

Innovate UK Business Connect - KTP Platform (Current)

2797 Innovate UK KTP 50th Golden Awards

The University of Salford KTP Office

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 The University of Salford KTP Office

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 Yes
Art of Successful
Collaboration Category?

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).

Founded in 1896 as the Royal Technical Institute, Salford, the University's roots lie in the great Industrial Revolution, which transformed the region and the world. Salford's thriving textile industry, powered by the Manchester Ship Canal, drove demand for new industrial skills and led to the formation of the Pendleton Mechanics Institute and Salford Working Men's College in the mid-19th century. These merged to form the Royal Technical Institute, opened by the Duke and Duchess of York in 1896, evolving through several iterations before becoming the University of Salford with the granting of its Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth II in 1967. This legacy of industry engagement and civic mission continues to underpin Salford's leadership in knowledge transfer partnerships.

As one of the original TCS pilot institutions, Salford has delivered over 150 KTPs, partnering with non-for-profits, SMEs and global enterprises to drive innovation across manufacturing, engineering, health, and digital sectors. The University of Salford KTP Office exemplifies "Knowledge with Impact," supporting projects that deliver tangible benefits for businesses, staff, and Associates, and ensuring academic expertise is closely aligned with industry needs to foster collaborative innovation and lasting economic and social benefit.

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 University of Salford's strategic challenge has always been to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industrial application. This mission was clearly articulated at the 1969 "University in the Industrial World" conference, where the University presented its integrated education model, combining academic study with industrial experience, as a solution to the disconnect between universities and the needs of a rapidly industrialising society. Speakers such as Dr de Ferranti (Chairman of Ferranti Ltd, was a British electrical engineer and inventor who pioneered high-voltage AC power in the UK, patented the Ferranti dynamo and designed Deptford power station) highlighted the importance of producing graduates ready to contribute to real engineering and commercial enterprises.

Building on this foundation, Salford became one of the first institutions to pilot the TCS, and has since evolved its model to meet contemporary challenges. Recognising the need for deeper research integration, Salford launched its industrial PhD programme in 2011, inspired by the KTP structure but targeting lower TRL levels. This initiative enables companies to engage in long-term strategic innovation while nurturing academic talent.

An example of this is the relationship with Farrat_Isolevel Ltd, a company specialising in vibration isolation and thermal insulation with a strong presence in construction and industrial markets. This partnership began with a KTP(KTP010582) and has since expanded to include two others (KTP10008155+10034085), an industrial PhD, and a Centre for Doctoral Training PhD project, culminating in a formal Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2025. The recent signing of an MoU formalises this relationship and reflects a shared commitment to innovation, talent development, and industrial growth.

Salford's strategic aim has always been to create mutually beneficial partnerships that deliver real-world impact. Its pioneering role in TCS/KTP and its continued evolution through initiatives like the industrial PhD programme demonstrate a deep-rooted commitment to collaborative innovation.

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.

Over the past ca.50 years, the University of Salford has generated an inflation-adjusted income of £32+M from TCS/KTPs, which based on Innovate UK's own ROI estimates, equates to approximately £160M in economic return. Since launching its industrial PhD programme in 2011, Salford has secured an additional £7.5M in income, yielding a further £37M in ROI. Together, these initiatives have delivered nearly £200M in impact.

Beyond financial metrics, the cultural and operational transformations within partner organisations have been profound. Companies have adopted more agile innovation practices, while Salford has embedded industrial relevance into its teaching and research. Associates have gone on to lead innovation teams, launch businesses, and contribute to regional and national growth.

Salford's partnerships span a wide spectrum, local SMEs to national bodies and global enterprises. Over the past two decades, the University has collaborated with more than 150 organisations through KTPs, AKTs and industrial PhDs. These include pioneering engagements such as the first KTP with a remote-only company during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the first KTP with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, reflecting Salford's ability to adapt to emerging needs and policy landscapes. Partners have included public sector bodies like Manchester City Council, Transport for Greater Manchester, and DEFRA; charities such as Kidney Care UK and Charity Bank; and commercial innovators like United Utilities, BBC, DNV, Irwin Mitchell, Scottish Natural Heritage, Electricity Northwest and Scottish Natural Heritage.

This diversity of engagement illustrates Salford's mission to deliver lasting economic and social benefit through collaborative innovation. The University's integrated education model continues to shape its approach to employability and real-world learning. KTPs have been transformational for Salford, its partners, and its Associates, catalysing innovation, enhancing competitiveness, and fostering a culture of collaboration that continues to deliver optimal outcomes across sectors.

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?

Salford's nomination is distinguished by its longevity, adaptability, and strategic foresight. From being a pilot institution in the original Teaching Company Scheme, to hosting the 40th year KTP Managers Conference, and co-hosting the 50th anniversary celebrations of KTP, Salford has consistently demonstrated leadership in collaborative innovation.

What makes this nomination truly special is the University's ability to evolve and extend the KTP model. The creation of the industrial PhD programme in 2011 shows how Salford has adapted the principles of KTP to new contexts, targeting lower TRL levels and enabling deeper research integration. This initiative alone has delivered £37M in ROI, complementing the £160M generated through traditional KTPs, for a total impact of nearly £200M.

Salford's commitment to industry engagement is not new, it was embedded in its founding principles in 1896 and reaffirmed when it became a University, where leaders praised its integrated education model and its close ties to industry. This enduring philosophy continues to drive Salford's success and impact.

This nomination embodies "Knowledge with Impact" and deserves recognition for its pioneering role, its transformative outcomes, and its unwavering dedication to collaborative innovation.