

Case Study Examples

About the Scheme:

This new scheme from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is aimed at building relationships between SMEs (small to medium sized enterprises) and HEIs (Higher Education Institutes) in Scotland. The proposed collaborative project should lead to new products and processes that will benefit the business, the institution and the Scottish economy. The awards are specifically to encourage new partnerships that have not jointly received funding from any source previously for the proposed project so as to build links between Scotland's Higher Education Institutes and small businesses.

Funds may not be used to cover the costs of:

- standard training courses
- software purchases
- aid that would promote/ subsidise the cost of exports
- internships for students of knowledge institutions
- design and production of advertising materials
- sales activities

How much is an award?

The award is for up to £5000, with a minimum of £500, and will be paid to the academic institution by the Scottish Funding Council to offset the costs of the collaborative project. The company contribution is expected to match the grant contribution from the Scheme. Company contributions may be costed through staff time and access to facilities as well as cash.

Who is eligible to apply?

All small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) registered in Scotland (i.e. those with a registration commencing SC) are eligible to partner with a HEI under the scheme. SMEs are organisations that are registered companies, employ between 1- 250 employees and have an annual turnover of less than £35 million.



Electric Top Hat

Creating new gaming technology

Researchers from University of Abertay, Dundee are working with two companies, Electric Top Hat and Lucky Frame Ltd, to prototype innovative controls and audio components for the iPhone/iTouch. Electric Top Hat are game developers specifically for the iPhone/iTouch. Lucky Frame Limited are an audio/creative music software house with not only a musical background but also programming expertise in audio, this is a generally a unique discipline in games development. Their collaboration with University of Abertay, which has renowned expertise in gaming, will have a specific focus on creating a game prototype and it is expected that a gesture recognition control mechanism and a game play audio element will be prototyped.



Orkney Ferries

Improving the visitor experience

The Centre for Nordic Studies at Orkney College, UHI are collaborating with local company Orkney Ferries to develop a DVD of the heritage of Orkney for the waiting rooms at ferry ports to improve visitor experience. Orkney Ferries operate between Orkney mainland and 13 of the smaller islands. The ferry journey offers an excellent opportunity to explain the cultural context of the islands that visitors might otherwise be unaware of. The collaborative project evaluated the use of ferries as cultural space and created a pilot DVD of Orkney's culture to be shown in waiting rooms and on ferries in the Orkney Ferries network. The project benefited the business, Orkney College, and the Scottish economy by improving the in-journey service to tourists and locals alike.



TWMA

Reducing waste products from the oil and gas industry

The University of the West of Scotland's Environmental Initiatives Research Group is helping Aberdeen based Total Waste Management Alliance Ltd (TWMA) to explore the recycling of waste material generated by offshore oil and gas production. Cleaning up and disposing of waste produced as a result of well drilling is a huge burden on the offshore oil and gas industry. Through the collaborative project, University of West of Scotland and TWMA are exploring options for reuse of materials, in particular rock flour and oil wastes, which are currently disposed of through conventional routes (land fill of rock and re-processing of oils). The ultimate aim is to evaluate alternative routes for reuse of wastes and reduce the need for conventional disposal.