-working, dependable and diverse workforce, which in turn means stability and reassurance for your business.

World-renowned universities

As the most highly educated country in Europe, Scotland offers your business an experienced, flexible and tech-savvy labour pool and a strong output of world-class graduates.

The dynamic mix of academic and vocational qualifications has attracted thousands of students to build their future at Scottish universities, with some of the best quality talent coming directly from:



Flexible learning programmes

We will listen to your business, giving you the opportunity to influence skills, education and training provision to get the most out of your people.

When you invest in Scotland, you'll find an ambitious, passionate and globally connected infrastructure and have access to:

- Funded apprenticeship provisions across agriculture, aquaculture, food & drink operations and maritime occupations.
- A connected further and higher educational landscape with opportunities for workforce development and continuing professional development.

So while you focus on growing your business, you can rest assured that Scotland has a talent pool with the skills and experience you need, and with a highly responsive skills and education system, we will meet your needs both now and in the future.



Credit: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam



Credit: Abertay University





TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE

When you combine Scotland's rich natural larder with our world-leading technological expertise, the result is a food and drink industry constantly pushing the boundaries of innovation. So if you're looking for a dynamic location to undertake development, testing and implementation, look no further.

By choosing Scotland, you're choosing a technology sector which boasts over 90,000 people covering the full spectrum from application development and data analytics to robotic process automation and artificial intelligence. You can be assured that you'll find the expertise you need and the partners which will add value to your business.

Here are just some examples of innovative projects which are drawing on our world-leading expertise to develop, design and deploy new technologies across the food and drink sector.

Blockchain Technology

With the increasing demand for products with strong provenance, manufacturers and retailers must be able to ensure full traceability and Scottish expertise in blockchain technology is now being applied to this area. The aim is to ensure a transparent food supply chain in Scotland and to help protect and authenticate national food and drink brands.

Edinburgh Napier University has recently joined forces with Glasgow-based leading data and analytics provider Eyecademy, to use blockchain to overcome difficulties around the provenance of organic produce, by tracking down the food supply-chain of ethically sourced food.

SoilEssentials transforming the farming industry

The effective use of technology and data to harness insights is keeping SoilEssentials at the front of the curve when it comes to farming innovation. This Angus-based tech business uses data from satellites, drones and weather models to improve farming techniques and crop output. In addition to offering precision-farming expertise to farmers in Scotland, the company has also been able to help farmers across the globe.

Digital solution saving whisky industry millions

Researchers at the University of Strathclyde's Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC) have devised a digital whisky cask filling process that could save industry millions of pounds each year. The digital approach is set to revolutionise industry equipment, allowing it to offer a high degree of repeatability, with additional improvements to health and safety of operators and enhanced environmental impact due to reduced waste.

A number of partners collaborated in the project to create an industry demonstrator, complete with innovative whisky cask filling test rig and cyber-physical system, incorporating a digital twin that replicates the physical process in a virtual environment.



Credit: Abertay University

A POWERHOUSE OF INNOVATION & INVENTION

Scotland's long tradition of innovation remains as strong today as always has been.

Our tech community is a hotbed of innovation and we're leading the way in demonstrating innovative solutions to 21st century challenges including sustainability, food safety, provenance and nutrition. And when you locate in Scotland, you become part of this dynamic business environment.



Artificial Tongue

Scientists at the universities of Glasgow & Strathclyde have developed an artificial tongue which can taste subtle differences between whiskies and will help tackle the counterfeit alcohol trade. This is the first product of its type to use two different types of nanoscale metal 'tastebuds', which provides more information about the 'taste' of each sample and allows a faster and more accurate response.



Digital Dairy

A new digital dairy project involving a consortium of research partners, dairy-processors and enabling technology companies is seeking to develop a Digital Dairy Value Chain in Scotland. By using digital twinning, combining digital communications and advanced manufacturing, it will enable the tracing of milk, cheese and other products and provide assurance to buyers.



Recyclable glass: to infinity and beyond

Ardagh Group – a world-leader in glass packaging – recently announced a £15m investment which will see its Ayrshire plant become one of the most advanced and efficient in Europe, using environmentally efficient end-fired technology and state of the art inspection equipment to produce glass which is infinitely recyclable.



Industrial insect farm

A range of organisations have come together on a mission to establish the UK as an international centre of excellence for the farming of black soldier flies and the development of related technologies. A large-scale industrial insect farm will help the aquaculture and agriculture sectors by recycling food waste into insect-based animal feed and bio-fertiliser.



Sustainable packaging

CuanTec – a blue biotechnology company – is creating a circular economy where waste from processing of the fisheries industry is being put to good use as food packaging which actually extends the shelf life of the fresh food it protects.

INNOVATION NATION

When you choose Scotland for your project, you'll benefit from support from a whole network of innovation centres, including:



The International Centre for Brewing and Distilling (ICBD):

a teaching and research facility within Heriot-Watt University, supplying the malting, brewing, distilling and allied industries with services, expertise and facilities.



The Scotch Whisky Research Institute: the UK distilling industry's Research & Technology Organisation, carrying out research across the entire Scotch Whisky production process, from barley to bottle, as well as providing technical support and analytical and sensory services on whisky and other spirits.



Food Innovation @ Abertay (FIA): a practical innovation support service offering specialist staff, equipment and facilities.



The Data Lab: an innovation centre which enables industry, the public sector and world-class researchers to develop new data science capabilities in a collaborative environment.



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

The Rowett Institute

The Rowett Institute: part of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition at the University of Aberdeen and widely considered to be a global leader in nutrition research.



The International Barley Hub: a world-leading centre at the James Hutton Institute near Dundee to translate excellence in barley research and innovation into economic, social and environmental benefits.



Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre: supporting business and academics to transform Scottish aquaculture by unlocking sustainable growth through innovation.



Queen Margaret
University
EDINBURGH

Queen Margaret University: hosts the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation (SCFDI), which was established in response to demand for combined R&D and innovation space to support the sector in accessing export markets in the rapidly expanding global functional and healthy food sector.

A SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

With a compact geography, engaged and connected industry leaders and active support from the Scottish Government, Scotland offers an accessible, well-connected and collaborative location for food and drink innovation.

Here's a flavour of how our innovation centres are exploring topics relevant to food and drink:



SEFARI: The Scottish Environment Food and Agriculture Research Institutes, a consortium of six globally renowned research institutes supporting agriculture, land use, food and rural communities.



CENSIS: Industry-led Innovation Centre for Sensor and Imaging Systems (SIS) enables collaboration at the forefront of market-focused SIS innovation, developing products and services for global markets, with expertise in IoT technologies for the food and drink sector.



NMIS: The National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) is an industry-led international centre of manufacturing expertise which sees industry, academia and public-sector bodies working together to transform skills, productivity and innovation. NMIS is already working with food and drink businesses with a focus on budding technologies in digitalised manufacturing systems, blockchain technology and data analysis.



James Hutton Institute: A globally recognised research organisation delivering fundamental and applied science to drive the sustainable use of land and natural resources.

FUNDING & INVESTMENT

You can be assured that Scotland is committed to food and drink innovation through strong government programmes and public funding, including:

Scottish Government Strategic Research Programme and the new Centre for Knowledge Exchange and Impact (CKEI): a programme of strategic scientific research to advance the evidence base in the development of rural affairs, food and environment policies relating to key global challenges such as climate change, food and water security, management of natural resources, infectious diseases and enhancing health and wellbeing.

Green Distillery funding: a £10m fund to help UK distilleries cut emissions by switching to low carbon fuels such as hydrogen.

Industrial strategy challenge fund for research & innovation: to strengthen business innovation and take on the biggest challenges that society and industry face today.

Transforming food production: UK businesses can make connections and find out about £90m investment to improve food and farming.

OUR CONNECTED BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE WILL TAKE YOUR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

STRATEGICALLY LOCATED AND WELL CONNECTED

Scotland is blessed with a fantastic larder of some of the best natural produce in the world and our food and drink producers benefit from the very features that Scotland is most admired for; beautiful unspoilt landscapes, fertile land and clean air. And when you combine our world-renowned natural produce with our flair for innovation and technology, you start to see why Scotland is the ideal location for your food and drink innovation project.

Reliable supply chains

Did you know that Scotch whisky is exported to over 180 markets? Of course, strong international market demand requires reliable domestic supply chains, and when you locate in Scotland, you'll benefit from just that. Our established and well-developed supply chains reliably service our food and drink sector and manage huge volumes of product to satisfy significant export markets.

A connected base

Invest in Scotland and you'll be connected to a culture of research, innovation and creativity. You can take advantage of our close connections to the best academic institutions, both in Scotland and abroad and your company will benefit from dynamic industry clusters and connected supply chains.

You'll quickly see that community is an important part of doing business in Scotland, and you'll benefit from our established and influential industry networks from the moment you touch down.

Industry leadership groups

When you choose Scotland, you become part of something much bigger. One of the things that sets Scotland apart from the rest is our globally recognised public and private sector partnership approach to achieve a shared industry ambition, led and supported by strong industry voices.

SCOTLAND FOOD & DRINK

Scotland Food and Drink is the industry leadership group for Scotland's food and drink sector. It aims to help member companies unlock new markets and maximise opportunities, while taking a leading role in driving the industry growth strategy.



The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) Scotland is the membership body for food and drink manufacturers, representing and supporting food and drink companies, from thriving small businesses to major global brands.

Strong Influencing Bodies



Thanks to our compact size, natural larder and high density of expertise, Scotland is fast becoming the place where innovation happens. Add to that the low cost of living, the concentration of innovative companies and access to world-class universities and you start to understand why Scotland has the edge.

So choose Scotland and let us help you; we'll connect you to the right people, in the right place, at the right time.

THRIVE IN SCOTLAND WITH ONGOING BUSINESS SUPPORT

Connected business support from Scotland's enterprise agencies will ensure that you are supported before, during and after you locate in Scotland.

Locating to a new area can be a daunting task, but we can make it quick and easy for your business to settle in Scotland. We'll be with you every step of the way and can assist you with:



PROPERTY SEARCHES AND ADVICE – we can help you find the right sites and facilities fast, and get help with feasibility studies.



FUNDING, GRANTS & SUPPORT – your business could benefit from a range of attractive incentives to help you upskill your staff, develop new products and services and access growth capital.



CONNECTIONS – we can introduce you to our university and supply-chain contacts, enabling you to access cutting-edge research and exceptional talent.



FOOD & DRINK SPECIALISTS – you can access a network of Scottish food & drink specialists located around the globe, who will help you enter new export markets with your products backed by Scottish provenance.



TALENT – we will listen to your business, giving you the opportunity to influence skills, education and training provision to maximise your human capital.



PROFESSIONAL ADVICE – we can connect you to expert advice on pressing issues like visas and contracts, to help you get up and running in Scotland. You can also access the support of dedicated business advisors, via our business support and advice service.

And the support doesn't end when you make the move. We are committed to your growth in Scotland, by taking the time to understand your needs now and in the future. We have the tools to take your business to the next level, whether it's identifying investment, developing your business strategy, upskilling your staff or improving your business processes.

CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

Invest in Scotland and you'll be close to some huge markets. Whether you're heading to London, Europe or the rest of the world, Scotland is well-connected for business travel.



6 AIRPORTS

connecting Europe, Middle East and North America



FAST AND FREQUENT

rail links to all parts of the UK



FERRY PORTS AND 2 CONTAINER PORTS

connect to mainland Europe



Daily **DIRECT FLIGHTS TO 150 DESTINATIONS** worldwide



130 FLIGHTS PER DAY TO LONDON with a 1hr flight time



44 MINS journey time **BETWEEN GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH** by train

Beyond our robust and efficient transport network, our advanced and reliable **DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE** makes Scotland the strategic location for your business.

95.5 PER CENT FIBRE BROADBAND COVERAGE, including all major cities in Scotland.

Our future-proofed fibre network makes Scotland one of the **BEST-CONNECTED PLACES** anywhere in Europe.

Scotland is ranked among the **TOP 30 COUNTRIES** and cities for digital connectivity.



*In ordinary times

GET IN TOUCH

WE'D LOVE TO WELCOME YOU

Scottish Development International has more than 30 offices throughout the world, and our global team is dedicated to helping you establish and grow your business in Scotland.

To find out why #SCOTLANDISNOW for your company or to experience Scotland for yourself, get in touch and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN SCOTLAND.
WE'D LOVE TO WELCOME YOU.



www.sdi.co.uk



investment@scotent.co.uk



+44 300 013 2734



www.linkedin.com/company/scottish-development-international



[@ScotDevInt](https://twitter.com/ScotDevInt)



www.youtube.com/user/SDItv

