

Knowledge Transfer Networks - Best Practice Advice

The Issue

Improved utilisation of knowledge generated by the science base is a key government priority. However generally, knowledge transfer does not occur on its own and needs the correct structures, culture and facilitation. There have been many initiatives and programmes for knowledge transfer in recent years. Many have difficulties in their early stages often related to establishing the correct management structures and developing strategic and operational plans.

Quotec's Approach

Under contract to the UK's Department of Trade and Industry (2000 to 2007), Quotec provided advice and support for the establishment of the Faraday Partnerships. In 2005 Quotec facilitated their transition to Knowledge Transfer Networks ensuring that the requirements of all stakeholders were accommodated. These virtual innovation networks, linking businesses, academia and public sector stakeholders, are a key element of the DTI Technology Strategy. Quotec applies its extensive experience in knowledge transfer to assist individual Networks, establish activities across Networks and advise DTI on broader policy issues.

Quotec provided:

- Advice on the establishment of collaborative networks – in particular advice on governance, management and operational issues
- Advice on best practice in knowledge transfer activities
- Advice to DTI on policy, management and operational issues across all KTNs
- Mapping of KTN interests to sectors relevant to DTI technology programme
- A national annual conference on Innovation and an Annual Report on KTNs

The Benefits

Since its inception, the Faraday programme licensed/commercialised over 200 new technology based products and processes, spun out 30 small growing companies and created more than 200 new jobs. In 2004/05 its research volume was £81 million.

Within the first year of the KTNs, the research volume had increased to £98 million in year, 15,000 people and organisations had registered with the KTN's and 3,500 people and organisations were involved in over 200 events.