

Innovation Snapshots: LPA Connection Systems



The business need

LPA Connection Systems provides robust electrical connectors and connection systems that offer high reliability and low maintenance costs for rail, aerospace, defence and marine industries. They wanted to develop their Ethernet connector so we set up a KTP (knowledge transfer partnership) with them and Innovate UK to add the latest technology into their drive for business innovation.

The expertise

The project aim was to develop Ethernet systems for trains offering high bandwidth and future-proofed against costly future upgrades. Our expertise helped develop the world's first 10GbE bandwidth train Ethernet backbone over copper, providing more bandwidth and reducing the need for bandwidth upgrades in future.

The value

LPA launched the technology 12 months into the two-year KTP, receiving more than £1m in orders over the last year of the project, with orders continuing to grow after completion. This project had real business impact so LPA was eligible to receive 67% funding from Innovate UK through the national knowledge transfer partnerships programme. For larger businesses this support reduces to 50%.

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

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