

Knowledge Transfer Network Limited: Directors

Knowledge Transfer Network Limited (KTN Ltd)

Knowledge Transfer Network Limited is a Company Limited by Guarantee, whose purpose is to improve the industrial and economic performance of UK-based businesses through promoting, encouraging, facilitating and supporting creativity, knowledge transfer, innovation, collaboration and technology commercialisation. Funding is primarily from Innovate UK for whom KTN provides UK-wide innovation networking, and from other, mainly public, funders. KTN works across all technologies and industries providing networking and collaboration facilitation through events, introductions, support of sector strategies and operation of cross-sector Special Interest Groups.

Governance

KTN Ltd is governed by a Board of Directors, which has the primary responsibility of overseeing the conduct of the Company and to supervise management, which is responsible for the day-to-day activities. In performing its functions, the Board primarily considers the interests of the Company to which its fiduciary duty resides. It also considers the legitimate interests of other constituents such as employees, stakeholders and members.

The role of the Board is to:

- Set the strategic aims and objectives of the Company.
- Oversee the conduct of the Company within a framework of prudent and effective management controls that enable risks to be assessed and managed.
- Ensure the long-term success of the Company, and the delivery of value to members and stakeholders, as well as ensuring alignment with sponsor priorities. It will review, approve, and amend as necessary, strategic, operating and financial plan presented by management for the achievement of the strategic aims and objectives.
- Ensure that management puts in place the necessary financial and human resources for the Company to meet its objectives. It manages the CEO's performance, and, subject to any contractual terms, may suspend or terminate the contract of the CEO.

Qualities and experience needed in Directors

To discharge the responsibilities of the Board, Directors need to bring these skills and experiences:

- A strong interest in and understanding of innovation, together with broad knowledge of the UK innovation landscape.
- Capable of seeing company and business issues in a broad perspective.
- An ability to bring independent and impartial judgment to bear on the operation of a grant-funded not-for-profit SME operating at a national level.
- Insights into the opportunities and approaches to the integration of innovation activities across sectors and technologies.
- Experience of formulating high level strategic input, for example into Government consultations or other objective representation of innovation needs and priorities.
- Experience of engagement with R&D-active businesses, academics and public institutions.
- Management of ethical and mission-oriented science or technology organisations.