

L@b Brief | February 2026

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Comment: PFAS plan opportunities for lab suppliers



THE GOVERNMENT has announced its first-ever PFAS Plan, setting out the actions that need to be taken by government, businesses and regulators to understand where PFAS, (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are coming from, how they spread and how to reduce public and environmental exposure.

While a lot of the focus appears to be on drinking water supplies, the plan also outlines the following measures:

- Developing new guidance for regulators and industries to address legacy PFAS pollution on contaminated land to ensure a consistent and practical approach.
- Consulting on the introduction of a statutory limit for PFAS in England's public supply regulations to improve drinking water quality.
- Carrying out tests on food packaging, like microwave popcorn bags and pizza boxes, to support future regulatory action.
- Publishing a new website to raise public awareness and understanding of PFAS.
- Reducing emissions from industrial sites through new guidance for regulators and site operators on how to improve their handling, monitoring and disposal of PFAS.

- Improving the monitoring of PFAS in soils by initiating new sampling at five locations across England.
- Completing work to consider restrictions on the use of PFAS in firefighting foams.

For the full plan details, click [here](#).

Although future restrictions may pose challenges for manufacturers, the good news for GAMBICA members is that increased awareness and testing requirements will inevitably drive demand for laboratory equipment and consumables. Good for us, and good for the public!

See you at the conference!

Tony

UK News

UK medical device testing up 17% in one year

NEW FIGURES from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) show a 17 per cent rise in approved clinical investigations compared with last year. The MHRA is now rolling out new measures to back innovation and remove barriers for smaller companies, including a fee waiver pilot, early market access to promising devices, and enhanced support for high-impact technologies to encourage further companies to choose the UK for their testing of treatments of common conditions including dementia, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy. Investment in neurotechnology studies have doubled since 2024 and now make up around a quarter of all UK applications.

Companies are being encouraged to choose the UK with the MHRA boasting it has met 100 per cent of its statutory deadlines for clinical investigation applications since September 2023, with average approval times for clinical investigations in 2025 at 51 days, running nine days faster than the 60-day target.

From January 2026, the MHRA has waived fees for micro and small UK firms in a [pilot scheme to help unlock high-potential ideas that might otherwise stall due to early costs](#).

MHRA Chief Executive Lawrence Tallon said: "This has been a standout year for medical device innovation in the UK. We're seeing more of the world's most exciting technologies coming here first, particularly in areas like brain health, where patients urgently need better options."

In a further boost to one of the fastest-growing fields, the MHRA has announced it is part of a UK-wide partnership led by Newcastle University to [update national guidance on neurotechnology research](#), making it quicker and clearer for clinicians, researchers and companies to launch studies involving devices that interact with the brain and nervous system.

Consultation on indefinite recognition of CE-marked medical devices

THE MEDICINES and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has launched a [consultation on proposals for indefinite recognition of CE-marked medical devices in Great Britain \(GB\)](#).

Around 90% of medical devices currently used in Great Britain are CE marked. The consultation seeks feedback on the proposals to extend arrangements put in place in 2023 to recognise CE marked devices and is strongly suggesting that ongoing recognition of the CE mark is the best outcome. It seeks views on three key proposals:

- Extending current transitional arrangements for devices certified under the EU Medical Device Directive (MDD), aligning GB timelines with the EU's transition to the EU Medical Device Regulation (EU MDR), to minimise the risk of supply disruption.
- Indefinite recognition of EU MDR and EU IVDR-compliant devices, to reduce the risk of interruption to the supply of medical devices for patients in GB.
- Introducing an international reliance route for a small proportion of CE-marked devices that would fall into a higher risk class under GB rules, to ensure appropriate oversight while maintaining access.

The proposals align with wider government policy for other manufactured goods sectors where continued recognition of CE marked goods has been agreed. Alongside these measures, the MHRA will continue to strengthen post-market surveillance and work to improve information sharing with EU partners, ensuring patient safety remains paramount.

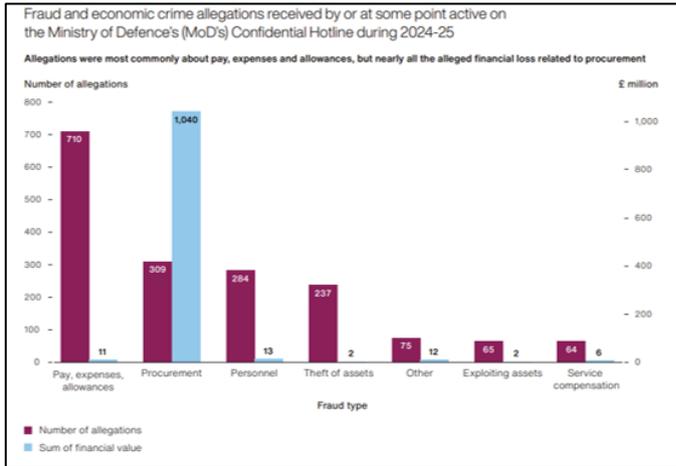
To respond to the consultation, which will run until 10 April 2026, click [here](#).

Most procurement fraud unaddressed by MOD

A MINISTRY of Defence (MoD) report reveals that most of its potential fraud risk exposure, now up to £1.5 billion a year, relates to procurement.

The MoD spends around £40 billion a year on procurement and receives hundreds of allegations of suspected fraud or economic crime each year, but relatively few result in detection, disruption and recovery. The Treasury expects that public bodies should save £3 for every £1 spent on counter-fraud work but although the MoD spent an average of £5.7 million a year on counter-fraud work between 2021-22 and 2024-25, it achieved a return of just 48p for every £1 spent.

In 2024-25 the MoD's prevention and recovery improved to £6.4 million largely due to a new data analytics system used to analyse procurement spend. This resulted in a return of £1.34 for every £1 spent not including the cost of developing the new technology.



The MoD admits that around 60% of reports of potential fraud made to its Confidential Hotline are dealt with by staff outside its counter-fraud and police teams and that for most of the allegations closed in 2024-25 no further action was taken.

The MoD refers around 40% of reports made to its Confidential Hotline (603 cases in 2024-25) to the MoD's various police teams but the police often treated them as 'intelligence' rather than reported

crimes. In practice, the police investigated 363 cases, but the MOD's Fraud Defence personnel, who are meant to have oversight of all counter-fraud activity, were unaware of many of these.

Overall, the MoD's data suggest that investigations result in few outcomes that might serve as a deterrent to future fraud and economic crime.

Outcomes from the Ministry of Defence's (MoD's) investigations into alleged fraud and economic crime that closed in 2024-25

The MoD's investigation bodies data record only a small number of cases that result in outcomes that could deter future fraud

Outcome	Confidential Hotline outcome	Average time taken to achieve outcome (years)	MoD Police Crime Command (MDP) and service police outcome	Average time taken to achieve outcome (years)
Criminal or service justice action	18	1.9	29	0.7
Informal action	102	1	7	0.5
Formal action	82	1	4	1.1
No further action or unable to pursue	826	0.6	118	0.4
Other or not known	4	1	13	0.5
Overall outcomes achieved in 2024-25	1,032	0.7	171	0.5

The report also goes on to note that the MoD has significantly increased its number of fraud risk assessments in recent years. But these are not completed across the whole department, are of varying quality, and are not used consistently to identify how fraud gets past controls and to prevent future fraud.

Download the full report [here](#).

Register of university spin outs now available

THOSE LOOKING for sources of new leads may be interested to hear that Innovate UK has launched a new register of companies spinning out from universities. These can be sorted by region and by whether they are active or inactive. The database is a bit clunky but it does give you access to company websites although no contact details are provided.

To access the new register, click [here](#)

UK and US agree on critical minerals

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was signed in February. It sets out a commitment to support the supply of raw and

processed critical minerals crucial to the commercial and defence industries of both countries by means of economic policy and coordinated investment.

Both countries intend to capitalize on their respective existing domestic mining and processing operations in critical minerals, as well as develop new capacity by government support and encouraging private sector investment.

They will jointly identify critical mineral and rare earth projects to address gaps in priority supply chains. A separate ministry for Mining, minerals and metals investment will be set up within 180 days to streamline permitting timelines and processes, including obtaining permits for critical minerals and rare earths mining, separation, and processing.

Protecting the markets for these new industries from non-market policies and unfair trade practices is seen as essential and will receive concerted effort. This includes working with international partners to develop a global approach to address associated international pricing challenges. Both countries commit to deterring and, if necessary, restricting critical minerals and rare earths asset sales on national security grounds.

Recycling technology will also be supported.

Full details of the MOU are available [here](#).

LABORATORY construction news and opportunities

DID YOU know that GAMBICA's Tender Alert Service (TAS) lists every new laboratory construction project in the UK?

In the February 2026 update, two projects stood out in Oxford and Cambridge. Together, they represent more than £183 million of investment in laboratory-related space within two of the UK's main science locations.

For those of you who provide equipment used in non-laboratory settings, there is also an industrial construction alert which will inform you about manufacturing construction projects.

To receive TAS updates twice weekly into your inbox, email Natalia.pan@gambica.org.uk

Oxford – 1-12 Magdalen Street

Buyer: The Crown Estate

Value: £125 million

Programme: August 2026 – April 2030

Stage: Detailed Plans Submitted; Tender Currently Invited

This project involves the redevelopment of the former Debenhams building into a multi-occupancy life science facility. The six-storey building (around 13,000 sqm) will undergo structural changes and a full replacement of mechanical and electrical systems. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2026.

Cambridge – Merlin Place, 460 Milton Road, Milton, Cambridge, CB4 0DP

Developer: Kadans Science Partner 7 UK Limited

Value: £58.77 million

Programme: August 2024 – July 2026

Stage: Detail Plans Granted; recorded as “Start On Site” (February 2026)

The scheme includes demolition of an existing office building and construction of 13,096 sqm of research and development space, including 4,388 sqm of laboratory space. Completion is scheduled for July 2026.

Both developments add new laboratory-enabled capacity in Oxford and Cambridge. For laboratory suppliers, opportunities are most likely to arise during the fit-out stage and as tenants move into the buildings over time.

Other UK opportunities

[New Northern Irish forensics facility to be built](#)

A scheme, known as Project Atlas, will provide 10,400 square metres of new office and laboratory space for Forensic Science Northern Ireland.

[Work commences on new cutting-edge laboratory and research space at University of Warwick](#)

The University of Warwick Science Park is to refurbish its Vanguard Centre.

Australia

[Victorian government backs new Docklands laboratory](#)

A leading pathology provider is to open a state-of-the-art laboratory and headquarters.

Canada

[Lambton College Level 2 germ lab getting \\$1.8M upgrade](#)

Lambton College laboratory for studying moderate-level pathogens and microorganisms is getting a nearly \$1.8-million upgrade.

Ecuador

["Biosecure" Ecuador lab built from adobe](#)

A compact laboratory in the Amazon has been built using vaulted adobe construction to break external chemical dependency.

France

[Givaudan invests CHF 55 million to build natural ingredients centre in France](#)

Swiss fragrance giant is building Campus 52 in Grasse, which will house a production facility and innovation laboratory.

New Zealand

[New Plant Health and Environment Laboratory for Auckland](#)

The lab is due to open in early 2029.

USA

[NY construction begins on \\$1.7B Wadsworth Public Health Laboratory](#)

New York State has begun construction on a \$1.7 billion public health laboratory.

[New North Dakota state lab nears completion](#)

The new building has been under construction since 2024.

[University of Tampa Announces \\$153M Science Center Building Project](#)

The facility will include 48 modern teaching and research labs to support disciplines such as chemistry, biology, immunology, and genetics.

[UMHB announces plans to build a new science lab facility in Texas](#)

The building will include 13 science labs, student study areas, and conference rooms.

[Construction begin this autumn on new on life sciences building for University of Nevada](#)

The new facility is expected to cost approximately \$137 million and will house 18 research labs for work in molecular and cellular biology.

[Watch SWAT Team BUST Alleged Chinese-Linked BioLab in Vegas - YouTube](#)

Authorities are investigating a suspected biological laboratory with alleged Chinese ties discovered inside a Las Vegas home.

[Historic U.S. marine lab parts ways with the University of Chicago](#)

After a 12-year affiliation intended to address financial woes, Marine Biological Laboratory returns to independence.

[Growing buildings in space: UNCG, Luna Labs test fungi as construction material for space](#)

With funding from NASA, a UNC Greensboro lab and Virginia-based tech company Luna Labs are exploring the use of fungus as a building material for space.

[NHBC Academic Laboratory nears completion](#)

NHBC Academic Laboratory is designed to strengthen public health capacity and expand academic medicine in Nevada.

[Teklab's New Illinois Laboratory](#)

New 36,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art environmental testing laboratory in Collinsville will create 40 new full-time jobs while retaining nearly 100 positions.

Zimbabwe

[Construction of 41 new science laboratories underway](#)

41 science laboratories in Matabeleland will enabling learners in rural areas to study science and technology subjects.

GAMBICA Events

THE GAMBICA LAB CONFERENCE 2026 | THE BARNSDALE, RUTLAND | 9-10 MARCH 2026

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

THE GAMBICA Lab Conference 2026 will cut through the noise, showing you what your customers want, how to keep up with your peers who are already applying AI to achieve productivity improvements, and how to break into or grow in the currently most lucrative market in the world – the US.



HEADLINE KEYNOTE: NICK ROSA, ACCENTURE

Nick Rosa brings over 20 years of digital transformation and innovation expertise. With a career spanning Google, Spotify, IBM IX, Yahoo!, and Atari, Nick now leads as *Industry Technology Innovation Director for Europe* and directs the *Accenture Global Generative AI Studio for Consumer Products*.

Nick will deliver a clear-eyed overview of AI: what's possible today, how to spot the pitfalls, and the roadmap you need to implement AI successfully in your organisation.

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVES: WHAT BUYERS WANT IN 2026

Hear from Laura Williams, Data Capability Leader at GSK, on how your customers are upskilling for the digital revolution—and what they expect from their suppliers. You'll also gain direct insight from other leading customers about their buying priorities for the year ahead.

NEW FOR THE GAMBICA CONFERENCE: BREAKING INTO AMERICA: WHAT IT REALLY TAKES — AND WHAT IT REALLY COSTS

Expert insights expressly for lab companies on breaking into the US market or expanding your foothold.

PEER-TO-PEER AI BREAKOUTS

This year, it's not just about listening— you will have the chance to dive into focused discussions with your peers, exploring specific applications of AI, the barriers you'll face, and how to overcome them. Choose your AI focus area in advance and leave with actionable ideas tailored to your business.

EXPERT FORECASTING: POLITICS, ECONOMICS, TRADE

Anand Menon and Lee Hopley will again bring their sharp insights into the political and economic landscape, equipping you with the intelligence you need to navigate 2026 with confidence.

**BOOK ONLINE [HERE](#) OR CONTACT SARAH SARAH.WICKS@GAMBICA.ORG.UK TO RESERVE
YOUR SPOT.**

AN INTRODUCTION TO HELP TO GROW | ONLINE | 17 MARCH 2026 | 10.30 - 12.00

Organised by GAMBICA's Business Growth Group, this presentation provides an overview of the UK Government-sponsored Help to Grow Programme and is delivered by Caroline Trainor and George Akomas from Coventry University's Business School.

Investing in your leadership is one of the most effective ways to strengthen your organisation. Leading a business can feel isolating—especially without formal management training—which is why the 12week *Help to Grow: Management* Course was created.

Designed and delivered by industry experts, the programme provides practical, actionable learning to help you lead with confidence and drive meaningful change in your business.

Through the course, you will:

- Strengthen your ability to lead and accelerate business growth
- Develop a tailored Growth Action Plan to maximise your organisation's potential
- Receive 10 hours of one-to-one mentoring from an experienced business leader
- Gain up to 50 hours of high quality Continuous Professional Development

Additionally, you will receive:

- 1 to1 Mentor Support
- Growth Action Plan
- Alumni Programme

This national scheme is delivered across 60 locations in England and Wales and is 90% government funded. If there is sufficient interest, GAMBICA can explore arranging a dedicated online cohort exclusively for members.

We recognise your time is valuable—but investing just a couple of hours to attend this online introduction could be one of the best things you have ever done.

Don't delay – [book your place now](#)

VALUE BASED PROCUREMENT IN THE NHS – HOW IT WILL AFFECT LAB SUPPLIERS | ONLINE | 31 MARCH 2026 | 10.30 - 11.30

Value Based Procurement started being rolled out across the NHS in January. This webinar will explain how things will change.

The Value Based Procurement (VBP) initiative being rolled out across the NHS means that the way the NHS purchases medtech products is set for a paradigm shift. Similar changes are likely to become the approach for all NHS purchasing, not just medtech, in keeping with the principles of the Government's 10 Year Plan for the NHS.

In this webinar, Chris Whitehouse, who has been closely involved behind the scenes with key government officials over the last three years, will brief you on the key principles which underpin the new VBP Methodology providing you with an overview of the opportunities and challenges that VBP will present. Chris is a trustee of the Institute of Medical Ethics, and Chair of the Urology Trades Association.

Reserve your spot [here](#).

BID WRITING INCLUDING BEST USE OF AI – SHARED COST TRAINING | GAMBICA OFFICES, LONDON | 19 MAY 2026 | 09.30 - 16.30

BACK BY popular demand, we will be running the highly successful Bid writing, including best use of AI training again in our London offices on 19 May.

Building on core bid writing principles, the course provides practical insights into crafting persuasive, well-structured, and compliant tenders. Delegates will explore strategies to improve win rates, including how to tailor responses to buyer priorities, avoid common pitfalls, and make best use of feedback.

In addition, the course examines how generative AI tools can be used ethically to support the bid writing process.

For a full course outline and prices (which will depend on the number of delegates) email jacqueline.balian@gambica.org.uk or click [here](#) to reserve your place.

SUCCESSFUL BID MANAGEMENT – SHARED COST TRAINING | GAMBICA OFFICES, LONDON | 4 JUNE 2026 | 09.30 - 16.30

Power up your bidding performance with proven bid management strategies. This one-day, in-person course is designed for managers and teams involved in bids and tenders who want to strengthen control of the process, improve consistency, and increase their success rates. The session focuses on how bids are planned, governed, resourced, and continuously improved.

What You'll Learn

Through practical, real-world guidance, participants will explore how to:

- Make informed bid/no bid decisions
- Structure and manage the bid process
- Coordinate contributors effectively
- Maintain quality and meet deadlines under pressure

The course also covers key aspects of the modern bidding environment, including:

- Using data and insight to support strategic decisions
- Applying AI tools responsibly for planning, drafting, reviewing, and quality control
- Building repeatable processes, templates, and governance that reduce risk and rework

Participants will leave with practical templates, tools, and checklists they can use immediately.

The course is led by Gemma Waring, a public sector tendering specialist with over 17 years' experience, who has helped organisations including Capita, FCDO, NWUPC and IQVIA secure multimillion-pound contracts and improve bid consistency and quality.

Price

The event operates on a shared-cost model, with pricing dependent on the final number of participants. Fees will range from approximately £500 per person for a group of six to £250 per person for a group of twelve. Email Sarah for further info - sarah.wicks@gambica.org.uk

EXPORT TRAINING DISOUNTED FOR GAMBICA MEMBERS | ONLINE | DEC 25-MAR 26

EXPORT TRAINING is available to GAMBICA members from Chamber International at Chamber members' prices.

MARCH 2026 COURSES	
5 Mar 2026	<u>Importing and Customs</u>
5 Mar 2026	<u>HMRC Audits & Customs Record Keeping Requirements</u>
11 Mar 2026	<u>Incoterms® - The Basics</u>
19 Mar 2026	<u>Export Documentation</u>

FURTHER INFORMATION is available [here](#). When booking, quote discount code 'CICSP25' to get your 10% discount. TO BOOK your place click [here](#).

INDUSTRY Events

THE EYE OF THE STORM – EUROPEAN SUMMIT | ONLINE | 19 MARCH 2026 | 2-5PM

Hosted by My Green Lab and Living Future Europe, this event will bring together leaders from across the life sciences sector to examine how sustainability is evolving from voluntary action to core market infrastructure, with a focus on EU policy, procurement, credible data, and industry driven transformation.

- Keynotes from Emmanuel Maire (European Commission) and Oliver Hurrey (Scope 3 and procurement initiatives)
- Panels on EU regulatory expectations, sustainable lab and manufacturing operations, and procurement led change
- Insights from industry, academia, and solution providers across Europe

This free event is suited for professionals interested in sustainability, life sciences, procurement, and innovation. To register click [here](#).

ANALYTICA | MUNICH | 24/27 MARCH 2026

WE RECEIVED a good number of early bookings for Analytica 2026, and availability is already limited. We are offering two options for participation with the GAMBICA UK pavilion: 'regular' pavilion stands of 6+sqm & 4sqm 'pod' stands. Please contact Kirsty if you wish to discuss availability.

For more information about the event itself please click [here](#). To book your stand contact Kirsty at Kirsty.roberts@gambica.org.uk

DRUG DISCOVERY 2026, | LONDON, | 14/15 OCTOBER 2026

ELRIG'S DRUG Discovery is back at ExCel, London in 2026. Registration is not yet open but more on speakers and themes is available [here](#).

LAB INNOVATIONS, | LONDON, | 4/5 NOVEMBER 2026

DON'T FORGET, if you want to book at the UK's largest lab exhibition, GAMBICA members are entitled to a 15% discount. **Register your interest for the event [here](#).**

ANALYTICA CHINA, | SHANGHAI, | 16/18 NOVEMBER 2026

BOOKING DETAILS will be available later this year for the GAMBICA pavilion at this event. **For more information about the event click [here](#).**

EXPORT News

New EU customs duty rules for small parcels

BEGINNING 1 July 2026, the EU will introduce a €3 customs charge on parcels valued under €150. This category is currently exempt from customs duties, but the high volume of low value ecommerce shipments—particularly from China—has raised concerns among EU governments about unfair competition for local businesses.

This flat €3 charge will remain in effect until the planned launch of the EU Customs Hub in 2028, after which standard customs tariffs will apply to all goods entering the EU.

Importantly, the €3 fee is applied per tariff sub-heading within a parcel. For example, a shipment containing a silk blouse and two wool blouses would incur two separate charges, totalling €6.

If your business currently benefits from duty-free exports of service parts or consumables, you may want to account for these upcoming costs in your planning.

China grants 30-day visa-free travel to British citizens

DURING THE Prime Minister's visit, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on 15 February that British and Canadian citizens will be eligible for unilateral 30 day visa free entry running through to 31 December 2026. The move places the UK among a steadily expanding group of countries granted visa free access since China launched its exemption programme in December 2023.

According to the official English translation, the policy allows holders of ordinary UK passports to enter China without a visa for business, tourism, family visits, exchange activities, or transit, for stays of up to 30 days. The measure will remain in effect until the end of 2026.

This will make it easier for interested GAMBICA members to participate at Analytica China Shanghai (China's leading trade fair for laboratory technology, analysis, biotechnology and diagnostics) from 16th to 18th November 2026, where GAMBICA are looking to organise a group.

Interested? – contact Kirsty Roberts kirsty.roberts@gambica.org.uk

US strengthens quality system for laboratories

FURTHER UPDATES have been made to the US system of Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, federal standards designed to ensure the quality, accuracy, and reliability of laboratory testing performed on human specimens. These regulations apply to all clinical laboratories—regardless of size, location, or type of testing.

Significant revisions affecting proficiency testing, personnel qualifications, and administrative processes include:

- **Tighter allowable error ranges** for many tests (e.g., creatinine, potassium, haemoglobin).
- **Newly regulated analytes**, including HbA1c, BNP/proBNP, and cardiac troponins.
- **Shift to fixed percentage goals** instead of SD-based criteria for certain tests (e.g., β -hCG).
- **More flexible qualification pathways** for technical consultants, supervisors, and testing personnel.
- **New lab director requirements**, including 20 CE hours in lab leadership topics and mandatory onsite visits every six months.

Full details are available from the FDA [here](#).

EUDAMED registration requirements and IVDR transition deadlines

MANUFACTURERS SELLING IVDs into the EU who wish to benefit from extended IVDR transition timelines need to take steps immediately to avoid falling over the 26th of May cliff edge. By that date they need to have applied to an EU Notified Body for registration under IVDR and must have an IVDR compliant Quality Management System (QMS) in place.

These provisions will affect companies with legacy IVDs already on the market (i.e., CE marked under IVDD).

Provided companies apply by the 26 May, the extended transition periods are:

- 31 December 2027 for high risk IVDs (Class D)
- 31 December 2028 for medium risk IVDs (Class C)
- 31 December 2029 for lower risk IVDs (Class B and Class A sterile devices)

EUDAMED explainer for those new to this topic

The European Database on Medical Devices (EUDAMED) is the EU-wide regulatory data platform required under the Medical Device Regulation and the In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation.

EUDAMED consists of six modules:

1. Actor Registration
2. UDI / Device Registration
3. Notified Bodies & Certificates
4. Market Surveillance
5. Vigilance / Post-Market Surveillance (pending)
6. Clinical Investigations & Performance Studies (pending)

Upcoming deadlines

From 28 May 2026

- Mandatory use of first four EUDAMED modules
- Actor Registration deadline
All non-EU manufacturers (including UK suppliers) must register as Actors in EUDAMED via their EU Authorised Representative and obtain an SRN. Without an SRN, device registration and certificate linkage cannot proceed.
- New devices require EUDAMED registration before being marketed in the EU
UK manufacturers must ensure UDI/device data and certificate information are uploaded ahead of EU market placement.

From 28 November 2026 Deadline to register devices already on the EU market

- UK suppliers must retrospectively register all legacy and existing MDR/IVDR devices still being marketed; failure to do so may cause EU importers to refuse distribution.

From 28 May 2027 Notified Bodies must upload certificates issued before mandatory date

- UK suppliers must ensure their EU Notified Body uploads valid certificates and that devices are correctly linked in EUDAMED.

From Q4 2026 (expected) — Vigilance module functionality announcement

UK manufacturers should prepare for centralised EU vigilance reporting requirements.

From Q2 2027 (expected) — Mandatory use of the Vigilance module

UK suppliers will need to report EU incidents through EUDAMED.

Banks to provide £11 billion for UK exporters



UK BUSINESSES are to be given access to an £11 billion lending package to help them invest and expand abroad under an agreement signed by NatWest, HSBC UK, Barclays, Lloyds and Santander and the Government in January. Under the agreement, lending will be drawn from the banks' own balance sheets to give small and mid-sized enterprises access to finance and expert advice.

UK Export Finance (UKEF), the government's export credit agency, will guarantee up to 80% of eligible loans issued by each bank. Banks can apply UKEF's guarantee automatically for working capital loans of up to £10 million.

Alongside funding, businesses will also be able to access advisory support through banks' relationship managers and UKEF's regional Export Finance Managers.

UKEF Chief Executive Tim Reid said: "This partnership puts billions of pounds within reach of ambitious small businesses across the UK, reinforcing UKEF's role as one of government's most powerful levers for growth. It builds on the government's wider commitment to backing small businesses as engines of the economy, including measures to tackle late payments, cut red tape and create the right conditions for investment.

Paul Kempster, MD of Commercial Banking Coverage at Lloyds agreed: "Working alongside UKEF demonstrates how banks and government can come together to unlock the full potential of UK businesses to help them compete and win on the global stage. This dedicated trade finance support will enable more firms to seek new export opportunities, scale internationally and drive investment and jobs back into the UK.

To find out more, contact your bank or click [here](#).

MEMBER News

SDI Group enters avionics sector with new acquisition

THIS MONTH, GAMBICA member the SDI Group plc, has announced the acquisition of Swindon based PRP Optoelectronics Ltd, a specialist in high performance micro-LED and LED devices.

SDI Group focuses on acquiring and developing small to medium sized businesses that design and manufacture specialist laboratory equipment, industrial and scientific sensors, and related technologies. The addition of PRP expands SDI's portfolio to 18 companies serving sectors including life sciences, healthcare, plastics and packaging, manufacturing, precision optics, and measurement instrumentation, while also extending the Group into the defence and avionics markets.

Founded in 1989, PRP Optoelectronics began with ruggedised LED displays for military avionics before expanding into monolithic and micro-LED technologies as technologies developed, supporting aviation, medical photodynamic therapy, and industrial printing applications. The company operates from a 20,000 sq. ft facility in Swindon and employs 33 staff.

Managing Director Kevin Peart and Technical Director Sam Cox, both majority shareholders, will continue in their current roles following the acquisition.

As part of SDI Group, PRP will benefit from a business model focused on driving organic growth and leveraging synergies across the Group.

Stephen Brown, CEO of SDI Group, commented: "The acquisition of PRP is a significant milestone for SDI, marking our entry into the avionics markets. The business boasts a range of products in a very particular niche, which have applications across multiple sectors, including in aviation and on platforms, including the General Dynamics F-16 and Airbus A320 among others."



Adelphi Manufacturing joins GAMBICA

ADELPHI MANUFACTURING, a proudly English company founded in the 1940s to meet the growing demand for reliable, high-quality laboratory equipment within the pharmaceutical industry, is GAMBICA's first new member of 2026.



The business specialises in semi-automatic laboratory equipment and highly accurate filling solutions, including semi-automatic and entry-level automated systems. Adelphi operates across the pharmaceutical, food and beverage, chemical and cosmetics sectors, supporting both established global manufacturers and growing brands.

Over the decades, the group has expanded significantly and now comprises five companies. Most recently, Adelphi has strengthened its international footprint with the opening of an office in the United States.

Like many successful engineering businesses, Adelphi's growth has been achieved through a combination of organic development and strategic acquisitions — always with a clear focus on long-term sustainability and product quality.

Family-owned, Adelphi now employs approximately 140 people across its headquarters & production site in Haywards Heath and its second manufacturing centre in Huddersfield. The company is proud to be one of the significant employers in Haywards Heath. Its workforce

combines young emerging talent with long-serving employees, some of whom have been with the business for more than 30 years, contributing invaluable with their commercial and technical expertise.

Precision Laboratory Equipment

Adelphi Manufacturing is particularly well recognised for its high-quality laboratory equipment designed for accuracy, durability and regulatory compliance.

Among its core product lines are:

- **Liquid Inspection Units (Apollo range)** – designed to assist with the visual inspection of liquids in bottles, vials and other containers, supporting quality control processes in pharmaceutical and laboratory environments.
- **Ampoule and Vial Processing Equipment** – designed for precise handling, filling, sealing and controlled processing of delicate glass formats, ensuring product integrity and batch consistency.



- **Laboratory Mixers** – compact solutions suitable for R&D, pilot production and small-batch manufacturing.

- **High-quality Mixing Vessel Solutions** – designed and manufactured to meet customer-specific requirements, with options for heating, cooling and integrated mixing systems.

Each product is built with practicality in mind: easy to operate, easy to maintain, and engineered for

long service life.

High-Accuracy Filling Solutions



At the heart of Adelphi's portfolio is its precision filling technology.

The company supplies highly accurate filling equipment suitable for a wide range of viscosities — from free-flowing liquids to creams and more complex formulations.

Solutions range from:

- Semi-automatic filling machines for laboratory and small production environments
- Entry-level automated systems for growing manufacturers
- Integrated filling lines tailored to specific customer requirements

Adelphi's filling systems are known for repeatable accuracy, gentle product handling and ease of cleaning — critical features for pharmaceutical and cosmetic manufacturers operating under strict regulatory frameworks.

By offering scalable solutions, Adelphi enables customers to move seamlessly from development to production without compromising quality.

A Global Presence with Local Expertise

Adelphi Manufacturing operates internationally through a carefully structured distributor network and direct global relationships. The company supports customers across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

Its global presence is built not only on product quality but also on strong commercial partnerships, technical support and responsive after-sales service.

With the recent expansion into the US market, Adelphi continues to strengthen its international reach while maintaining its British manufacturing heritage.

Customer Excellence as a Strategic Focus

Customer excellence is central to Adelphi's philosophy.

The company works closely with its customers to understand application requirements, regulatory considerations and long-term production goals. Rather than simply supplying machinery, Adelphi provides guidance, documentation support and technical collaboration throughout the equipment lifecycle.

This approach has enabled the business to build long-standing relationships across multiple industries and geographies.

Engineering Heritage, Future Vision

More than 80 years after its foundation, Adelphi Manufacturing continues to evolve while remaining true to its core values: quality engineering, integrity, partnership and innovation.

Its membership of GAMBICA further strengthens its position within the UK engineering and laboratory equipment community and reinforces its commitment to industry standards and collaboration.

With a strong heritage, global outlook and clear focus on customer success, Adelphi Manufacturing remains a trusted partner for laboratory equipment, precision filling solutions and scalable automation systems.
