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Department: **Mechanical Engineering**

Specialisms: **Design, Manufacture and Management**

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Why I got involved with KTP

I started my career with KTP in the early 80s as a KTP Associate with Ferranti Scotland Ltd, a defence manufacturing company, working on a project that aimed to re-design the layout of the shop floor and computer aided process planning. On completion of the KTP I was offered a permanent position with the business as Senior Production Engineer and subsequently became a Business Supervisor for a further KTP project. In 1987 I accepted a teaching position at Heriot-Watt University and immediately took over from a colleague as Academic

Supervisor for a project that was already running with another company. What interests me most about KTP is the challenge that it presents in terms of the deliverables, meeting real business objectives, combined with providing technical solutions to problems. I also enjoy the opportunity that KTP presents to work with people at all levels of an organisation and to learn about modern businesses and the changes required in order to meet new market or economic conditions. I can really take this experience back into my teaching!

My experience of KTP projects

Since becoming an Academic Supervisor I have been heavily involved in many KTP projects. In the early days, many projects that I supervised looked at tools for engineering and focused heavily on computer-aided design and computer -aided manufacturing. These KTPs have directly informed the basis for the research projects that I am still involved with today. Working on KTP projects has really strengthened my relationships with other colleagues at the University and has opened up opportunities for collaboration elsewhere, which has led to many ongoing research relationships.

How I have benefited as a result of KTP

Understanding business and gaining real industrial experience that can be used in my teaching is a big benefit to me. KTP has also allowed me to develop and expand my network of contacts and apply novel work to real business problems. A number of postgraduate degrees have been completed as a result of my involvement with KTP, which has also led to the publication of a number of conference and academic journal papers. In the majority of cases, KTP projects have led to an ongoing collaboration with the various

businesses which I have been involved with, and I am still working very closely with a number of them, including the company that I started my career with as a KTP Associate. KTP has enhanced my reputation and earned me the respect of my industrial partners.

Why I would recommend KTP

I would recommend KTP to other academics because it allows you to contextualise your research, makes it applied and gives you an idea of the bigger business picture. KTP enables you to continue learning new aspects of both technology and business. In terms of research assessment, the grant money is also counted as a part of your research activity. KTP provides a unique opportunity to research industrially relevant projects and helps develop your people skills, as projects involve working across many different levels in business, as well as with other academic colleagues. I very much feel that my involvement in KTP in a number of roles has been a very positive experience for me.

Get involved

If you would like to find out more about how KTP could benefit you and your university department visit www.ktponline.org.uk/academics

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is one of the world's leading knowledge transfer mechanisms in Europe and is managed by the Technology Strategy Board. KTP provides academics with the unique opportunity to apply research to real world business projects.