

Wider Outlook

Funding, Policy updates and Research

March 2013 Edition 30

Welcome to the March edition of Wider Outlook.

The focus for this month is funding for innovation and business collaboration; we are also featuring the latest news on our Intellectual Property service—and news from the Research community.

Also a reminder that the EU study visit grants are once more available with a closing date of March 28th — please contact the team about these

As ever, if you have any comments please let us know,

Jose



For editorial and funding queries contact the External Projects Team:

(01785) 353774

externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk

For research policy & news queries contact:

(01782) 294945

R.I.Gorton@staffs.ac.uk

Useful Links

<http://bit.ly/externalprojects>

www.researchprofessional.com

www.ukro.ac.uk

<http://bit.ly/findfunding>

Trevor Baylis, inventor of the wind-up radio, has criticised the treatment of inventors in the UK. Students need to be taught about intellectual property in schools and the government needs to have people who have themselves invented working for them," he suggested. [Here](#)

Protecting your innovation

UK businesses are among the most innovative in the world; with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) accounting for 99% of all UK businesses it is vital that they consider the importance of protecting their innovation as early as possible.

With global trade in Intellectual Property (IP) licenses being worth more than £600 billion a year, it is crucial that IP advice forms an intrinsic part of an SME's business model, taking into consideration the potential to commercialise and market the innovation.

Intellectual property (IP) forms part of this consideration and the professional IP advice which Chris Kenning in ECD provides.

The IP advice provided by the Contract Review Service within ECD includes

- preservation of IP rights,
- publication,
- consideration of public benefit,
- Freedom of Information requirements

– including input on Review from Mark Downie, Frances Seabridge, and Phillippa Cartwright, all Secondees from the Law Faculty.

Each contribution provides an added perspective whether in relation to University policy, rights in agreements, or for commercial advice.

Academics are encouraged to seek advice from ECD and formal Contract Review in relation to any contractual terms they are required to sign, in order to benefit from the in house range of experience currently available.

In January ECD were pleased to offer a placement opportunity to Hafsat Mustafa—who offered her expertise in the review of precedent. Contact

C.Kenning@staffs.ac.uk

Image Below: Chris Kenning Contracts Officer and Hafsat Mustafa.



Upcoming Funding for innovation

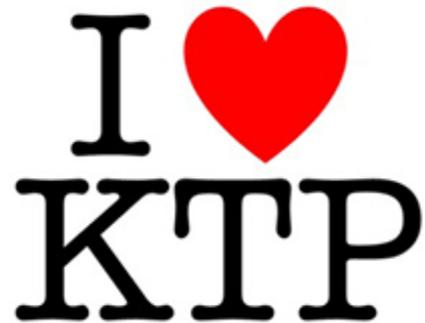
<p>The Innovation Networks scheme has been running successfully in the West Midlands region for 10 years and has now been awarded ERDF funding to carry on until March 2015. The scheme offers £10,000 grants that are quick and easy to apply for to help to cover the costs associated with the development of a new product, process or service.</p>	<p>Here</p>  <p>European Regional Development Fund Investing in your future</p>
<p>The Staffordshire Business Innovation Centre (BIC) is part of a European network of over 160 organisations which assist businesses and individuals to evaluate and develop inventions, innovations and technology related issues. The BIC currently has its own Consultancy Fund of up to £2,500 to help businesses in Staffordshire to grow. This will provide up to 25% of funding. T. 0845 8458020</p> <p>www.thebic.co.uk</p>	<p>Here</p> 
<p>Innovation Vouchers are designed to encourage businesses to look outside their current network for new knowledge that can help them to grow and develop. Start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses from across the UK can apply for an Innovation Voucher. A grant of up to £5000 is available to businesses to work with a supplier for the first time and is used to pay for knowledge or technology transfer from that supplier.</p>	<p>Here</p> 
<p>Winning Moves and Staffordshire University have vouchers of £3,000 provide support from some of the academics and specialist faculties at the University. The vouchers are available for businesses with growth potential who have a unique idea and would benefit from the involvement of the university. Each successful applicant will tap into relevant, cutting-edge support from the universities broad spectrum of Faculty and Academic Expertise in Arts, Media, Design, Business, Computing, Engineering & Technology, Health, Law and Science.</p>	<p>Tel: 01785 827600</p> 

Innovation policy and Funding

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are part-funded by the Government via the Technology Strategy Board and 18 other funding organisations, including Research Councils and other Government agencies recognising the importance of knowledge transfer to economic development and wealth creation. The grant rate depends upon the size of the company / partner organisation, normally it will be 60% for a micro business or SME and 40% for a large enterprise. The typical annual costs are around £17,300 for an SME and £25,950 for a larger company or organisation.

The KTP between Staffordshire University and Tekdata, with Associate Andrew Skinner is awarded "Outstanding" Grade from the Technology Strategy Board. The project challenge was to develop and implement more efficient and competitive work systems in manufacturing to align with the business strategy.
Tel: **01785 353 404** Email: **d.collins@staffs.ac.uk**



Catapult centres

Catapult are technology and innovation centres where the very best of the UK's businesses, scientists and engineers can work side by side on research and development - transforming ideas into new products and services to generate economic growth. Catapult centres will help businesses to adopt, develop and exploit innovative products and

technologies - the next stepping-stone on the journey to commercialisation.

The Technology Strategy Board is establishing seven Catapults in the following areas: high value manufacturing; cell therapy; off-shore renewable energy; satellite applications; connected digital economy; future cities; and transport systems. They are working closely with the Intellectual Property Office to ensure an effective Intellectual Property strategy is implemented within the centres.

For more information see: [Here](#)

They represent over £1bn of private and public sector investment over the next few years and will transform the UK's innovation capability for the long term.

All seven Catapults will be up and running during 2013, ready to accelerate innovation and growth over the coming years and decades.

Find Funding

Check out these Hot Tips on how to do your own search for funding [Here](#)

Research eu results features highlights from the most exciting EU-funded research and development projects.

It is published 10 times per year in English, and covers: Biology and medicine, Energy and transport, Environment and society,

IT and telecommunications, Industrial technologies

[Here](#)

Research News and Funding

HEFCE Funding Settlement The Higher Education Funding Council has announced that it will distribute £4.47 billion to the English Higher Education sector in 2013-2014 academic year. Whilst funding for teaching will be cut by 28%, £1.6 billion will be available to support research, the same as 2012-2013. Funding earmarked by HEFCE for the Higher Education Funding Council will increase by £10 million to £160 million. Allocations to individual universities will be confirmed on 21st March.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Review of Research Councils As part of a triennial review, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has invited responses on the role of Research Councils. The review will look at the structures in place to deliver research funding and the relationship between Research Councils and other private and public sector funders. For further information on the triennial review, please click on the following link: [Here](#) Responses are invited by BIS until 28th February 2013.

Research Councils UK: Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct Published

Research Councils UK (RCUK) has recently published a revised version of its policy and guidelines on the good conduct of research. The document has been amended to take account of the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity which RCUK endorsed last year. The revised policy and guidelines cover the promotion of good research conduct, the need for training and development and the investigation and reporting of unacceptable research conduct. Once the revised document has been adopted, RCUK will have the right to revoke any awards made to organisations that fail to comply with the organisation's rules on research misconduct. These have been posted [Here](#).

Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise Network (KEEN)

KEEN is a business improvement programme, part-funded by ERDF, designed to help West Midlands based SME's increase their profitability and achieve growth through working with a regional university.

By working with a university a business will gain:

- A Graduate (known as an Affili-

ate) working full-time on a bespoke project with the business

- Continuing support from a university liaison officer
- On-going mentoring and support from university experts for the Affiliate, ensuring that project objectives are met. Access to university resources, facilities and expertise.

Tel: **01785 353 404** Email: **d.collins@staffs.ac.uk**



Free resources

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has published a guide summarising the main support and advice schemes available to small and medium-sized enterprises.

[Here](#)