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Department: **School of Technology**

Specialisms: **Computer Vision**

“KTP is a great stimulus to academic research.”

Why I got involved with KTP

The KTP programme interested me as it is a perfect mechanism enabling funded collaboration between universities and businesses. KTP has provided a great opportunity to allow the research undertaken at Oxford Brookes University’s Computer Vision Lab to help British Industry; tackling real world problems was a great stimulus to the group.

My experience of KTP projects

I have been involved as an academic supervisor for two KTP projects so far. The first project was with OMG plc, who specialise in motion capture systems which are used to

animate characters in films. This KTP enabled OMG to build an entirely new system based on video and capable of working outdoors, which is something no company had been able to successfully commercialise before. As a result of the project, OMG is now at the international cutting edge of research in computer vision, and the work has opened significant commercial opportunities in the media. The project with OMG far exceeded its original objectives and the Partnership was awarded the UK Best Partnership Award at the 2009 KTP Awards ceremony held at the Landmark Hotel, London.

The second project that I have been involved with was with Sony Computer Entertainment Europe Ltd. The project aim was to create a system for tracking head and hand movements with a video camera to enable the playing of video games without using a controller. This project helped to increase Sony's competitive advantage in the computer gaming market.

How I have benefited as a result of KTP

As a result of the KTP projects that I have been involved with, productive research links have been formed with other members of Oxford Brookes School of Technology. Staff from the Vicon Research Unit at OMG have given lectures and advice on current practice in film and special effects. The Associates involved in the KTP projects also gave regular seminars as well as visiting once a week. My involvement in KTP has enhanced other areas of research as KTP projects have allowed access to data that would have previously been unavailable. This has led to a number of papers being published as well as additional research projects and grants at Oxford Brookes such as Markerless Motion Capture for Humans in Video. The interest that

this generated resulted in several researchers visiting the Computer Vision Lab at Oxford Brookes to work on motion capture and led directly to the second KTP project with Sony Computer Entertainment Europe Ltd. KTP is a great stimulus to academic research. In both cases all of the Associates have gone on to other senior roles in the company that their KTP was with.

Why I would recommend KTP

Both KTP projects have led to ongoing collaboration with the businesses involved and OMG have donated a six camera Vicon system to the Digital Media Production programme. In addition, OMG have also contributed between £60,000 and £70,000 to my research group to fund further research. KTP is a great way for academics to keep themselves and their research in touch with non-academic environments and to see their work applied in day to day situations that help the British economy.

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.