Coming out of the ground at Harlow Science park are two new buildings which will be important new components in the dynamic, future oriented economy of the UK’s Innovation Corridor.

You might argue, and many do, that an enterprise zone is simply a way of giving tax breaks to businesses who were in the area anyway. In other words displacement, not new growth.

Now, with the opening of new buildings on the Harlow Science Park, we go into a new era. The science park was always part of the plan for the EZ, and now it’s bearing fruit (non GM, we believe) with the imminent opening of the Nexus and Arise buildings at the beginning of the New Year. These will be spaces for new businesses: spin outs from the universities, startups and ‘move on’ space for companies which are ready to expand. To some extent a leap of faith by the council, Anglia Ruskin, Essex county and the South East LEP.

The Nexus is led by Harlow Council and will have 30,000 sq ft over three floors offering accommodation for businesses, particularly research and development anything between 2,500 sq ft to 30,000. The Arise, a new business innovation centre for medical and advanced engineering. 15,000 sq ft of space for spin outs and businesses in the sectors to grow and establish themselves in the UK’s innovation Corridor.

What they’re trying to do is create the right conditions for new businesses to be started and then to grow. The Holy Grail is to create an ecosystem where the people with the talent, creativity and vision come together with people who have money and foresight to invest and people who know how to nurture and manage facilities. These are not easy things to do but we’re lucky to have some real expertise in our Corridor - maybe you won’t be surprised to learn that women seem to do this quite well. Step forward Sally Ann Forsyth who leads the Stevenage Biocatalyst, Jeanette Walker at the Cambridge Science Park and UCL’s Yolande Barnes at Here East.

Find out more

By John McGill, Investment and Development Correspondent

Topics