

Knowledge
Transfer
Partnerships

A person wearing a white helmet, dark clothing, and climbing gear is rappelling down a steep, mossy rock face. A red rope is visible, extending from the top of the frame down to the person. The rock surface is covered in green moss and has some cracks.

Innovation through collaboration

www.ktponline.org.uk/academics

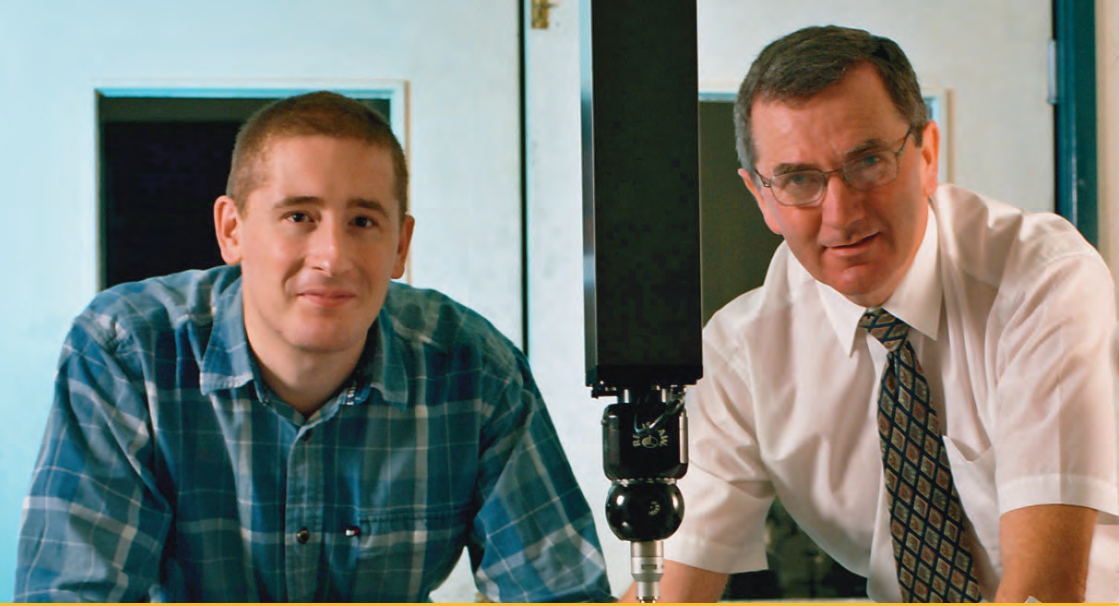
Technology Strategy Board
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Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a UK-wide programme funded by the Technology Strategy Board with 12 other funding organisations.



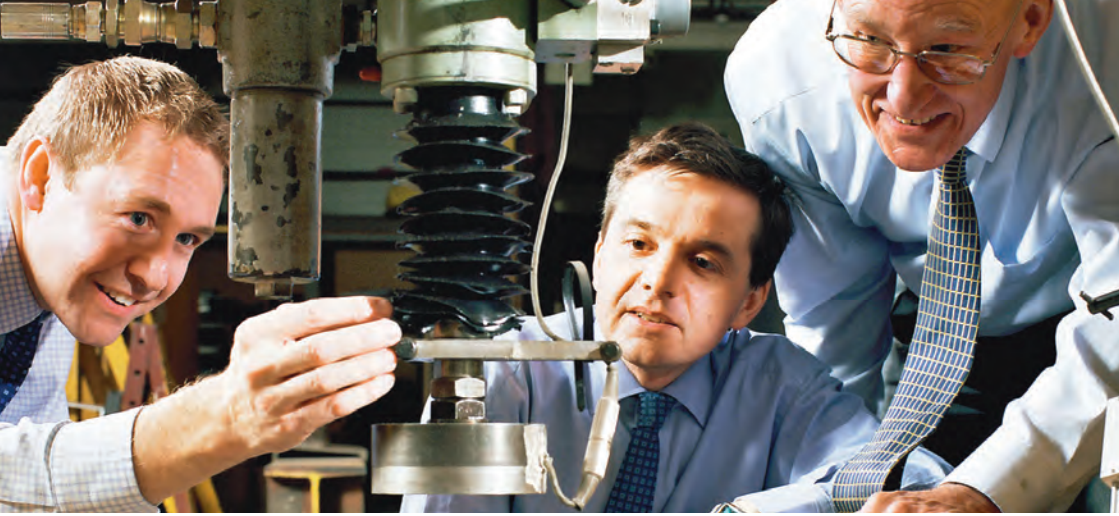


What are Knowledge Transfer Partnerships?

Established in 1975, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) are one of the world's leading knowledge transfer mechanisms, which provides academics with the unique opportunity to apply the outcomes of their research to real world business projects.

KTP works with over 100 universities across the UK, which translates to over 500 university departments.

Through KTP, academics can develop business relevant teaching and research; apply knowledge and expertise to important organisational problems; and identify new research themes and undergraduate/postgraduate projects.



“The KTP provided an opportunity to put theory into practice. The resulting improvement in the company’s overall business performance is a testament to industry and university departments working in collaboration.”

Dr Derek Ford, Institute for Manufacturing, the University of Cambridge

KTP Projects

Part-funded by 13 Government organisations, and led by the Technology Strategy Board, KTP projects apply the world-leading knowledge and expertise of academics to business-critical projects.

To help facilitate this, a talented graduate/ postgraduate (known as the KTP Associate) is employed to work within the business, supported by the academic.

Each KTP project lasts between between 6 months and 36 months, depending upon the time required to deliver real outcomes.

KTP enables academics to lead rewarding and ongoing collaborations with innovative organisations which require up-to-date research-based expertise to succeed.


“When applied research is so significant to the future progress of a business, the KTP partnership becomes an organic component of the company.”

Dr Tony Wilcox, Electronics and Software,
Birmingham City University's Technology Innovation Centre (TIC)

The benefits of KTP to academics are wide ranging...

KTP provides leading academics with the opportunity to:

- Apply knowledge and expertise to important problems facing organisations
- Develop relevant teaching and research
- Identify new research themes and undergraduate and postgraduate projects
- Publish high quality journal and conference papers
- Gain an improved understanding of organisational requirements and operations
- Contribute to the Research Excellence Framework exercise (REF)
- Lead rewarding and ongoing collaboration with innovative organisations
- Assist strategic change
- Supervise and act as mentors for postgraduates working on company-board projects



“Too often, academics can be accused of applying techniques that do not work to problems that do not matter. This KTP gave us valuable experience in applying cutting edge research techniques to problems that are central to current higher education debates in the UK.”

Professor Paul Longley,

Centre Of Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA),
University College London

Research and teaching

KTP provides academics with the opportunity to apply research

KTP provides academics with opportunities for the practical application of their research. This supports the increasing demand to provide evidence of the economic impact of research investment, whilst informing the direction of ongoing and future research.

Importantly, the papers and publications developed through KTP, and the research income, can contribute to the REF rating of an academic department.

KTP provides teaching material

KTP provides academics with in-depth, high level strategic interaction with the business community, which adds value to teaching and research.

KTP can also assist with the academic's teaching through action research. Due to the close working partnership between the academic, Associate and organisation, KTPs provide excellent potential for collaborative work outside the core project, providing opportunities for student projects, work based activities and the feeding of current business information and issues into teaching materials.



“From a teaching perspective, I have a real world knowledge to share with students and to illustrate theoretical examples, whilst being able to supply my department with student projects.”

Professor Ben Light, Salford Business School, University of Salford

“Being involved in KTP projects has enabled me to develop research concepts through to commercial realisation, and in some projects, to gain access to highly specialised state-of-the-art equipment that would otherwise be unavailable to me. Conference and journal papers, case study material and MSc/PhD dissertations have also resulted from the project work undertaken.”

Dr Rachel McCrindle, School of Systems Engineering, University of Reading



“My involvement varied from week to week, some weeks my time was spent at the University considering how research could be applied to the project, other weeks my time was spent at the company or their client’s offices. The variety of roles I played was particularly stimulating - ranging from researcher, to mentoring the Associate to strategically managing the two year project.”

Dr Andrew Ross, School of the Built Environment, Liverpool John Moores University.

Time and financial commitment

KTP is delivered on a full economic cost basis, which means that the 10% of the academic’s time involved in KTP is 100% funded.

Typically, academics can expect to commit half a day of their week to a KTP project, mainly at the

premises of the business partner. This is important to build and maintain an understanding of the project environment and relationships with the people.

“It has been very exciting to work with such a go-ahead SME. It’s provided a springboard to attract additional research funding for continuing work in the sector; working with businesses that are so important to the South West regional economy.”

Lynne Butel, Principal Lecturer in Strategic Management, Plymouth Business School

Outreach and business engagement

KTP provides an opportunity for academics to engage with the business community. Around 75% of KTP Associates are offered full time employment with the host organisation on completion of their KTP, which means that academics fulfil a vital role in supporting employment for the graduates and contributing to the ongoing development of an innovation culture within the region’s economic community.

KTP projects strengthen the relationship between the academic and the business community, providing opportunities for ongoing collaboration.

Businesses and organisations from the full range of sectors are eligible to participate in KTP, as are public funded organisations, charities and businesses from the not for profit sector. A total of 60% of businesses participating in KTP are small to medium size enterprises (10 – 250 employees), with high growth potential; 9% are smaller and around 25% are larger businesses and public sector organisations.

All businesses must be financially viable and committed to strategic change. A KTP is expected to deliver a step change in the organisation’s capability and performance.

“As a KTP Adviser, it is an important part of my role to ensure that academics gain the maximum benefit from a KTP project. At an early stage it is agreed how the project can be constructed in such a way that meets the academic’s objectives.”

Richard Parker-Smith, KTP Adviser, Northumberland and Tyne Wear

Support and management

Academics – support to deliver...

In the early stages of developing a KTP application, a dedicated, highly experienced KTP Adviser will be allocated to work in partnership with you. The role of a KTP Adviser is to facilitate the development of new partnerships, guiding the partners through the approval process. Once a KTP is approved, the Advisers also monitor and support progress throughout the life of the partnership.

Advisers are key in guiding and supporting academics to ensure that their objectives are met – in the short term and in the longer term.

Advisers provide guidance on the implementation of Associate training and development policy, and on the conditions governing payment of grants. Advisers also provide access to the body of KTP experience and encourage best practice in knowledge transfer.

All KTP Advisers have extensive knowledge of higher education and business.

As well as your allocated KTP Adviser, there is a network of KTP Regional Development Managers, and the KTP programme is run and managed by a central team, which includes a KTP Helpline.



Find out more

Academics – get involved...

If you would like to find out more about how KTP could benefit you and your university department, please contact an Adviser.

To find an Adviser in your area, visit

www.ktponline.org.uk/ktpadvisers

You can also contact the central office on telephone **0300 321 4357** or email **academics@ktponline.org.uk**

You may also have the support of a local KTP office, serving your institution or region.

**“Academics and businesses
working together has got to
be the way forward.”**

Professor Paul Barlow, School of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) is a UK-wide programme, funded by the Technology Strategy Board with 12 other funding organisations. The funding for a KTP project comes from a Government grant augmented by a contribution from participating businesses.

For more information on the Technology Strategy Board, visit **www.innovateuk.org**

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