# Canon Medical wins £3.6m to boost AI in healthcare diagnostics



Canon Medical Research Europe has secured £3.6 million from Scottish Enterprise to lead a £14 million project aimed at transforming medical diagnostics through artificial intelligence. Based in Edinburgh, the company is using AI to automate routine imaging tasks, accelerating patient scans and improving the speed and accuracy of clinical decisions—especially in complex treatments like oncology. The investment is part of Scotland’s wider strategy to establish itself as a leader in health and life sciences, built on collaboration between industry, academia and the NHS. Health Secretary Neil Gray said the project illustrates Scotland’s growing global profile in healthcare innovation, which will be showcased at Expo 2025 in Osaka. Canon Medical, originally a spin-out from Edinburgh University and part of Canon since 2016, employs over 100 experts focused on AI imaging solutions. The firm plays a key role in initiatives such as the Industrial Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research in Digital Diagnostics (iCAIRD), a £15 million partnership accelerating early diagnosis and personalised treatments across Scotland’s health services. Among its breakthroughs is an AI tool designed to detect and measure asbestos-related cancers like malignant pleural mesothelioma—a disease where early diagnosis is vital. Backed by the Scottish Cancer Innovation Challenge, the prototype demonstrates the potential of AI in tackling hard-to-diagnose conditions. Canon has also helped streamline emergency care. In trials with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, its AI systems diagnosed COVID-19 from chest X-rays in minutes, delivering results on par with multiple radiologists and highlighting the potential for AI to support critical care. Scotland’s digital health ecosystem has helped drive these advances. Bodies such as the Digital Health and Care Innovation Centre and various consortia support the rapid translation of research into frontline healthcare tools. Canon Medical is one of several Scottish healthtech innovators heading to Expo 2025 under a Scottish Enterprise-led delegation. Others include firms developing tactile robotic skin, companion robots and precision surgical devices. Together, they represent a life sciences sector contributing nearly £10.5 billion annually to the Scottish economy. While ethical integration of AI in healthcare remains a challenge, Canon’s latest investment reflects strong momentum. “The goal is to help clinicians diagnose and treat more patients more effectively,” said Dr Ken Sutherland, President of Canon Medical Research Europe. With fresh funding and a global stage ahead, Scotland is positioning itself at the forefront of responsible, AI-powered healthcare innovation.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.scottishfinancialnews.com/articles/canon-medical-lands-ps36m-for-ai-powered-medical-imaging-breakthrough> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.scottishfinancialnews.com/articles/canon-medical-lands-ps36m-for-ai-powered-medical-imaging-breakthrough> - Canon Medical Research Europe has secured £3.6 million from Scottish Enterprise for a £14 million project focused on AI-driven medical imaging advancements. The initiative aims to expedite data analysis and enhance medical scans, benefiting both patients and healthcare services. The announcement was made ahead of Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, where Scottish innovations in health will be showcased. Health Secretary Neil Gray highlighted Scotland's strong reputation in health and life sciences innovation, emphasizing the transformative potential of AI technology in healthcare delivery.
3. <https://www.canon-europe.com/view/ai-fighting-cancer/> - Canon Medical Research Europe, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, has developed an AI-based medical imaging technology prototype that can recognize, assess, and measure asbestos-related cancer tumors. This innovation aims to improve the early diagnosis and treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma, a challenging cancer to detect and manage. The project received funding from the Scottish Cancer Innovation Challenge, supporting the development of this groundbreaking tool to enhance cancer care.
4. <https://uk.medical.canon/artificial-intelligence-imaging-collaboration-could-speed-up-emergency-department-triage-of-covid-suspected-cases/> - An AI programme developed by Bering Limited, in collaboration with iCAIRD and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, demonstrated promising results in rapidly diagnosing COVID-19 through chest X-rays. Using Canon Medical Research Europe's Safe Haven Artificial Intelligence Platform, the AI algorithm provided accurate COVID-19 results in under three minutes, matching the performance of four certified radiologists. This advancement aims to expedite patient triage in emergency departments, enhancing the efficiency of COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment.
5. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-innovation-strategy/pages/11/> - Scotland's National Innovation Strategy outlines the country's approach to fostering innovation across various sectors, including health and life sciences. The strategy emphasizes the importance of collaboration between academia, industry, and government to drive technological advancements. It highlights initiatives like the Digital Health and Care Innovation Centre, which aims to define and design the future of digital health and care in Scotland, contributing to the development of AI-powered medical solutions.
6. <https://healthimaging.com/topics/artificial-intelligence/canon-medical-europe-develop-ai-cancer-imaging-tool> - Canon Medical Research Europe, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, was awarded $180,000 to develop an artificial intelligence (AI)-based medical imaging technology prototype that can recognize, assess, and measure asbestos-related cancer tumors. The funding was distributed by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) under the Cancer Innovation Challenge (CIC), which aims to encourage innovation centers in Scotland to work together to help the country become a world leader in cancer care.
7. <https://glasgowcityofscienceandinnovation.com/15m-artificial-intelligence-centre-for-scotland-to-transform-healthcare/> - The Industrial Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research in Digital Diagnostics (iCAIRD) is a £15 million initiative bringing together 15 partners from academia, the NHS, and industry across Scotland. Led by the University of Glasgow, iCAIRD focuses on applying AI in digital diagnostics to enable better and earlier diagnosis and more efficient treatment for patients. The project received £10 million from UK Research and Innovation as part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, with additional funding from partner companies and SMEs.