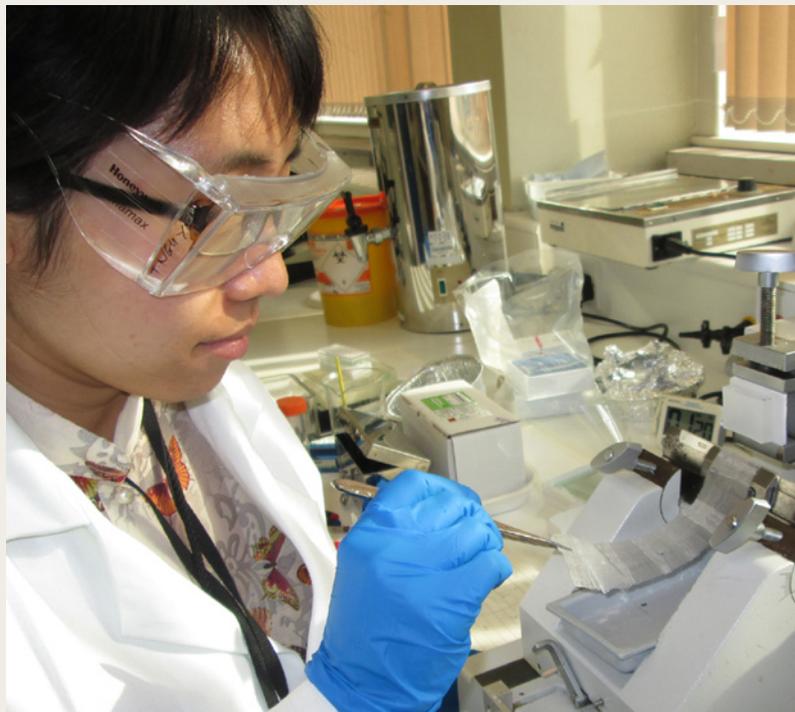


## Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

### Reducing Irritants in Skin Products



**Company Name:** RB Healthcare (UK) Ltd  
**Location:** Yorkshire and the Humber  
**Employees:** 250+  
**Project Length:** 2 years  
**University Faculty:** Life Sciences



#### The project

This KTP supported RB to reduce the irritancy potential of their skin product formulation by developing a new in vitro (test-tube experiment) modelling strategy to understand how topical formulations can impact on healthy and compromised skin.

#### Project Outcomes

The partnership provided the company with the opportunity to acquire new skills and techniques in skin and hair-associated product development which resulted in a competitive advantage in the personal care field. They identified gaps and strategies relating to decision modelling methods and developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide future in vitro irritancy testing.

The University were able to gain new knowledge in human 3D epidermis, a greater understanding of toxicology issues relating to personal care products and ingredient insight for skin products formulation. Professor Des Tobin and colleagues are continuing to develop research relationships with the company.

#### Business Benefits

*“The KTP project brought the business into contact with a world class skin expert, Professor Des Tobin. His valuable knowledge has helped guide the company’s developments within and outside the scope of the project.”*

Scott Seville, Technology and Innovation Manager – Germ Protection and Personal Care RB Healthcare (UK) Ltd.

The project aligned perfectly with a recent shift in focus to the Health and Hygiene pillars, which are 2 of RB’s strategic pillars. RB aimed to improve its capabilities by increasing speed and lowering costs for in vitro skin irritancy testing methods. The KTP helped the business develop an understanding of the available capabilities and methods that they can apply to future new developments in those fields.

The KTP resulted in RB developing Standard Operating procedures (SOP’s) that will inform future in vitro testing techniques by guiding decisions on appropriate tests for the product and properties being studied. This knowledge will help RB reduce errors, chose appropriate business partners, and interpret test results to contribute to remaining at the forefront of a rapidly changing landscape of in vitro testing.



## The University of Bradford

Bradford is a research-active university constantly looking for opportunities to apply our cutting-edge research to industry by working with employers and organisations worldwide. We're not just testing theories, we're breaking new ground and making real changes to people's lives.



## RB Healthcare (UK) Ltd

RB is a multinational consumer goods company and a major producer of health, hygiene and home products, including brands like Dettol, Strepsil and Veet.

A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) is a three-way project between a graduate, an organisation and a university and is aimed at enabling businesses to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance. A graduate is employed into the business to work on the project and is supported by university academics.

Covering a huge range of projects, KTP is one of the largest graduate recruitment programmes across the UK and has worked with over 3,000 organisations from micro-sized to large businesses. The programme is delivered nationally by over 140 universities and has employed over 6,000 graduates.

KTPs can vary in length from 6 months to three years, depending on the needs of the business. On average, a typical project brings an increase of over £240,000 in annual profits before tax, the creation of two new jobs, and an increase in staff skills.

A KTP gives you access to qualified people to spearhead new projects and access to experts who can take your business forward. It can help you develop innovative solutions to grow your business and create a competitive edge. It can also create performance and operations improvements and efficiency gains.



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