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Sustainability

Case Study:

AEA Manages Leading Knowledge Transfer Programme



Innovation & Knowledge Transfer

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Background

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) is Europe's leading programme helping businesses improve competitiveness and productivity through better use of knowledge, technologies and skills that reside in the UK knowledge base (higher education institutions, further education institutions, research and technology organisations, and public sector research institutions).

This is achieved through the support of innovative projects, which are undertaken by high calibre, recently qualified individuals under the joint supervision of persons from the business and knowledge base. KTP is a UK-wide programme, funded by the Technology Strategy Board with 17 other funding organisations

Issue

KTP's mission is to strengthen the competitiveness, wealth creation and economic performance of the UK by the enhancement of knowledge and skills and the stimulation of innovation through collaborative projects between businesses and the knowledge base. The programme has traditionally focused on SMEs in the science and engineering sector, but has now expanded to cover large organisations (250+ employees) across a much wider business portfolio, for example, the creative industries.

AEA has been managing the delivery of the KTP programme since 2004 and has simultaneously achieved cost reduction and growth, establishing foundations for a larger, more flexible programme.

Results

At the 2006/07 year-end, the portfolio comprised 1,157 individual projects, the highest number ever, facilitating the exchange of knowledge between the UK knowledge base and business.

As a result of the Government money committed during 2006/07, UK companies stand to benefit from an overall increase in annual profit before tax of some £100M, over 1,400 new jobs created (aside from the recruitment of KTP Associates themselves) and over 6,200 company staff trained. In addition, almost £24M was invested in R&D by UK company partners.

Solution

AEA brings together a multi-faceted team to deliver the KTP mission. This includes:

- Marketing the programme to businesses, academics and recently qualified people across a range of disciplines from engineering to the arts.
- Operational management; covering the life cycle of the projects from approval through to ongoing management and completion.
- Managing the Associate Training Development package. This is designed to help Associates to develop the management and business skills needed to manage their projects and enhance their careers. This is delivered via a series of residential training modules, online packages as well as personal coaching and mentoring in the workplace.
- Stakeholder engagement through the senior programme office team and Regional Development Managers to publicise the benefits, outputs and outcomes of the programme and encourage wider participation.
- IT development through the management of the KTP database, which is used to produce management reports, support the application process and support our network of KTP Advisers and offices spread throughout the UK. AEA also manages the KTP website and portals to promote closer working links with Advisors and Sponsors and to generate an on-line community who have access to marketing tools and management information.

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