

Innovate UK Business Connect - KTP Platform (Current)

2810 Innovate UK KTP 50th Golden Awards

West of Scotland KTP Centre

Application name should be the nominee name (i.e. the name of the Partnership team, project, people or person who will be the recipient of the Award).

Entrant Name

Entrant Email

Nominee Name West of Scotland KTP Centre

Nominee Email

Confidentiality Declaration

- ✓ I confirm all contributors to this project have provided consent for the use of the information provided in this application to be used by the organisers in any promotion of the Awards.
- ✓ The information provided does not include commercially sensitive content that requires approval before it is made public.

Consent

- ✓ I am happy for any of the information provided to be used by the organisers in any promotion of the Awards

1. Knowledge with Impact

Criteria

In this category applications should demonstrate exemplary TCS / KTP credentials, with a particular focus on evidencing the impacts made, the transformative outcomes delivered, and the exploitation potential realised.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, your TCS / KTP participation must have begun after 1st January 1975 and have been completed by 30 June 2025.

2. Driving Innovation for the Future

Criteria

Here we wish to showcase the most creative, innovative and market-disruptive aspects of TCS / KTP. Applicants here should be able to demonstrate and evidence the nature, novelty and scale of progressive change enabled and exploited by TCS / KTP.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, your TCS / KTP participation must have begun after 1st January 1975 and have been completed by 30 June 2025.

3. The Art of Successful Collaboration

Criteria

This theme exemplifies the TCS / KTP ethos, here we wish to focus on the relationship aspects of TCS / KTP and how applicants can demonstrate a depth and breadth of reach and impact that has been facilitated through people and organisations working in partnership for a common goal.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, your TCS / KTP participation must have begun after 1st January 1975 and have been completed by 30 June 2025.

The shortlisted finalists for each category will be invited to attend the Gold Awards Gala Dinner on Wednesday, 29th October 2025 at the Kimpton Clock Tower Hotel in Manchester. Each shortlisted finalist will be allocated three Gold Awards Gala Dinner tickets, but will be responsible for covering their own travel and accommodation costs.

Are you applying for the Art of Successful Collaboration Category? Yes

About the Nominees

Describe the People/ Partners/ Participants involved including any available TCS/ KTP project details (mention here any relevant context such as Knowledge Base and Company Partner details, main company activities, markets, locations; also consider providing turnover, profitability, and headcount numbers where possible).

For nearly 30 years, the West of Scotland KTP Centre (The Centre), hosted by the University of Strathclyde, has been a national leader in KTP delivery. With a typical portfolio of 40–50 projects, peaking at 60 in 2010, we are a shared service supporting five diverse Knowledge Bases (KBs): Strathclyde, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Glasgow School of Art, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. This long-standing model has enabled us to build deep expertise and trusted relationships across the sector.

Our experienced team of six manages the challenges of volume and variety, currently supporting around 40 live projects across the UK and working with 22 KTAs. We provide strategic and operational support throughout the KTP lifecycle, from bid development and partnership matchmaking to financial management and post-award mentoring.

As a collaborative and adaptable support hub, we tailor our services to meet the distinct strategic priorities of each KB. We work closely with innovation agencies and stakeholders to maximise opportunities for our partners.

The Centre has consistently ranked in the UK top five for KTP activity and is recognised for best-in-class delivery. Our work drives real-world impact, fosters innovation, and contributes meaningfully to economic growth across multiple sectors.

The Strategic Context

What was the strategic challenge, need or opportunity that this KTP (or formerly TCS) nomination set out to address? Please outline the key purpose/ aims/ objectives of your partnership(s) and/ or the drivers motivating the Gold Award nominee(s)

The Centre has strategically embedded a culture of innovation and collaboration across Scotland's academic landscape. Over the past 29 years, we have supported 535 projects, generating £83m in grant income for our Knowledge Base Partners. Our regional Centre model has played a key role in Scotland consistently exceeding its expected share of the UK KTP portfolio (~12%). This is a testament to the strength and influence of our approach.

We work with a diverse range of KB partners, each with distinct missions, structures, and strategic priorities. Our ability to adapt and tailor support ensures alignment with institutional goals while maintaining consistency and quality across the board. This includes meaningful engagement with the college sector, where we have supported several KTP projects (2007-2011) and we continue to collaborate on initiatives. We are a stakeholder partner in the Glasgow City Region CLIC project and have joint activities planned for the coming year.

Our structured opportunity pipeline, powered by Salesforce CRM, enables efficient project development, typically within an eight-week window, and supports long-term strategic planning. We deliver bespoke workshops, mentoring, and training to academics and industry partners, regularly contributing to the KTP Managers' Conference and leading national sessions.

Our portfolio reflects international and cross-sector collaboration, such as the African Agriculture KTP with IWAD, UDS Ghana and GCU, showcasing the breadth of our engagement and our commitment to inclusive innovation.

Beyond delivery, our Centre has helped shape national KTP strategy through active participation in the KTP National Forum, and collaborative marketing initiatives such as the KTP Scotland website, branding, and YouTube channel. We are proud to have been selected by the KTP community to host the 2026 Practitioners' Conference in Glasgow – a recognition of our leadership and collaborative ethos.

This strategic systems-based approach continues to strengthen academic-industry engagement and foster a sustainable innovation ecosystem.

Overview of Outcomes/ Impacts for the Beneficiaries

Please outline the key achievements for the host Organisation(s), the Knowledge Base(s) and the Associate(s). What were the evidential impacts and outcomes realised alongside any evidence of changes in operations, culture, economic/ societal/ environmental benefits etc. How was TCS / KTP applied to optimal effect for the mutual benefit of the involved stakeholders and how did the collaborators ensure that sum of the outcomes realised went beyond the individual and collective ambitions.

The Centre delivers measurable and sustained impact for all stakeholders involved in KTP. For KB's, we've generated over £83m in income and maintained a consistently large portfolio of 40–60 active projects. Strathclyde, our host institution, has long ranked in the UK top five for KTP activity. Over the past five years, 84% of our projects have been graded A or B, exceeding the UK average, and reflecting the consistently high quality and effectiveness of our delivery.

We are the only Centre to request annual feedback from the KTAs and project teams, both pre- and post-award. This commitment to listening and learning drives continuous improvement and ensures our services remain responsive, inclusive, and aligned with stakeholder needs.

For businesses, our KTPs have delivered innovation, improved productivity and opened new markets. Many partners return for repeat projects, and sustained collaboration with academic teams is common. Our Centre has helped build a network of KTP advocates in influential roles — including former Director Alasdair Cameron, now CEO of ARMA, who continue to champion the programme.

KTP Associates benefit from structured induction, mentoring, and peer networking. Our buddy system and monthly wellbeing check-ins, introduced during the pandemic and still ongoing, support personal and professional development. Many Associates transition into senior roles within their host companies.

We provide extensive onboarding for project supervisors and ongoing post-award support throughout the project lifecycle. Our innovations, such as KTP Certificates presented at LMC0 and LinkedIn welcome articles for new Associates, have been widely adopted across the UK.

The Centre's influence extends nationally, shaping policy, training, and community engagement. Through our Images event, we initiated the renewal of links between KTP Scotland and Interface, fostering wider engagement and regular collaboration. Our consistent delivery of high-impact KTPs reflects a culture of excellence, collaboration, and strategic alignment with national innovation priorities.

WOW Factor!

What makes this nomination special in having applied the TCS/ KTP partnership culture and ethos to best effect and why should it win the Art of Successful Collaboration Gold Award?

What sets the KTP Centre apart is its longevity, leadership, culture of innovation, and deep commitment to community. We don't just deliver KTPs — we shape the ecosystem that enables them to thrive and evolve.

From founding the "I Love KTP" movement in 2011 to hosting national conferences and mentoring new practitioners, our team exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and creativity. We have pioneered initiatives including:

- Strathclyde Women in KTP (WiKTP) – promoting gender diversity in innovation.
- KTP Images Competition & Showcase – celebrating impact through visual storytelling.
- International engagement – hosting delegations from Sweden and Thailand, inspiring the development of their own respective KTP models.

Our legacy includes:

- Creating and managing the Scottish TCS/KTP Associate Seminar Series since 1998.
- Hosting the KTP Managers' Conference (2011) and Associate Conference (2015). We were the first host of the KTP Associate conference when it moved away from its historic home in Brighton.
- Leading the National KTP Forum as Chair and Vice-Chair (2013–2017).
- Securing Scottish Government funding to create and deliver the Scottish TCS/KTP Awards (2007-2012) attended by politicians, university VCs and UK business leaders.
- Leading workshops on a variety of topics at numerous TCS/KTP Conferences since 2004 when the original TCS Managers meetings evolved into a conference format
- Organised a KTP@40 celebration in 2015 on behalf of the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council, welcoming 400 attendees.
- We introduced KTP Certificates at LMC0, now widely adopted, and were first to post LinkedIn welcome articles for new Associates — complete with an "I heart KTP" mug.

Even as staff move on, our embedded knowledge ensures continuity and excellence. The Centre is more than a delivery hub — it's a national asset. Our work has shaped policy, empowered people, and delivered lasting impact. That is why we believe we exemplify the Art of Successful Collaboration.

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