

AXOL



Company Overview

Axol Bioscience was created in March 2021 through the merger of Censo Biotechnologies, a spin-out from Roslin Cellab Ltd and Roslin Cell Sciences Ltd. Drawing on Censo's combined expertise, Axol Biosciences is now a leading provider of iPSC-based products and contract research style services for neuroscience, cardiac and immune cell disease modelling and screening.

Key Challenges Addressed

Drug discovery for complex neurological, neuro-inflammatory, and cardiometabolic disorders is constrained by limited reliability of animal and other non-human models, which often fail to capture human genetic diversity and disease mechanisms. In response to this challenge, Axol Bioscience develops genetically diverse, patient-derived inducible pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) platforms that provide scalable and human-relevant models for polygenetic diseases. By focusing on these advanced iPSC systems, the company enables more reliable assessment of drug efficacy and the impact of genetic variation, supporting better-informed decision-making in preclinical development.

Role of Roslin Innovation Centre

Following the merger uniting Censo Biotechnologies and Axol Bioscience together under the Axol brand, the company has leveraged its tenancy at Roslin Innovation Centre to drive its next growth phase. A tenant since Roslin Innovation Centre opened in 2017, Axol strengthened its commitment in April 2023 by becoming an anchor tenant on a long-term lease, securing a stable base for scaling up both manufacturing, research and development. Roslin Innovation Centre's specialised tissue culture laboratories, proximity to a leading stem cell research community at the Roslin Institute, a BBSRC strategically funded institute, and access to a deep talent pool in cell biology and genomics have all contributed to Axol's scientific prowess and innovation.

From this base at Roslin Innovation Centre, Axol has fostered notable collaborations across pharmaceutical companies, contract research organisations, organ-on-chip innovators, academic laboratories and global distributors. These partnerships have accelerated the development of patient-derived iPSC and organ-on-chip models, as well as high-throughput microglia screening, while extending the company's global reach.

By capitalising on Roslin Innovation Centre's infrastructure and collaboration ecosystem, Axol Bioscience continues to expand the availability and validation of human disease models for central nervous system, pain, dermatology, ophthalmology, and cardiac research.

