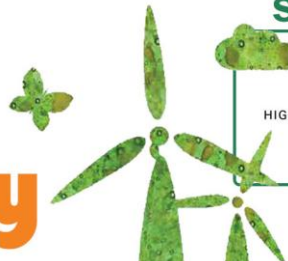




Green Gown
Awards 2013

Finalist's case study

Dissemination supported by:



Lancaster University Research and Development Centre for Global Eco-Innovation

Centre for
Global Eco-Innovation



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future

European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13

Section 1 About the project

Summary

The £9.8M Centre for Global Eco-Innovation unites the expertise, resources and global contacts of Lancaster University, the University of Liverpool, and Inventya Limited, to develop new eco-innovative products, processes and services in collaboration with ambitious northwest businesses.

The project is one of the largest centres using PhD researchers to underpin substantive programmes of collaborative research, akin to the industrial doctoral training centres funded by the EPSRC. The centre is the only one of its kind in Europe and is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Profile

- Lancaster/Liverpool
- HE
- 12,000/30,000 students
- 2000/4,700 staff
- Rural/Urban

Project partners

- Lancaster University
- University of Liverpool
- Inventya Limited

Section 2 The results

The problem

The centre was created to

- Address low levels of innovation in SMEs
- Use graduate research to overcome low levels of capacity in SMEs to undertake R&D
- Increase the export performance of SMEs for environmental goods and services
- Create new employment opportunities in the UK

The approach

To achieve the centre's objectives, a distributed team of over 200 people was established in a little over 6 months, including a core team of 50 graduate researchers, 50 project supervisors in the collaborating SMEs, over 70 academic supervisors and a centre management team across the three delivery partners. For both universities, the realisation of projects across 11 departments is unparalleled. For Lancaster, admission of 25 postgraduates in one year stands as the largest ever single year intake as a result of one initiative.

Our goals

The centre has the ambition to work with over 280 SMEs, develop 150 new products and services, create 268 new jobs, and £45m in wealth for the Northwest of England.

www.greengownawards.org.uk

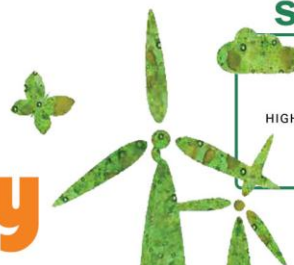




Green Gown
Awards 2013

Finalist's case study

Dissemination
supported by:



HIGHER EDUCATION
FUNDING COUNCIL

hefce
FOR ENGLAND

Obstacles and solutions

Administration of the centre

The centre addresses collaborative working between departments, across faculties, between research institutions and in partnership with private sector businesses. The degree of understanding that is required to develop this should not be underestimated, and has in this case been addressed through having a committed and dedicated team. The centre draws upon expertise from 75 academic supervisors from 11 different departments, across the two universities. Systems had to be set up across all the partner organisations in order to monitor and access the relevant information for ERDF audit.

Performance and results

The Centre for Global Eco-Innovation is still in the first year of a three year project. To date (June 2013) the centre has assisted 83 businesses (SMEs) on a diverse range of projects which deliver environmental benefits. Approximately £4m of inward investment has been raised with the support of the centre to develop innovative technologies including; new performance coatings for vacuum systems which improve performance and running efficiency; integrated nanoelectrode sensor systems for enhanced environmental monitoring; development of energy saving air quality sanitisation device. The centre has led to new partnerships between individuals and strengthened institutional partnerships between Lancaster University, the University of Liverpool and Inventya Limited. For the majority of SMEs collaborating with the centre, represents the most significant commitment to collaborative research with a university they have ever undertaken.

Section 3 The future

Lessons learned

Time invested in setting up the collaboration should never be underestimated and is ultimately of immense value in delivering a return to the project.

Sharing your project

- Presented to Baroness Hanham, the Minister responsible for ERDF funding and members of LEPs involved in establishing Growth Hubs and events for businesses
- Shared our experiences with many universities interested in replicating the centre, including Manchester, Exeter, Huddersfield, Leicester, Chester, UCLAN, UEA, and East Anglia, and through HEFCE "Catalyst" funding will adopt the centre model in China.
- Recruitment campaigns to recruit businesses and PhD students
- Launch event on 4th March 2013 in Manchester to an audience of 250 guests
- Bespoke website www.cgeinnovation.org and dissemination information through social media

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

Reaching the final of the Green Gown Awards publically recognised the collaborative achievements of over 200 people from Lancaster University, the University of Liverpool, and Inventya Limited, who came together with ambitious northwest businesses and formed a unique partnership to share their knowledge, drive innovation, and create new eco-innovative products.

Further information

Email: enquiries@cgeinnovation.org W: www.cgeinnovation.co.uk Twitter: @CGEInnovation

www.green gownawards.org.uk

Delivered by
eauc