

## Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

### KTP BENEFITS

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are designed to benefit everyone involved

- 🔄 Businesses will acquire new knowledge and expertise
- 🔄 KTP Associates will gain business-based experience and personal and professional development opportunities
- 🔄 Universities, colleges or research organisations will bring their experience to enhance the business relevance of their research and teaching

### Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Accelerating business innovation; a Technology Strategy Board programme

<http://www.ktponline.org.uk>

## KETTERING TEXTILES LTD FASHIONED FOR SUCCESS

### ABOUT THIS CASE STUDY

As one of the UK's leading managers of disposal fabric waste, **Kettering Textiles**, based in wellingborough, Northants, enlisted the support of The University of Northampton to develop a range of designer womenswear for retail in this Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP).

### ABOUT THE SPONSOR

The **Technology Strategy Board** is a business-led organisation established by the Government. Its mission is to accelerate research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business - building economic growth and quality of life.

### FAST FACTS

- 🔄 Associate honoured with prestigious KTP "Business Leader of Tomorrow" award
- 🔄 Associate's designs given concession in TopShop's flagship store in Oxford Street
- 🔄 Increase in donations received due to publicity resulting in the company's best year to date
- 🔄 Employment and training for three additional staff
- 🔄 Training for existing staff
- 🔄 Increased publicity for company
- 🔄 Increased awareness in the fashion industry
- 🔄 Students sponsored by company with collections shown at Graduate fashion week
- 🔄 Recycling project introduced to the course
- 🔄 Graduates employed within the company

## The Company



"Having access to the academic expertise The University of Northampton has made a huge impact on the future of our business. Collaboration with several academic departments has produced real and profitable results."

**Nigel Hanger**, Managing Director of Kettering Textiles Ltd

**Kettering Textiles Limited is widely recognised as one of the UK's leading processors of second-hand clothing, recyclable textiles and industrial wiping cloths.**

The company's management has over 30 years experience and fully understands the requirements of all the recognised and developing markets around the world. Product development to suit particular needs is the company's forte.

In 1991 Kettering Textiles Ltd joined forces in the UK with Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd, (SATCOL) and operates as their exclusive agents.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The KTP programme at Kettering Textiles, with Associate Emmeline Child, was responsible for developing a range of designer womenswear for retail, putting to use unwanted and discarded clothing, by recycling the materials and garment's components and bringing them to "life" once again as a new fashion statement.

## BENEFITS

Recycling fashion, particularly for womenswear has been a growing market for designer credibility over recent years. Recognising its fashionable status in fashion circles, this KTP has focused on bringing an original concept to the fashion label the Associate has been responsible for designing. Rather than attempting to sit alongside the wide range of recycled fashion labels already in the marketplace, the Associate has introduced a strong, commercial brand to the label, offering wider scope for design development of forthcoming seasons.

Emmeline collecting her award from Dr Ian Harrison Director, Knowledge Transfer Services Directorate, DTI



## The Associate

**“My KTP has enabled me to push the boundaries in fashion by addressing textile waste and environmental issues while still competing with a high fashion focus. The skills and foundations that have established over the two year KTP project will enable me to continue to have a positive impact on business and educational development in the future, both in a National and International capacity.”**

**Emmeline Child**, KTP Associate

Emmeline, a fashion graduate from The University of Northampton was selected as an Associate to work at Kettering Textiles/SATCOL.

## BENEFITS

Emmeline has turned a fledging idea for recycled women's clothing into a real and growing business with the potential for significant growth. This has been achieved the backdrop of a sometimes difficult commercial situation.

Emmeline created her first collection almost single handedly, and arranged for this to be sold at a retail store in Edinburgh. The collection was an instant success and sold out within a week. Not wishing to stop, she has negotiated a concession for her own brand at leading high-street retailer, Top Shop.

Throughout the KTP project, Emmeline has strengthened her management style, communication skills, and has been a source of inspiration to other fashion graduates - taking time to promote KTP programmes to design students currently studying at The University of Northampton. She has shown clear judgement, motivation, integrity and ability through this KTP, and as a result, was recognised by the KTP programme as a “Business Leader of Tomorrow” - a prestigious award, judged by government and programme officials.

Emmeline has now set up shop at our Portfolio Innovation Centre.

## RESULTS

- Increased awareness about running a business and the real skills required for this
- Associate now Science and Engineering ambassador as a result of the project
- Associate holds workshops for local education focusing on Key stage 3 & 4 to fit in with their syllabus
- Associate represents the company at shows and events all over the country
- Associate owns business in textile recycling, which is a continuation of the KTP project

## The Academic Partner

**“We are so proud of Emmeline. She has remained driven and ambitious for the**

**project and her confidence has continued to grow. She was able to pitch herself to Top Shop professionally and this should be admired. Recycled clothing has increased in popularity over recent years and is now recognised as a credible fashion statement.”**

**Kim Rowney**, Head of Fashion at The University of Northampton

This KTP project was delivered with The University of Northampton's Kim Rowney, who worked as the lead academic.



## BENEFITS

- Design - Emmeline's collections focus on the originality of the materials she is able to use: breathing new life into a once discarded product which once was loved and appreciated. The design content has been realistically researched so that the emphasis on the garment's ethical benefits are not diminished.
- Commercial - The recycled collections have the potential for wide appeal to a broad client base, with the opportunity to communicate to a greater audience, the serious issues surrounding the disposal of fabric waste.
- Academic - Emmeline has established positive working relationships with the Fashion academics and technician staff in the department and has also worked alongside year one and year three students on “live” projects and third year collections. Her communication with students in particular, endorse the benefits of her degree education in general and the KTP programme in particular.

## RESULTS

- Emmeline is now employing two further graduates of the Fashion degree at the University as part of her team
- The networking opportunities, which have presented themselves alongside the promotional aspects of her KTP programme, have offered Emmeline and her team further developmental opportunities, which she is taking full advantage of
- Retaining creative talent in the local area, with the chance of providing employment to the community
- This successful KTP programme may be recognised as a flagship for future such programmes in the University