

Interface - the knowledge connection for business



ERDF Funding
£215,500

Total Project Costs
£431,000



Background

Collaboration and knowledge transfer between the Scottish higher education sector and commercial business generates in excess of £355 million per annum but this figure could be much higher if it was made easier for Scottish SMEs to access the technology, know-how and innovation from the University knowledge base. Creativity and challenge are essential to ensure Scotland's economic success and prosperity and there is a wealth of world-class technology, skills and research facilities available within Scotland's universities. Companies often have difficulty in understanding what is available, or who to contact, for research and development or expertise capabilities.

The Project

Interface - the knowledge connection for business which was funded by the Scottish Innovative Actions Programme and the Scottish Funding Council was a pioneering initiative which matched companies, particularly SMEs, with the skills and expertise of Scotland's higher education and research institutions.

Impact

By working closely with all of Scotland's universities, Interface has links to thousands of world-leading experts in a wide range of sectors who can help give Scottish companies answers to their individual business challenges. Interface's free service is the knowledge connection for companies and universities - the matchmakers in the business world. Once the connection is made, Interface continues to monitor progress of the relationship between the company and university, and provides continuous support and guidance on contractual and funding options.

The role of Interface in facilitating new and sustained collaborations between companies and academic institutions has been endorsed by leading Scottish business organisations including the CBI and the Institute of Directors.

Further Information

A series of case studies illustrating the ways in which universities can help Scottish companies with their individual business challenges is available on the Interface website www.interface-online.org.uk.

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actions that have inspired
business change