

## Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

### Transforming the design and manufacture of mobile drilling rigs

<b>Company name:</b>	Dando Drilling International
<b>Location:</b>	Littlehampton
<b>Employees:</b>	24
<b>Project length:</b>	2 years
<b>University school:</b>	School of Computing, Engineering & Mathematics and School of Environment & Technology
<b>Result:</b>	Implementation of a fully integrated innovative product design process

#### The Challenge

Dando Drilling International Ltd design and assemble reliable and rugged drilling rigs for mineral exploration, water well drilling, geotechnical investigation and seismic exploration exporting the majority of their products to the developing world. As the only company in the UK who manufactured drilling rigs, they were uniquely placed to diversify into emerging domestic and overseas markets and were seeking to develop a long term strategy involving improved design and manufacture of their mobile drilling rigs which would help them achieve this. In their unique area of work Dando recognised that accessing the right type of expertise would be a challenge, so they partnered with the University of Brighton KTP Centre to access the knowledge and skills needed to embed a new capability in the company.

#### The Solution

Drawing on the expert engineering and product design knowledge of Dr Derek Covill, the graduate quickly got to grips with the project and working closely with the company also gained a sound understanding of company processes, personnel and products. His key areas of work included the development of a bespoke centralised data management system which integrated departments across the company and optimised the supply chain; and streamlining of the design and manufacturing processes. With their keen enthusiasm for innovation Dando took advantage of every opportunity to engage with the university from the outset to achieve significant outcomes across the board.

#### The Benefits

The company stated that they simply could not have achieved the desired outcomes without the KTP. As well as significant positive impact on supply

chain integration and substantial commercial impact, the KTP yielded many unanticipated benefits and Dando's Commercial Director, Gina Fitch-Roy said "Our investment in KTP has been one of the best we have made. Our collaboration has been characterised by academic rigour, a clear commitment to our commercial goals and good humour."

The project was rated the highest possible grade 'A - Outstanding' and the Associate, who was recruited by the company post project was shortlisted for the Business Leader of Tomorrow Award. During the life of the project, the work plan diversified and also opened up opportunities for 11 engineering and design student projects – two students were recruited by the company after graduation. Other Academic outputs included publications disseminated via international journals and teaching materials such as case studies.



Gina Fitch-Roy (Commercial Director) and Jugal Desai (KTP graduate)

#### Find out what KTP can do for you

You can find out more about what a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with the University of Brighton can do for you at [www.brighton.ac.uk/ktp](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/ktp), or you can email [ktp@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:ktp@brighton.ac.uk) or call **01273 642426** to speak to one of the team.

