

# Innovation Snapshots: Port of Felixstowe



**Port of Felixstowe**

## The business need

The Port of Felixstowe is the UK's busiest port. It wanted to explore solutions that had the potential to improve its complex scheduling processes, so that it could operate at an optimum level. So we set up a knowledge transfer partnership with the Port of Felixstowe and Innovate UK to add the latest technology into their drive for business innovation.

## The expertise

Using our leading expertise in developing optimisation algorithms using artificial intelligence, and cutting edge software, we devised a project to help solve certain scheduling problems and schedule the labour force more intelligently. The two-year project has further enhanced the Port's labour deployment processes allowing it to reduce waste costs and increase its customer service.

## The value

This project has real business impact so the Port of Felixstowe was eligible to receive 50% funding from Innovate UK through the national knowledge transfer partnerships programme. For smaller businesses this support rises to 67%.

## How it works

Central to any KTP project is the research associate, such as a PhD student, who is recruited and based full-time within the company.

This ensures activity has commercial focus, embeds new capability within the business, and that technology transfer is effective and efficient.

Weekly catch-ups ensure the project remains on-track, and a senior company contact is involved throughout to ensure commercial focus.

## Find out more about expertise and funding

### Dr Rob Singh

Deputy Director of Enterprise

T 01206 874278

E [business@essex.ac.uk](mailto:business@essex.ac.uk)



# Innovation snapshots

---



**Port of Felixstowe**



► [www.essex.ac.uk/business](http://www.essex.ac.uk/business)