

Knowledge
Transfer
Partnerships

Graduate Case Study

**Agriculture/
Biology/
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Computing/
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Ecommerce/
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Management/
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Associate Profile: Andrew Smithson

Name: Andrew Smithson
Qualifications: MEng Hons Electrical Engineering
Current Role: Product Development Manager, GB Solo Ltd
Location: Scunthorpe

“Although you are single-handedly managing a high profile, strategic project, you are given the resources to drive success.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP was with GB Solo Ltd and the University of Hull. The company specialises in ergonomically efficient protective equipment for fire fighters, such as thermal imaging cameras and fully integrated helmets, which have thermal imaging cameras, two-way radio communication and breathing apparatus built in. The aim of my KTP was to develop the helmet with improved communication and electronic facilities and to embed a design facility within the company. I also took responsibility for the strategic planning and design of the next generation of GB Solo products.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT WERE...

As a result of the role I was brought in to manage through the KTP project, the Technical Director was able to retire, which meant that I had complete project ownership. In a small company such as GB Solo, which employs seven staff, it was great to be given so much responsibility and ownership. A key achievement of the project was also setting up a long-term manufacturing base in America, which I worked on with the MD. This was a great success, and means that the company can double its sales orders.

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A KTP ASSOCIATE IS...

Through KTP you have so many resources available to you - from the university and the company backing, to the Associate networks and the training budget. Although you are single-handedly managing a high profile, strategic project, you are given the resources to drive success.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

Through KTP I have developed my experience of managing a project from start to finish, which means I've learnt about managing responsibility, teams, budgets, organisation and so on. I've also increased my industrial and commercial skills - learning new design skills and new ways of thinking and working, which has been of great benefit.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

On completion of my KTP, the company offered me a full-time post as a product development manager, which I was very happy to accept.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

KTP gives you experiences in such a variety of areas than you would normally expect in the first three years of employment. You are given more resources, more responsibility, and more opportunities.

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