



Virtual World hosts Knowledge Transfer Partnership Awards celebrate UK innovation success

- 13 Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Best of the Best Awards Winners selected from over 800 industry and societal innovation projects nationwide.
- Winners include the first ever 3D jewellery printing scheme for an insurance company; enhanced battery storage capacity in the renewable energy sector; the transformation of the humble standpipe into a state of the art device; and digital tools to support mental health.
- Awards Ceremony with 500 guests held in a virtual, immersive environment with avatars celebrating KTP collaboration and innovation.

Now more than ever, fresh thinking and different ways of solving challenges are needed to help innovation thrive. The Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) programme, funded through Innovate UK, has always helped facilitate this, creating partnerships through which academic/research teams, graduates (known as KTP Associates) and companies collaborate to drive innovation.

The KTP Best of the Best Awards celebrate the most outstanding outputs of these collaborations. Hosted by KTN - a key delivery partner of the KTP programme - the Awards were held for the first time last night in an immersive environment delivered in partnership with the UK's immersive technology association, Immerse UK, in the Laval Virtual world.

Now in its 45th year, KTP is one of the most successful and established knowledge exchange programmes, bringing new discoveries to market, creating hundreds of graduate jobs each year and delivering innovative solutions to societal problems.

Dr Alicia Greated, CEO of KTN said: "At KTN we are committed to shaping innovation communities of the future, which is exactly what made these awards so inspiring! Not only are our KTP winners actively bringing research into commercial business environments, but they are also bringing new ways of thinking, diverse experience and varied skill sets together to make a meaningful difference in building a sustainable economy and society."

13 winners were announced last night, with highlights including:

Transformation of the humble water standpipe scoops top award: Best KTP



*Rochdale company, Aquacheck Engineering, Manchester Metropolitan University;
Dario Chiantello scoop top prize: Best KTP*

The design of standard standpipes - something on which we all rely for our water supply - has remained largely unchanged for decades, and offer limited functionality. Aquacheck Engineering, supplier to many water companies - wanted to change that. Via its KTP it has created a new Internet of Things (IoT) device, a Smart Standpipe, able to provide real time access to parameters such as water usage, location, flow, pressure and much more.

As a result of its KTP, not only has a state of the art device been developed, but the whole culture of the company has been transformed, as is so often the case via KTP.

This KTP won the overall prize for Best Knowledge Transfer Partnership

3D printing of heirloom jewellery for insurance claims

Staffordshire-based SBS Insurance Services, Birmingham City University, Jade Watts

Revolutionising jewellery insurance claims, SBS Insurance (which handles claims for household names like Allianz, Direct Line, Legal & General and Lloyds Bank) is now able to facilitate highly sophisticated 3D printing, using precious metals to create replicas of irreplaceable stolen jewellery. This KTP collaboration increased turnover for the company by £4m and represents a significant digital progression for the industry.

Paul Fairbass, Technical Director, SBS Insurance Services comments, "Claim handling for the jewellery sector has not seen much change in years and is often characterised by slow service and poor customer satisfaction. Through the KTP programme, we are now able to offer customers a much better way of replacing much-loved jewellery, and as a business we have achieved increased commercial awareness and new sales growth, as well as recruiting new team members."

This partnership won the Business Impact Award.

Enhanced energy storage for flow batteries in renewables sector

Motherwell-based Mersen UK, University of Strathclyde, Dr Declan Bryans

Recent winner of the Young Professionals Green Energy Innovation Award, KTP Associate Dr Declan Bryans is working to bring about a key innovation that improves renewable energy management.

The activation process he developed leads to substantially increased performance efficiencies in flow batteries and could have applications across the national grid and



the automotive industry, amongst others. This could mean that renewable energy is used more efficiently and power storage capacity is increased for power stations.

Declan Bryans was one of 8 KTP Associates who were winners in the Future Innovator category.

Empowering employees to manage their mental wellbeing

Belfast-based Inspire Wellbeing, Ulster University, Gillian Cameron

This KTP collaboration aimed to create a web-based platform to offer access to mental health screening and support to employees of companies at risk of secondary traumatic stress (their jobs involve curating disturbing digital media).

The project fulfilled and exceeded its original brief, extending to the charity's wider remit of providing workplace wellbeing services to organisations across the UK and Ireland. The anticipated reach of the Inspire Support Hub now has a potential end-user base of 800,000 lives.

The hub's preventative approach helps keep employees and their families well and in work/education, by giving them 24/7 access to education and coping strategies to mitigate any mental health issues they may be experiencing. Embedding digital counselling tools, such as Video Counselling and WebChat improves accessibility to services, and reaches people in need in rural areas.

This project won the Societal Impact Award, supported by UKRI.

[KTN](#) runs the KTP Best of the Best Awards as part of its delivery of the KTP programme for Innovate UK.

ENDS

For further information, comments, interview and pictures, contact Cat Maclean cat.maclean@ktn-uk.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

The full list of winners is as follows:

Future Innovator Award Winners (for [KTP Associates](#)) supported by [Ashorne Hill Leona McGirr](#): Creating an Antibody Library for fully human antibodies.



[Muddasar Anwar](#) Innovation for Sustainable Drainage System to prevent flooding.
[Declan Bryans](#): Creating greener energy with innovations in flow batteries.
[Mark Gilmore](#): Developing a new class of greener, ionic liquid.
[Khai Nguyen](#): Inventing a new silicone composite for fixing brand, Sugru.
[Dmitry Bogachov](#): Advancing Materials Science for Anilox technology.
[Harvey Kangley](#): Delivering exceptional NPD in rail electrification.
[Elle Perschke](#): Applying B2C methodologies in a B2B company.

Business Impact Award:

[SBS Insurance / Birmingham City University/ KTP Associate Jade Watts](#)
Creating positive digital disruption in the insurance claims sector.

Societal Impact Award, supported by UKRI

[Inspire Workplaces / Ulster University / Gillian Cameron](#)
Innovative, web-based platform offering access to mental health screening and support

Most Effective KTP initiative from a KTP team, supported by [Praxis Auril Aston University](#) for their work in developing a Computer Science Industry Club

Engineering Excellence:

[Masonry Support Systems / Queen's University Belfast / Emanuele Scarabino](#)
Design of calculation suite model for masonry support system which eliminates human error and delivers the output of 9000 man hours in just 60 seconds

Best KTP

[Aquacheck Engineering/ Manchester Metropolitan University/ Dario Chiantello.](#)

This KTP has revolutionised the traditional standpipe - something we all rely on for our water supply – by using IoT to turn it into a smart, connected device, which delivers invaluable insight into water usage.

About [Knowledge Transfer Partnerships](#)

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) aim to help businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills within the UK knowledge base. They do this by connecting organisations who have an innovation idea with the expertise to help deliver it. Right now around 800 organisations, 100 university departments and over 800 graduates (known as KTP Associates, who act as the KTP project manager) are involved in KTPs creating positive change and driving innovation. Approximately 300 new roles for KTP



Associates become available every year as new KTPs are funded, making it one of the largest graduate recruitment platforms in the UK.

The KTP programme is now complemented by a Management KTP (mKTP), with a specific focus on improving management effectiveness via collaborations with UK Business Schools. mKTP is funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through Innovate UK.

KTPs are funded by UKRI through Innovate UK with the support of co-funders, including the Scottish Funding Council, Welsh Government, Invest Northern Ireland, Defra and BEIS.

Innovate UK manages the KTP programme and facilitates its delivery through a range of partners including KTN, Knowledge Bases and Businesses. Each partner plays a specific role in the support and delivery of the programme.

About KTN

KTN connects ideas, people and communities to drive innovation that changes lives. From agri-food to autonomous systems and from rail to robotics, KTN has deep expertise in wide-ranging sectors and uses its powerful connections with businesses, universities, funders and investors to help create positive change. ktn-uk.org

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