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Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: Manish Jethwa

Name: Manish Jethwa
Qualifications: MEng Engineering, DPhil
Current Role: Head of Research and Development, Yotta DCL Ltd
Location: Leamington Spa

“The KTP project allowed me to pursue novel research in a commercial setting and produce cutting edge technology.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP project between OMG plc and Oxford Brookes University was established to build a highly automated motion capture system capable of working outdoors under general lighting. OMG supplies motion capture and visual geometry systems for life science, entertainment and engineering applications. A major restriction of the technology at the time was the requirement to wear markers and capture data indoors in subdued lighting. Different approaches to improve the technology had been tried unsuccessfully before within the industry and the KTP came at the right time to take advantage of new developments and technologies. We built a system, by developing software algorithms, that was capable of capturing motion using ordinary cameras and clothing.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT WERE...

The main highlight of the project was having ownership and developing innovation. The company now produces motion capture based on video technology and new products are being marketed as a result of this innovation, therefore turning knowledge transferred into profitable products. Meetings in Los Angeles received a lot of interest and excitement in the technology from film producers in the US and UK. KTP research results have already been applied in a major Hollywood film project.

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

Despite starting the KTP with a higher degree, the project provided a gradual and well-balanced introduction to life in the industrial world. I was working on a key strategic project that would increase OMG's profitability, but was able to focus on research at the university. By giving and attending seminars at university, I was able to keep abreast of cutting edge research in the field of computer vision that benefited my professional and personal development.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

I attended key conferences throughout the world, including Beijing and Rio de Janeiro, that detailed and previewed the most recent research in computer vision, motion capture and graphics, helping me to make valuable new contacts in the field. The KTP training modules were really useful, enabling me to develop my people and project management skills and understand company finance systems. Presentation skills have been used internally at OMG and externally to leading film studios.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

The KTP project had a large impact on the company and good exposure throughout the business. Following completion of the KTP project, I took up a role of Senior Research Scientist at Yotta, a subsidiary of OMG. Within a year I became Head of Research and Development. The satisfaction of completing a challenging project and also exceeding the initial goals has allowed me to gain the necessary confidence to make the most of my new role.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

It's a great introduction to the industrial world after leaving university. If you want to work on a project with the support of academics, but with a commercial goal, then it's ideal. The project allowed me to pursue novel research in a commercial setting and produce cutting edge technology. I also had the opportunity to work with leaders in the field of motion capture.

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Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is one of the largest graduate recruitment programmes in Europe and is managed by the Technology Strategy Board. KTP uses the knowledge and skills of high calibre graduates and their academic supervisors to inject fresh ideas into UK businesses.