

# partnership

## succeeding through innovation

**Case Study:** Filmlight Ltd. and  
De Montfort University

*“The developing and embedding of an in-house design capability was not only achieved to a high degree but additional benefits are visible and tangible in the design and manufacturing process across the company. Products developed as a result of the KTP have been instrumental in reinforcing the quality brand of the company and enhancing its market position in the face of increased competition.”*

**Steve Chapman & Wolfgang Lempp, Joint Managing Directors**

### Background

Filmlight Ltd. work with digital film technology, developing high productivity tools for digital post production (special effects and image manipulation). The company designs, develops and supplies digital film processing hardware and software, and recognised the need to expand its product base by introducing a broader range of products and services.

### Objective

To complement their existing products with a new product, and establish an in-house design capability. The design process will be used to establish cost effective manufacturing methods and create a brand identity throughout the product range that can be transferred to future product development.

### Company benefits

Two significant new products have been designed, manufactured and introduced into the market:

1. The Blackboard colour correction control surface
2. The Truelight projector calibration probe

The company has also gained:

- An increase in company turnover by 30%
- Expanded customer base and product range
- Principles of design and manufacturing fully embedded into the company

### Associate benefits

- Employed by the company as Industrial Designer, taking a lead role in the creation of new products
- MA qualification
- Training in design and animation software

Luke Wolfson will work with the Software Team at Filmlight to develop new products, he will continue to carry out research, co-ordinate with electronic engineers and scientists, and generate technical drawings for production.



### University benefits

- Enabled a project to catalogue students' designs
- Associate will teach at DMU 1 day per week for Industrial Design students for one term
- Two papers published at international conferences – raising the profile of DMU
- Staff development in software usage

### Partnership outcomes

The project originated from an existing partnership between DMU and the company which has been further strengthened as a result of the KTP. Filmlight Ltd. and the academics involved (Michael Marsden and Mike Henville) continue to work together to mutual benefit. Filmlight Ltd. Are now at the forefront of the digital film industry and have won two Queens Awards in 2005 & 2006 for Industry for internal trade and innovation.

### Get in touch

For more information about how we can help your business, call (0116) 257 7028 and speak to a member of the Knowledge Exchange Team, alternatively visit [dmu.ac.uk/ktp](http://dmu.ac.uk/ktp)

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