



SMARTER WIRELESS



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS  
FOR ENTERPRISE:  
INNOVATION  
2011



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS  
FOR ENTERPRISE:  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
2015



FS584973  
ISO 9001:2008



UKAS  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



EMS584974  
ISO 14001:2004

## Business-University Research Collaborations

### A Smaller Business Perspective

The Dowling Review



Enabling High Capacity Mobile Networks



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## 2 Perspectives: 1) Smaller Growing Business 2) Local Enterprise Partnership

- Radio Design is Smaller Growing Business
  - Founded in 2007 with 11 people, now over 300 with operations in UK, India and China
  - Multi-award winning business
  - Manufacturing in the historic Salts Mill, Shipley, West Yorkshire
  - Experience with CASE studentships, Short KTPs, ICLP placements & direct undergraduate sponsorship
  - Began a 5 year collaboration with University of Leeds in 2012



UK Manufacturing



GLOBAL PARTNER  
BEST TELECOM  
AWARDS



Shipley, UK



Salts Mill, UK



Oulu, Finland



Gurgaon, India



Wuxi, China



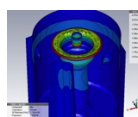
Game Changer  
of the Year



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## University of Leeds 5 Year Research Partnership

- Radio Design sponsor a RAEng Research Chair
  - Centre For Microwave Signal Processing
  - Team of 7 PhD researchers Led by Professor Ian Hunter
  - Closely supported by Radio Design R&D team
  - Resulting IP vests in Radio Design
- Managed programme of research with clear goals & objectives
  - early results adopted in product designs within 12 months
  - Leading to £Ms worth of product sales



65% size  
reduction



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## The LEP - Leeds City Region

- Private sector member of the LEP Board & Chair of LEP Business Innovation & Growth (BIG) Panel
- Improving Innovation Performance is a key priority
- Recently launched our LEP Growth Service
  - includes a team of 10 growth managers
- LEPs can be part of the solution but need guidance & support



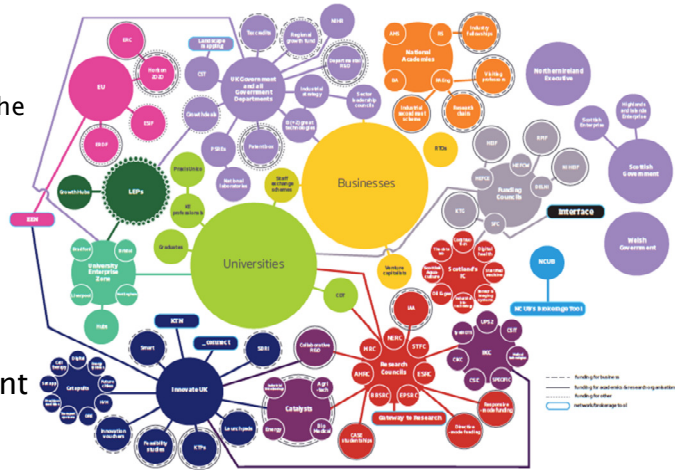
Launch of LEP Growth Service – July 2015



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## Dowling Review Highlights & Comments

- Current innovation system is too complex
  - especially for smaller businesses
  - many businesses don't even get out of the starting blocks
- Effective brokerage is essential
- Motivation for Universities & Academics needs changing
- Pump prime funding is very important
- Government innovation strategy is critical and does make a difference



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## Key Points for my Business

- Simplify the innovation collaboration system
  - or as least “hide the wiring” (& the administration)
- Improve motivation
  - for both business & universities
- Effective brokerage is essential for both sides
  - as a business, we are already motivated to collaborate
  - but the whole process is still far to complicated & too slow



## Summary

- The Dowling Review is outstanding and captures the current landscape extremely effectively
- Well constructed recommendations take account of, & build on, existing innovation & collaboration infrastructure
- Government action based on these recommendations can have a meaningful and positive impact on our nation's long term economic growth
- LEPs are relatively new organisations which, given appropriate support and guidance could be used very effectively to deliver significantly improved business-university collaboration to address local priorities
  - particularly for smaller businesses
- There is a massive gap in the support infrastructure for businesses that:
  - are above “medium” size (up to 249 employees)
  - are clearly not very large
  - have massive growth potential given appropriate support