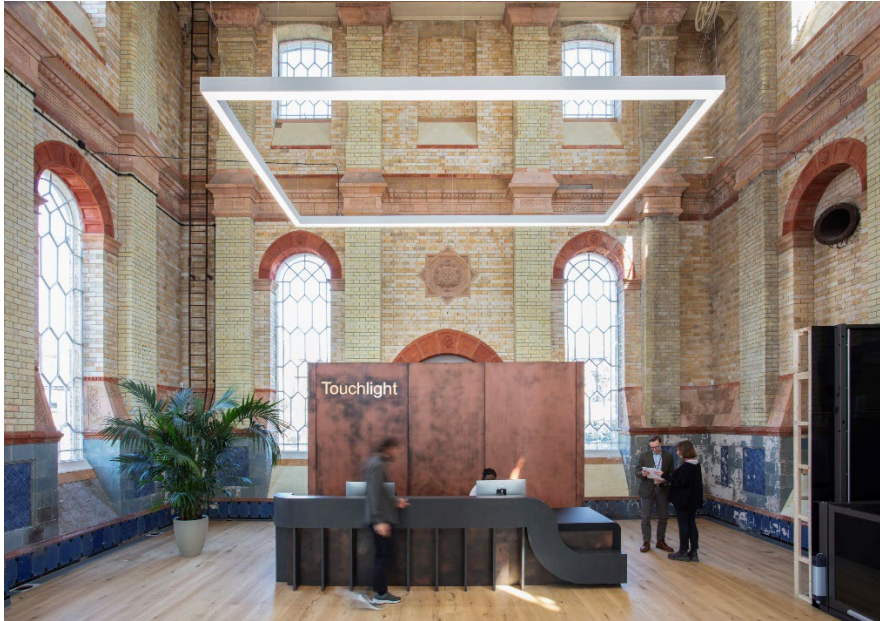




TOUCLIGHT

**Touchlight completes expansion, creating one of the world's largest DNA manufacturing facilities in London, UK**



*Facility will have capacity that exceeds today's global plasmid DNA demand and can enable commercialisation of genetic medicines.*

*Transformation of Grade II-listed Victorian waterworks on the River Thames in Hampton, London.*

*Supplying many of the top biopharmaceutical companies in the world to dramatically enhance their ability to develop genetic medicines.*

*Expansion follows recent acceptance of a Drug Master File and first investigational new drug application using doggybone DNA.*

**Hampton, UK, 24 May 2023** — Touchlight, a company pioneering enzymatic DNA production, a critical material in many new genetic medicine treatments, has completed the redevelopment and expansion of its UK manufacturing facility, housed in a repurposed Victorian waterworks on the banks of the River Thames.

The expanded state-of-the-art facility's manufacturing capacity has tripled and is now capable of producing more than 8kg a year. This exceeds the current, but growing, global supply of plasmid DNA for genetic medicine. The new facility has 11 suites and includes two class B filling suites with class A filling cabinets, warehousing, together with a quality control laboratory capability and has already received a successful customer quality audit from a Big Pharma company.

**Jonny Ohlson, Touchlight's Executive Chair and Founder, said:** "Touchlight has a long-held belief that scientists, like all creatives, function best in beautiful spaces. Whilst it may not, on the face of it, seem logical to site a GMP manufacturing facility in a waterworks that has been derelict for 70 years,

*the site has a large footprint of beautiful Victorian buildings which, now converted, provide a stunning and iconic facility that is an inspiring place to work. I am sure our Victorian predecessors would be proud that we have converted it into one of the largest capacity DNA manufacturing sites in the world today."*

### **Expansion dramatically increases Touchlight's capacity to meet growing demand for DNA from biopharmaceutical companies.**

Touchlight's proprietary doggybone DNA (dbDNA™) overcomes the technical challenges associated with efficiently mass-producing plasmid DNA. The patented dbDNA technology produces a minimal, linear, double stranded, covalently closed DNA vector through an enzymatic manufacturing process. dbDNA is uniquely positioned for the rapid, synthetic, and scalable manufacture of GMP DNA using a small, simple footprint. The technology can incorporate genes from 500bp to 20kb and accommodate sequences typically unstable as plasmid DNA in *E. coli*, such as those found in viral vector and mRNA production.

Demand for DNA from biopharmaceutical companies is increasing exponentially given its critical role in genetic medicines, including mRNA vaccines and gene therapies, enabling the potential of emerging new drug classes such as gene-editing treatments and novel cancer therapies. Touchlight has contracts to supply many of the top ten biopharmaceutical companies in the world, including Pfizer, as well as Lonza.

***Karen Fallen, Touchlight's Chief Executive Officer, commented: "doggybone DNA has many benefits over traditional DNA, offering an affordable and scalable alternative, as the biopharmaceutical industry continues to increase its investment in genetic medicine. The expansion of our facility announced today will help us further contribute to harnessing the huge potential of this new class of medicine, and we are excited to be working with some of the world's most innovative companies as their manufacturing partner to do this."***

### **State-of-the-art headquarters supports strong operational performance.**

Touchlight was founded in 2007 and has been based at the Morelands and Riverdale Buildings on the banks of the River Thames, since 2015, housing the Company's growing 150 staff. The unique new 515m<sup>2</sup> facility now comprises 11 state-of-the-art good manufacturing practice (GMP) DNA manufacturing suites, bringing the total on site to 15, more than tripling the company's DNA manufacturing capacity.

The completion of the building project follows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) acceptance of a Drug Master File for GMP-grade dbDNA™ in December, and a further FDA approval a month later for the first investigational new drug application (IND) using dbDNA in an in-human trial planned by one of Touchlight's clients. A dbDNA-derived AAV product previously entered clinical testing in Europe in 2022.

In April, the Company also won a substantial grant to accelerate its manufacturing programme from the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund, which is jointly backed by government and industry to support life sciences businesses investing in manufacturing projects in the UK. It completed a \$125m fundraise in 2021.

### **Morelands and Riverdale's legacy reimaged as modern DNA manufacturing facility.**

The Morelands and Riverdale Buildings have a long history, having once been a Victorian waterworks built to supply fresh water to London's East End to tackle the 19<sup>th</sup> century cholera epidemic. Touchlight began the complex renovation of the building in 2016, which required careful architectural design, led by Chapman Architects, and complex engineering work to make the space suitable for research and development and manufacturing activities, whilst maintaining many of the building's original features, such as the brickwork, tiling and windows.

The building's slate-covered roofs required extensive work, supported by original iron and steel trusses, which were innovative at the time of their design and have been preserved as part of the restoration, weaving beautiful Victorian architecture and engineering with high-tech labs, meeting rooms, manufacturing suites and other workspaces.

**Greg Chapman, Founder and Director, Chapman Architects, added:** *"This site has a long and illustrious history of fighting to improve human health. In the 19th century, it was built to deliver clean water to the people of London, helping to free the city from the cholera epidemic. In the 21st century, this goal is being globalised as the site has been transformed to produce the DNA which will address the key health issues of our time. Touchlight's commitment to these goals, specifically the investment they have made, is testament to their foresight and aspiration. The brief given to Chapman Architects was exciting and pragmatic – to be both practical in the reuse of the existing building, whilst complementing its original features with modern additions. The result is the creation of a beautiful space which makes the most of this unique building's light and incredible volume, realising Jonny Ohlson's vision of providing an inspiring place to work in an iconic facility."*

Find out more at [www.touchlight.com](http://www.touchlight.com)

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## **About Touchlight**

Touchlight is a privately-owned CDMO based in London, U.K., focused on the provision of DNA services and manufacture of enzymatically produced doggybone DNA (dbDNA™) to enable the development of genetic medicines. Touchlight provide rapid, enzymatic DNA development and manufacturing for all advanced therapy production, including mRNA, viral and non-viral gene therapy and DNA API. dbDNA is a minimal, linear, covalently closed structure, which eliminates bacterial sequences. Touchlight's revolutionary enzymatic production platform enables unprecedented speed, scale, and the ability to target genes with a size and complexity that is impossible with current technologies. Clients can be supported from pre-clinical through development and supply, to licencing and tech transfer for use in-house.

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