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KIGG and University of South Wales KTP

Established in Sully near Cardiff in 2005, KIGG Ltd designs and manufactures electricity Smart Meters, which send electronic meter readings to the energy supplier automatically, and provides subsequent factory start-up services to government and private investors worldwide.

Work with increasingly sophisticated clients highlighted the need for further development of 'Smart' products, however, specification of the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC 61850) had to be acquired by KIGG to meet the correct standards in order to make these 'Smart' products.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) is a UK-wide programme helping businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK Knowledge Base. The KTP programme is managed by Innovate UK. This project was fully funded by the Welsh Government over its duration of 11 months; enabling a Knowledge Transfer Partner with the Centre for Electronic Product Engineering (CEPE) at the University of South Wales, which helped accelerate KIGG's engineering knowledge uptake and develop the demonstrator equipment needed to attract new clients.

The funding enabled KIGG to understand the IEC standards with help from an associate, a PHD student contracted to the project and based at CEPE, who implemented the standards and fed back to KIGG. In turn, the KTP gave the associate exposure to real-world engineering problems as they developed problem solving skills and knowledge of the smart metering industry in an industrial setting, and allowing theory to be put into practice.

As such, KIGG went on to permanently employ the associate PHD student and is now working on new designs with the benefit of his expertise. KIGG is also looking at future collaboration with CEPE in order to deepen its knowledge base and widen its product portfolio further.

Daniel Carr, KTP Associate, said: "The KTP was a great

way of making the transition from university to industry. This has given me invaluable experience and made me a better engineer than I would have been coming fresh from university."

KIGG Ltd. Managing Director, Jonathan Harfoot, said: "When we explain how the Knowledge Transfer Programmes (KTP) work to others, and relay the support we have had from Welsh Government and University of South Wales to our investors and clients abroad, they are amazed. A lot of foreign clients express the wishes that their government would replicate the KTP programme in their country. The scheme is vital to expanding our technology and expertise, and has also supported us in winning Smart factory start-up projects worth millions of pounds."



To find out more about funding and support from the Welsh Government:

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