



POWERING INNOVATION

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS

Innovation is the lifeblood of any business. But how do you access and embed the expertise needed to make it happen?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships could be the answer

Innovate UK
Knowledge Transfer Network



THE FUTURE. FASTER

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships create dynamic connections between businesses and the UK's world-class knowledge base to deliver strategic innovation projects.

Result? The opportunity to realise positive, transformational change and growth.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships create a mutually beneficial collaboration between your business, an academic or research organisation, and a suitably qualified graduate (known as the Associate) with the capability to lead a strategic project. This partnership embeds vital new expertise, stimulates business growth and powers innovation excellence.

A **Knowledge Transfer Partnership** also provides your business with extraordinary and cost-effective access to the unique resources within the UK's knowledge base: research expertise, cutting-edge technology and equipment, and solution-oriented initiatives.



Embedding expertise for growth

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships have been helping UK businesses innovate for growth for over 40 years and are one of a range of funding initiatives made available through Innovate UK (the UK government's Innovation Agency) and other government co-funders, and delivered by the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN).

KTN, as the network partner of Innovate UK, connects people to accelerate innovation for economic growth and provides specialist support via Knowledge Transfer Advisers to facilitate Partnership development and succeed in a **Knowledge Transfer Partnership**.



Transforming your business

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships can help your business:

- **Embed expertise**, generate new knowledge, expand capability and foster a culture of innovation
- **Drive competitive advantage** through accelerated innovation and the possibility of creating Intellectual Property
- Gain privileged and cost-effective access to the UK's **world-class knowledge base** and resources
- **Increase revenue** through access to new markets and new product development
- **Improve profits** through efficiency gains, increased productivity and better processes
- Benefit from the **strategic input** of a highly experienced Knowledge Transfer Adviser and access to the Knowledge Transfer Network throughout the lifetime of the project.



Partnerships for success - the power of three

A **Knowledge Transfer Partnership** is a three way collaboration designed to realise a transformative business opportunity and which lasts for anything from one to three years. All of the knowledge gained during this time is embedded in the business, providing a valuable base to build on long after the project has finished. (A very high percentage of Associates are retained as employees, demonstrating the value they bring to the business).

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships can benefit businesses of any size and in any sector looking to address a core strategic challenge.



Knowledge Transfer Partnerships were not really on my radar but when I found out more about them I realised it was the precise mechanism we needed to realise our innovation goals. It has transformed our business, taking us in to new markets and bringing in fresh thinking and capability which has made us much better able to develop the kind of ideas which will expand our business for years to come.

Phil Goddard, CEO, CSols Ltd





Powering innovation

The cost of a **Knowledge Transfer Partnership** project is shared by the business and by Innovate UK and other government co-funders who contribute 50-67% of the project cost via a grant to the academic or research organisation. The business makes a cash contribution for the remaining project cost with a small-to-medium business contributing 33% and a large business 50% per annum.

This cost is comparable to employing a well-qualified graduate, but includes so much more:

- Access to the **exceptional resources** of the academic or research organisation
- A **dedicated team** to deliver a strategic project
- Expert academic input bringing a breadth and **depth of knowledge** to support the Associate and the project
- The **consultancy and guidance** of a highly experienced Knowledge Transfer Adviser
- The partnership introduces **new capabilities and embeds knowledge**
- The risk of developing the innovation project is shared with the government co-funders
- The wider **support and opportunities** offered by links to the Knowledge Transfer Network
- Businesses may still be eligible to claim for R&D tax credits.

Applications for **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships** enjoy a high chance of being successful, with around 90% of applications being accepted. Interested?

Need to know:

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations who wish to apply should:

- Be UK based and of sufficient size to support the project
- Have the financial capacity to make the required contribution to the cost of running a **Knowledge Transfer Partnership**
- Be aware that **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships** can have a long-term legacy that can be measured over five years as well as shorter term impact
- Be able to show that their project demonstrates Impact, Innovation, Challenge and Cohesiveness.



How to Apply

First, talk to one of our Knowledge Transfer Advisers. They are regionally based and are responsible for helping you every step of the way: they'll work with you to shape the project brief in preparation for a grant application; and, once the project is up and running, will make regular visits to your business to provide input to the project's progress, coaching and mentoring the Associate, ensuring that the academics understand your needs, and helping optimise ROI.



Locate and contact your nearest Adviser

ktn-uk.co.uk/knowledge-transfer-advisers




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FIND OUT MORE

 www.ktn-uk.co.uk/programmes/knowledge-transfer-partnerships

 www.linkedin.com/company/the-knowledge-transfer-network

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