

SEEKIT projects supported: 1 April 2005- 31 March 2006

Location: University of Strathclyde
Title: Expansion of CompetitiveScotland.com
Project Duration: 01/05/2005-30/04/2008
Grant Offered: £271,696

Project Description

This project provides expertise in all aspects of “creating, making and managing” to SMEs in the West of Scotland.

Helping SMEs apply "best practice" methods and techniques in all aspects of business development, including business strategy, strategic management; operations and production processes and management; supply chain management; and the full product development lifecycle – is central activity. All kinds of manufacturing and manufacturing-related companies are supported, from pizzas to PCs.

The project is based in the department of Design, Manufacture and Engineering Management (DMEM) in the University of Strathclyde, working closely with *essential* and SESG, also based at Strathclyde, and possessing strong links with the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service and the West of Scotland Knowledge Transfer Partnership.

Location: UHI Millennium Institute
Title: Hi Links
Project Duration: 01/08/2005-31/12/2008
Grant Offered: £504,343

Project Description

Hi Links aims to help small businesses in the Highlands and Islands to prosper by providing them with greater access to the knowledge, expertise and know-how contained within Scotland’s universities, colleges and research institutes. This project provides a vital contribution to the regional innovation system in the Highlands and Islands, adds to the local knowledge economy and contributes to improved productivity and competitiveness of the regions economy.

The project’s aim is to locate opportunities for knowledge exchange and move them through sequential steps in order to qualify and validate them, progressing eventually on to full R&D proposals, or to technology and knowledge transfer contracts. A structure to facilitate effective knowledge exchange between the company base and parts of the knowledge base has been created. This is driven and coordinated by the UHI Millennium Institute (UHI) and positions UHI as a valuable point of contact for local companies.

The process builds links and awareness through a variety of mechanisms. Following a systematic analysis of the company needs, HI Links then identifies the most appropriate part of the knowledge base, brokers face to face discussions and feasibility studies, resulting eventually in collaborative proposals funded by mainstream science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation budgets.

Location: Napier University (ED Technology Support Centre)
Title: Knowledge Transfer Initiative
Project Duration: 01/08/2005-31/07/2008
Grant Offered: £383,580

Project Description

The Knowledge Transfer Initiative has been developed by the ED Technology Support Centre to respond to the needs of Small or Medium Enterprise (SME) companies throughout Scotland for specialist advice and assistance on issues associated with technology adoption and development. The objective is to maximise the successful transfer of technology from universities, and indeed companies, to Scotland's SME community. The initiative comprises a fully integrated package of services that seek to educate SME companies as to the technology options available and to support them through all stages of assessment and adoption.

The project focuses on the adoption of electronics and materials technologies. Support for process issues associated with new technology adoption are also included e.g. advice on WEEE, RoHS, the Design Process (including Design for Manufacture, Test, CE Marking and Electromagnetic Compatibility).

The **Knowledge Transfer Initiative (KTI)** comprises three measures:-

- **Technology Awareness:** The project delivers typically eight seminars per annum, e.g. Microcontrollers, Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), VHDL, Materials Science, Rapid Prototyping and Design for CE Marking.
- **Expert Support:** The primary aim of the awareness raising effort is to identify SME companies who wish to introduce a new technology to their business. All seminar participants are contacted following the event to assess interest in follow-up support and actions.
- **Project Feasibility:** To help overcome a potential barrier of risk aversion, the third component of the initiative is a small fund of £3k that will support cost associated with technical feasibility projects.

Location: Heriot Watt University
Title: Exploit II
Project Duration: 01/01/2006-01/04/2008
Grant Offered: £80,600

Project Description

The Exploit programme is designed to assist SMEs gain access to facilities and expertise of Heriot-Watt University by forming industry/academic partnerships.

Companies are encouraged through this relationship to change culture by becoming more R&D active and, through participation with Heriot-Watt University, will be able to access expertise through the 'Virtual Laboratory' concept. This will be provided by linking to the university's extensive multi-disciplinary technological expertise extending to, but not exclusive to, food, biotech, mechanical and electrical engineering, chemical engineering, textiles, building and environment, etc. Companies will gain significant benefit from this

relationship, particularly where they do not have in-house specialist knowledge or expert resources, to fulfil their quest for product and process development.

Companies can gain assistance with:

- Business Development from Start Up or Spin Out
- Identification of Research & Development Needs
- Technology appraisal
- Feasibility studies
- Intellectual Property Advice
- Patenting New Developments
- Knowledge Transfer – Licenses and Consultancy
- Environmental Monitoring

Examples of activities and facilities include:

Wind tunnel, electron microscope, concrete lab, food technology, bio-analysis, HPLC, acoustic chambers, NMR spectroscopy, photolithography, rapid prototyping, technical and medical textile development

Location: University of West of Scotland
Title: Paisley Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (PIKT)
Project Duration: 27/02/2006-26/02/2009
Grant Offered: £410,368

Project Description

PiKT offers a gateway through which technical support and product/process development funding can be accessed by Scottish SMEs. The project provides assistance to SMEs through a series of seminars, a programme of 'Technology Audit' visits and finally advice and assistance in making applications for other suitable project funding (e.g. SMART, SPUR, SCoRe, etc.) as appropriate.

The 'Technology Audit' programme consists of up to five man days of support from University experts in appropriate technical disciplines aligned to the needs of the business. From this initial intervention working partnerships are developed with SMEs that help them to lever public support to exploit technology that gives them a competitive advantage. The partnerships also allow for the development of new products and processes. PiKT is active in the development of partnerships with other projects in its domain.