

Interface - The knowledge connection for business

Case Study

Feasibility Study

Total Waste Management Alliance Ltd. 2009

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University collaboration helps environmental company sustain success

Environmental services company Total Waste Management Alliance Ltd (TWMA) in Aberdeen has improved its business competitiveness through strengthened links with academia.

TWMA provides a specialist range of equipment and services to the oil and gas industry. With innovative technologies and dedicated personnel, the company has led the way in reducing the environmental impact of drilling and other associated activities within the petroleum sector. Integrated drilling, engineering and environmental services form the core components of the business, both in the company's domestic and international markets.

TWMA recognised that R&D capabilities were essential to improving its internal environmental performance, as well as that of its clients. Through collaborating with academia TWMA wanted to develop its technology to ensure a reduction in the impact of drilling activities worldwide.

TWMA contacted Interface in October 2008 with the aim of identifying potential academic

partners which could assist in the firm's development. Two partners were selected, Glasgow Caledonian University and University of the West of Scotland.

Glasgow Caledonian University undertook an investigation into water recovered by the Thermomechanical Cutting Cleaner -Rotomill process. The project was to assist TWMA in understanding the characteristics of the water which could in turn lead to the development of further treatment, thus reducing the environmental impact of the procedure. Partially funded via Scottish Enterprise, the partnership successfully identified key avenues of future work.

An additional project, funded through a Scottish Funding Council Innovation Voucher award, has been set up with University of the West of Scotland, investigating the properties and variation of the recovered powder from the Rotomill process and potential reuse applications. Powder represents approximately 70% weight of the initial waste and is currently sent to landfill when processed onshore in the UK. As a result, there are business and environmental needs



For more information on TWMA please visit www.twma.co.uk

"I am delighted with the outcome, the process of contacting Interface through to project delivery has been easy and the assistance given by the staff at Interface excellent, enabling us to access a wide section of academia with minimal effort."

James Shannon, Chartered Waste Manager, TWMA.

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to divert this material from landfill and reuse.

James Shannon, Chartered Waste Manager, TWMA, is delighted with the outcome. He says "TWMA view strong links with academia as an essential part of our ongoing programme of research and development. As a company dedicated to reducing the environmental impact of the oil and gas industry we are

continually trying to improve our own, and consequently our clients, environmental performance. The links we have formed have been extremely useful in this process and have added considerable insight into options which are available and future avenues of work."

Professor Andrew Hurtshouse from University of West of Scotland comments: "Our link with TWMA has provided a great opportunity

to bring together skills in the University, applied to a pressing environmental problem. The staff working on the project have provided new perspectives for the company which should produce more sustainable disposal options. By working on a live industrial issue, the project has also benefited our course content and overall student experience."



About Interface - The knowledge connection for business

There is a wealth of world-class technology, skills and research facilities available within Scotland's universities and research institutes.

With established links to thousands of world-class leading experts, Interface finds and introduces companies to the perfect academic partner.

Interface overcomes the challenge facing companies in understanding what is available or who to contact

in academia, for R&D or expertise capabilities by matching relevant expertise to specific business requirements.

Collaborating with academic partners brings significant business benefits:

- Develop innovative new products, services and processes
- Improve performance using technological advances
- Increase competitive advantage in key markets

- Enhance profitability in existing and new markets

Many companies don't know that innovative solutions to help their business grow can be developed with academic assistance.

Interface is here to help make the right connections for businesses.

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