



VICTREX – growth through collaborative R&D:

At a glance: A leading global player in high performance polymers, Victrex plc has revenues of £220m. through sales to the aero, auto, medical, energy and electronics market sectors.

A three-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the University of Manchester (OMIC) has been a sharply focused and highly cost-effective R&D route, contributing to rapid innovation in extreme temperature plastics.

Challenge: Victrex targets business growth through product leadership, translating rapid market-focused innovation into high performance, market leading products.

Yet speedy, cost-effective R&D with rapid project start-up can pose both investment and timeline challenges.

Approach: The KTP approach accesses University expertise and resources, freshening and broadening the scientific perspectives to address the challenge.

The project model (“small is beautiful” collaboration) ensures retention of sharp focus on delivering objectives – and avoidance of compromises impacting on efficiency, timeline and value-for-money.

Benefits: The Partnership enabled de-risking of high innovation potential projects. The KTP additionally generated an effective, “beyond core competence” network - fostering further collaboration. Cost-effectiveness - where permanent R&D resource investment would be deemed inappropriate – was a further benefit.

KCMC support: Facilitating development of the KTP with OMIC at the University of Manchester and negotiation of the KTP agreement. Ensuring an excellent match between Victrex’s requirements and UOM’s expertise and extensive facilities.

Timeline: Three-year project - ongoing.