

SEEKIT projects supported: 1 April 2006- 31 March 2007

Location: Glasgow Caledonian University
Title: Expansion for the Centre for the Built Environment (CBE)
Project Duration: 01/03/2006-31/10/2008
Grant Offered: £269,186

Project Description

The CBE objective is to increase the competitiveness of SMEs operating in the built environment sector in Scotland through their engagement with science base and by encouraging productive knowledge transfer links between business and the science base. CBE's activities include bespoke advice and consultancy, seminars, workshops, conferences, networking events, weekly electronic newsletters and a dedicated website. CBE also runs an award scheme named Knowledge and Technology Transfer in the Built Environment for feasibility studies to support joint academic/SME research.

CBE collaborates with environmental organisations, equal opportunities associations, development agencies, professional bodies, trade associations and other organisations which have interest in the industry. Along with SEEKIT funding, CBE is funded by European Regional Development Fund, and sponsored by Communities Scotland, Glasgow City Council, North Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council.

Location: University of Dundee (in partnership with Abertay University and the Scottish Crop research Institute)
Title: SME Innovation Portal
Project Duration: 01/08/2006-31/04/2010
Grant Offered: £406,000

Project Description

The Innovation Portal promotes and fosters knowledge transfer between the Universities of Dundee and Abertay Dundee and the Scottish Crop Research Institute and local companies. The project provides a means of applying expertise available in the partner institutions to the innovation needs of knowledge-based SMEs in Tayside to improve their competitive business position.

The Innovation Portal is based in the Dundee University Incubator (adjacent to the city campus of the University of Dundee). The Innovation Portal builds an understanding of the requirements of the local 'smart' SME community and generates collaborative projects through a 'cumulative' programme of events, visits, technology audits and feasibility assessments – all designed to address factors that traditionally hinder small companies and universities working together.

The Portal offers a small grants scheme (SGS) to assist the SME costs of competitive 'Technology Audits' & 'Feasibility Assessments'. The audits will be undertaken by technical experts from the partners.

Location: University of Edinburgh
Title: Scottish Environmental Technology Network (SETN)
Project Duration: 01/07/2006-30/12/2009
Grant Offered: £474,964

Project Description

The Scottish Environmental Technology Network (SETN) aims to improve the competitiveness of Scottish SMEs in the environmental 'sector' including contaminated land, waste management, resource recovery, waste water treatment and environmental management. SETN actively promotes and delivers productive knowledge transfer and collaborative R&D within a 'supply chain' network of key stakeholders.

SETN is led by the Contaminated Land Assessment & Remediation Research Centre (CLARRC) based at The University of Edinburgh. However, SETN aims to work with research base groups from around Scotland and also in partnership with initiatives such as the Scottish Industrial Symbiosis Programme (SISP). SETN aims to create a culture of knowledge transfer and partnership and assist in building a recognised environmental sector in Scotland.

Support is given in designing, undertaking and evaluating the results of laboratory and field trials (e.g. new technologies for soil treatment) with co-ordinated access to laboratory resources and technical expertise. Assistance is also given in obtaining funding for collaborative R&D through schemes such as SCORE. Our members can access the latest technical and regulatory information in a supported environment at our Knowledge Transfer Centre. SETN workshops tackle key issues such as regulatory barriers to new and emerging technologies in response to members' needs.

Location: Napier University (in partnership with Queen Margaret University)
Title: Inter-HEI shared KT and commercialisation service
Project Duration: 30/10/2006-29/09/2009
Grant Offered: £555,065

Project Description

The "2kT" project aims to become the first truly shared inter-HEI commercialisation and knowledge transfer support service. Offerings to external business and industry from two Universities will increase the probability of meaningful engagement beyond that which would have been possible independently increasing the probability of University to business engagement.

Critically the project will be demand led and directed on being fully informed of external need to better align with academic provision for more probable and relevant academic-business engagement for mutual benefit. Business interest spans several sectors from Creative Industries, Life Sciences and Healthcare, via Construction and Renewable Energy and Food in which there is a broad portfolio of academic excellence on offer.

Location: Scottish Crop Research Institute
Title: Interface Plus
Project Duration: 08/01/2007-07/07/2010
Grant Offered: £180,000

Project Description

Interface- the knowledge connection for business' (www.interface-online.org.uk) is a highly-successful initiative funded by Universities Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council that provides a mechanism whereby Scottish SMEs can easily access the expertise and facilities available at Scottish universities. Interface Plus will extend the remit of Interface to include all the major government research institutes in Scotland. An additional Business Development Manager is being recruited to work alongside and be integrated within the existing team at Interface to enable Interface to broker wider opportunities on behalf of the research institutes.

The outputs expected from the project include increased R&D capacity to help Scottish SME's develop innovative solutions and greater uptake of grants and support for innovation through to find SCORE, SMART, SPUR and SPUR ^{PLUS} and KTP. We also anticipate increased knowledge transfer through consultancy and sharing of know-how and greater use of the existing technology and knowledge infrastructures as 'more doors' are opened.

Location: University of West of Scotland
Title: Innovation in Thin Film
Project Duration: 22/03/2007-21/03/2010
Grant Offered: £288,500

Project Description

This project is aimed at enhancing productive knowledge transfer within Scottish SMEs from the University of Paisley's Thin Film Centre by offering SME access to the Thin Film Centre's facilities, resources, staff and expertise. The Thin Film Centre has excellent commercial-scale facilities and staff with an understanding of thin film applications in many areas and many years experience of working with SMEs. This project will encourage participation from key sectors of the SME base including optics, photonics, optoelectronics, displays, lighting, microelectronics, manufacturing and engineering.

The key measurable of success of this project will be with projects that involve productive knowledge transfer through accepted high level support mechanisms. Other interactions with companies may emerge as interim outputs, formed in building long term productive relationships.

Location: Glasgow Caledonian University
Title: Tourism Technology Transfer
Project Duration: 05/04/2007-02/04/2010
Grant Offered: £415,071

Project Description

KIT-OUT the Park (Knowledge, Innovation & Technology out of University into Tourism) is jointly operated by Glasgow Caledonian University and Scottish Enterprise. It is focussing principally on businesses operating in the tourism sector, initially in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.

The key objective of the project is to help small companies improve their business performance, develop new products and services and increase their competitiveness, through the adoption and integration of new technologies in 5 key sectors:

- IT & Communications
- Business Process Improvement
- Food Technology
- Green tourism/use of renewable technology
- Sustainable buildings & construction methods

Companies participating in the project will be able to take advantage of regular, ongoing advice and support from GCU's scientists and researchers to help them develop their ideas and put them into practice within their own businesses. Advice and support on innovation grants available to help with project implementation will be given.