Working at the Interface of Disciplines

Background:

Complex, real world problems require a collaborative response. The University of Plymouth’s Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) team has extensive experience facilitating exchange between disciplines, supporting and championing areas of interdisciplinary research in response to delivering business solutions.

KTP provides academics with the perfect platform to facilitate successful working relationships with businesses. It enables academics to show the impact of their research, explore collaborations with other academic disciplines, and tap into a source of income.

Benefits:

To illustrate, the KTP project examples below highlight the aim of the projects and identify the University of Plymouth cross disciplinary teams:

**C3 Resources**

**Plymouth, Devon**

This 18 month KTP aims to develop intelligent software to analyse building energy usage data enhancing the service provided to clients, expanding company capabilities and enabling greater carbon savings for a range of organisations including the Ministry of Defence and the Eden Project. The project connects the disciplines of architecture and computing through the expertise of Dr Pieter De Wilde (School of Architecture, Design and Environment), Dr Nigel Barlow (School of Computing and Mathematics) and Mr Martin Beck (School of Computing and Mathematics).

REF Value: £89,874

**Chough Bakery**

**Padstow, Cornwall**

This 24 month KTP aims to undertake a strategic review of Chough Bakery, implementing new business, quality and production systems, which allow Chough to expand and enter new markets. The academic supervisors Dr Victor Kuri (School of Biological Sciences) and Dr Dulekha Kasturiratne (School of Tourism and Hospitality) offer the company combined expertise in food science and strategic business development.

REF Value: £114,174
The KTP with C3 Resources is a collaboration with colleagues from the School of Computing and Mathematics. The practical, commercial issues that drive a KTP project mean that this collaboration is specific and focussed, and truly explores the interaction between the fields of building energy studies and computation. While the project is still gathering momentum there are obvious possibilities to create spin-off academic papers in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals. In terms of teaching, the KTP provides me with new insights and examples from practice. Even better, the company partner delivered a guest lecture to my stage 2 students, which went down very well. As a result, one student is even exploring the possibility of a placement year with the company.

Dr Pieter de Wilde, Reader, School of Architecture, Design and Environment, University of Plymouth

To find out more visit:

- www.plymouth.ac.uk/ktp
- https://intranet.plymouth.ac.uk/research
- www.ktponline.org.uk