

UPLIFT FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS



Professor Brian Hobbs, dean of the University of Teesside's School of Science and Technology

PIONEERING work has started on a Northern Way project to provide new professional development services in areas of advanced science, engineering and technology industries that are not currently catered for.

Some new and emerging areas of science, engineering and technology are thought not to be adequately supported by existing programmes and other providers of professional development services. This is holding back the contribution to the economy that these sectors can make.

The Northern Way wants to be sure that early and mid career professionals can build their knowledge and skills, serve their customers and employers well, and maximise the value that they add.

As a result, it is supporting eight northern universities to create a virtual Centre for Professional Excellence for Advanced Science, Engineering and Technology (CPE-ASET). This will look at gaps in the market and establish whether niche

sectors could benefit from professional development services.

Funded by the Northern Way Growth Fund to the tune of £500,000 the universities this month signed contracts to explore the potential for a Centre for Professional Excellence until 2008 and deliver a number of pilot activities.

Led by the University of Teesside, and developed with the North West Universities Association, CPE-ASET partners include the universities of Central Lancashire, Chester, Huddersfield, Hull, Liverpool, Northumbria and Sunderland.

The collaboration will work with employers across the North to provide demand-led, flexible learning opportunities in applied science disciplines. This includes:

- Biomedical sciences
- Nanotechnology
- Engineering design
- Product design and manufacturing
- Investigative sciences.

Other disciplines could also include:

- Environmental engineering
- Digital engineering, and
- Medical technology.

Eleven pilot projects have already been designed and will be up and running very soon. Each will establish exactly which areas of science, engineering and technology are not adequately provided with professional development services and test whether there is adequate market demand.

Lead academic, Professor Brian Hobbs, dean of the University of Teesside's School of Science and Technology, said: "This centre is an exciting new concept which harnesses the expertise of eight universities across a broad geographical area covering the whole of the North of England.

"The centre covers a wide range of these key areas and will develop and pilot innovative and accessible high level courses to meet the professional development needs of senior staff."

PROFILE

A GLOBAL OUTLOOK AT CRB

JOHN COLLINS PROFILES THE EXPANDING BIOSCIENCE BUSINESS, CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH BIOCHEMICALS

A central facet of One NorthEast's Regional Economic Strategy is encouraging the development of high growth, futuristic business sectors - of which bioscience is an excellent example. One North East business that is fast making a reputation for itself on the global stage within this exciting sector is Cambridge Research Biochemicals (CRB), a business specialising in the chemical synthesis of peptides and the custom production of polyclonal antibodies.

As part of the company's plans to take the business to the next level while positioning itself firmly at the forefront of this dynamic market, Dr Steven Powell, CEO of Plethora Solutions, has recently been appointed as a non-executive chairman for CRB.

CRB's present directors, commercial director Emily Humphrys and operations director Alison White, were keen to strengthen the management team and

bring on board a seasoned professional to provide strategic direction, business support and business growth planning.

Emily and her management colleagues have ambitious plans for the future of CRB. They are currently looking at growing the technology strength of the business by licensing in new technologies and searching for strategic-fit partnerships for increased sales. An excellent example of this is the company's creation of a new on-line dye selector and project tracker. Through the website, researchers in both industry and academia will now be able to take advantage of an interactive dye selector for labelling peptides, track progress of antibodies' projects and access more advanced information more quickly and simply.

Emily explains: "The unique dye selector provides a list of alternative dyes at similar wavelengths to enable the most appropriate choice of dye for labelling

peptides and proteins for research purposes. The selector makes it straightforward for scientists requiring a labelled peptide to choose the optimum dye based on their specific application and the attributes of each dye.

"The site also links the dye selector to its advanced quotation system so simplifying the process to request a peptide for labelling. Researchers studying cell penetration or working in FRET applications will benefit from the dye selector."

Having worked with leading pharmaceutical organisations for many years, CRB is ideally placed to capitalise on the current opportunities in the bioscience sector. "We are a North East company with a global outlook," says Emily. "Our aim is to be part of a small set of specialist UK companies that could make a genuine difference within the science sector globally."



For more information visit www.crbdiscovery.com