

# UKSPA CASE STUDY

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: UKSPA AWARD WINNERS

There are many success stories that can be told about the companies, locations and services that are delivered on a daily basis. For over thirty years the UK Science, Innovation and Incubation Sector has been able to demonstrate the growth of successful businesses – often from the smallest of start-ups – into national and international businesses.

UKSPA has celebrated many of these success stories through its Awards Programme and these companies, environments, initiatives and individuals demonstrate both the strength as well as the importance of the Science, Innovation and Incubation Sector.



Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park

### Growing Innovative Companies

In 2014 the UKSPA award for most innovative company was Intelligent Energy (IE). Intelligent Energy provides clean power technologies to bluechip organisations and OEMs, working with them to accelerate the global commercialisation and market demand for cleaner, more efficient hydrogen fuel cell products in the automotive, consumer electronics, and distributed power and generation markets.

Intelligent Energy is an outstanding example of a successful science park company. In 2001, they were the 'one-to-watch' in Loughborough University's new Innovation Centre. In late 2014 its Initial Public Offering valued the company at £639 million (\$1.1 billion) – sufficient to qualify for inclusion in the FTSE 250 index

An IP rich company with over 25 years in R&D, resulting in over 550 patents (granted/pending), IE has a workforce of over 350 and its global headquarters is based on Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Parks and is a key part of LUSEP's thriving energy cluster.

Their success has helped drive the expansion of LUSEP and support major funding bids which will help to provide a long term boost for the local

economy and secure Loughborough's future as a centre for knowledge-based high-growth industry

Since January 2013, LUSEP has received £4.9M in public funds to support its development from its current floor space of 63,000m<sup>2</sup> to 200,000m<sup>2</sup>, including £2M from Leicester and Leicestershire City Deal, announced in March 2014.

The Company's significant global achievements are consistently recognised in the UK's foremost technology award programmes including Deloitte's (ranked 15th in UK Fast 50 with 1,333% growth over the preceding five years, ranked 111th, EMEA Fast 500, 2013), and Sunday Times UK Tech Track 100 (55th in 2012 climbing to 27th in 2013).

In February 2014, Intelligent Energy were declared the Midlands' fastest growing company by Business Insider Growth.

*"Since developing the world's first purpose built hydrogen fuel cell motorbike in 2005, IE have established an impressive reputation for innovation"*



Loughborough University – a proven track record in commercialising research

## Successful innovation environments

The UKSPA 30th Anniversary Award (in 2014) for Most Successful Innovation Environment was Surrey Research Park

The Surrey Research Park and its tenants are bringing new technologies to market and increasing the number, size and sector representation of technology-driven companies, thanks to a flexible commercial model, a culture of innovation stemming from its early vision, and a collaborative platform powered by research-based data and insight from the University and other tenant companies.

SRP plays a major role in developing new technologies and contributing to UK's reputation internationally for innovation in science, technology, engineering and medicine. In 2009, the UKSPA Award Winner as most innovative company was Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) – a company based on Surrey Research Park.



A major centre of excellence in technology, science and engineering, Surrey Research Park is widely regarded as the best of its kind in the United Kingdom.



SRP is owned, developed and managed by The University of Surrey.

## Building Successful companies

In the late 1970s, a group of highly-skilled aerospace researchers working at the University of Surrey, decided to experiment by creating a satellite using commercial off-the shelf (COTS) components. Their first satellite, UoSAT-1, was launched in 1981 with the help of NASA and the mission was a great success, outliving its planned 3 year life by more than 5 years.

In 1985 the University of Surrey formed Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd as a spin-out company to transfer the results of its research into a commercial enterprise. In 2009 the EADS group company Astrium BV bought a 99% shareholding in SSTL from the University.

The growth of the company has accelerated, and their innovative approach to the design, build, test and operation of spacecraft has propelled SSTL to the forefront of the small satellite industry. Today SSTL employs 450 staff in South East and has launched 47 satellites to date.

## About UKSPA Members

Information on all UKSPA members can be downloaded from the UKSPA website. These 120 member locations have a crucial role to play in supporting innovative firms.

Companies choose to locate their R&D and other innovation activities in places with the right kind of premises, a flexible and supportive business environment, and co-location with synergetic businesses and service companies.

UKSPA members join up the various parts of the innovation journey, from the earliest stages of growth in an incubator or business accelerator, to the maturity of major international companies located on many science park campuses open innovation. Information on all UKSPA members can be downloaded from the UKSPA website

## About UKSPA

UKSPA is a membership based Association providing opportunities for Science Parks, Innovation Centres and Incubators to network, share good practice and pool knowledge and experience to accelerate business growth,

*“The Surrey Research Park makes an annual contribution of between £450m-£625m to the regional economy”*