Case Study

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Kick-start your career

James Jacobs – KTP Associate with TBG Solutions

Partnership with TBG Solutions

In many countries, theft of oil from pipelines is a significant problem, especially where pipelines are not buried and run through urbanised areas.

TBG Solutions and The University of Manchester recruited KTP Associate James Jacobs, a recently qualified PhD graduate to develop novel technology to solve this challenge. James’ role was to lead and manage the KTP, with the aim of harnessing state of the art expertise in sensing, control and communication systems to develop an affordable and effective commercial solution to monitor pipeline security in remote locations.

Associate Benefits

James and the university team contributed their combined electronic engineering expertise to embed wireless communications within the company. For James, it was an opportunity to work on an innovative project that led to TBG creating a new R&D division. James’ hard work resulted in a job offer as a Senior R&D Engineer within TBG Solutions, an opportunity that has significantly progressed his career.

As a result of the experience of leading a KTP, and accessing the dedicated personal development budget of £2,000 per year, James has developed new skill sets, providing a platform for further career development. The positive impact of this KTP has culminated in a second KTP project for TBG Solutions, with James taking on the role of Company Supervisor to the new Associate.

Company Overview

TBG Solutions is a bespoke, national UK test, measurement and control business. TBG combine hardware and software to engineer robust solutions, with customers including BAE Systems, Rolls Royce, Siemens and Alstom.

"KTP has helped me become a successful innovator, team leader and Project Manager in my new role at TBG.

Dr. James Jacobs,
KTP Associate & Senior R&D Engineer, TBG Solutions"
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships


Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a UK-wide, government-funded, programme supporting UK businesses to improve competitiveness, productivity and performance through better use of the knowledge, technology and skills available within Universities and other UK knowledge bases.

On average, businesses participating in KTP gain:

- £261k anticipated annual increase in profit post-project completion
- £265k being invested in R&D activity
- £967k anticipated annual increase in exports

Academics can expect to benefit by:

- publishing high-quality journal and conference papers
- generating research income
- informing new research agendas and contributing to REF

Why Manchester?

Knowledge Transfer Partnership collaborations with The University of Manchester enables businesses to collaborate with leading academics and researchers whose quality, breadth and volume of research activity is unparalleled in the UK.

Our dedicated Knowledge Exchange Team will help partnerships to develop meaningful collaborations, providing support throughout the life cycle of the project; scoping and planning, applying for funding and supporting delivery.

Contact us

Contact the Knowledge Exchange Team to discuss how we can help you to innovate and build a strategy for success.

Knowledge Exchange Team
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