



THE Awards 2019 – Knowledge Exchange Transfer Initiative of the Year

Institution/Nominee	Northern Accelerator (the universities of Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland)
Title	The Northern Accelerator Story
Key personnel	<p>Tim Hammond, Director Commercialisation & Economic Development, Durham University</p> <p>David Huntley, Head of Company Creation, Newcastle University</p> <p>Hugh Rhodes, IP and Commercialisation Manager, Northumbria University</p> <p>Cheryl Holmstrom, Business Development Manager (Enterprise and Innovation), University of Sunderland</p> <p>Edwin Milligan, Northern Accelerator Project Manager</p>
URL	https://www.northernaccelerator.org/
Submission	<p>Northern Accelerator – an innovative partnership between Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland Universities, built on sharing good practice between these diverse institutions – is driving a step-change in research commercialisation, strengthening the North East knowledge economy and helping address regional imbalance.</p> <p>Connecting academics and business leaders and providing funding and business support, it’s accelerating the translation of outstanding research into commercial opportunities, forming sustainable businesses and creating more and better jobs.</p> <p>Enabled by £4.9m from Research England’s Connecting Capabilities Fund, and building on a £0.9m ERDF programme, Northern Accelerator has generated significant growth in research commercialisation. This year, partners will create 10 spinouts, compared to an annual average of 1.8 over the 5 years preceding Northern Accelerator.</p> <p>The collaboration is cultivating a pipeline of credible investment opportunities and will deliver sustainable impact by developing an ongoing venture capital fund for university spinouts, and a vibrant community of Northern Accelerator businesses.</p>