Knowledge Transfer Partnerships –Enrichment of The Learning Environment Through Collaborative Industrial Research

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Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) is a UK scheme to enable Academia and Industry to collaborate on a structured programme of mutual benefit to both partners; the authors have recently completed such a project with, Salt Union Ltd. Although the programme centred on research and development, the academics have been able to use the scheme to impact on their undergraduate teaching.

The KTP scheme has provided case studies for undergraduate teaching elements such as the development of practical experiments. The KTP scheme employs a graduate to work on the project and they have contributed to the undergraduate programmes within the School. A major benefit has been the opportunity for undergraduate students to carry out final year projects with enhanced industrial relevance. Further, two summer training placements supported by the company have provided students with paid employment as well as developing their employability skills and training them in research methods.

In terms of staff development, the project has developed a new working and research relationship between the two authors and allowed them to develop a better awareness of working in industry and project management. Further, the scheme has contributed to the funding of a PhD programme and this will ultimately enhance the research profile of the school. The industrial partner has benefited from the academic expertise of the collaborating institution and embedded a research and development capability within the company. Although the programme has just been completed, a collaboration has been established which will continue to benefit both the research and teaching within the School.