

SPACE IDEAS HUB Newsletter

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 Space IDEAS Hub



Ed Chester,
Project Manager

WELCOME to the final Space IDEAS Hub newsletter. In this issue, we look back at some of the highlights of the Space IDEAS Hub as the project comes to an end in June 2014. There are headline statistics of the project impact, information about an upcoming event, team news, and some of the quotes from people and companies we've helped along the way.

The annual World Space Week in October saw Space IDEAS Hub participate at a skills and business event hosted by Warwick University, and we participated in the second European Space Solutions business event in

November where models of business and academic collaboration were discussed. The team have separately worked on both sides of this particular fence now, and together on the same side. We know its not easy, but hope that we have changed at least a few perceptions about how to engage - and what can be achieved - when people take time to understand and build the relationships.

Nationally, the Satellite Applications Catapult will now undertake some of the Space IDEAS Hub types of work, and a regional centre of excellence is in preparation to interface businesses with the Catapults.

But we're not done just yet! We're hosting one final business networking event - with a difference this time! More details inside.

So, to everyone we've met, worked with, supported or been supported by, the Space IDEAS Hub salutes you and wishes you an enterprising future and success with innovation!

Inside this issue:

- 3D Printing Case Study
- Obituary
- Team News
- HUB:BLE-3 Final Event
- Space IDEAS Hub in Numbers



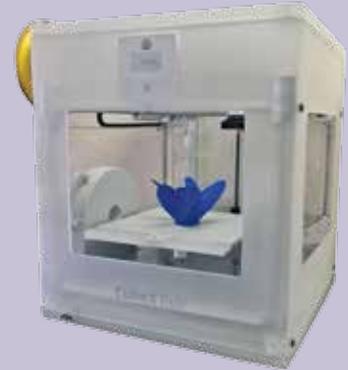
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3D Printing

One of the newest technologies hitting the headlines at the moment is 3D-printing. Here at the Space IDEAS Hub, we've been using the technology to help with product development with a number of clients. The big advantages of 3D-printing are that it is relatively quick and cheap to get a design from paper to an actual size physical component without the need for costly moulds or set up costs.

To date, we've used 3D-printing for Foxton Global Sourcing (now Primetake) on a component for its Pharobit Flashlight, Synyang on an addition to its police radio, Nat Coalson Fine Art and Design on an new art display project for hotels and Shake to Taste on a new peanut dispensing product for bars. Being able to print components has allowed us to validate the designs and update them to meet the client's needs. There is nothing like having the physical component in your hands to complete a product design review.

In the wider Space Research Centre, work has been undertaken in the use of 3D-printed components for Space missions. One of the big advantages of this technology is that products can be made that couldn't be made by conventional techniques – allowing true innovation in design. However, Space is a harsh environment and we've also conducted studies to understand the possible failure modes of this new technique – something it is going to be increasingly important to understand when they start making aircraft using 3D-printers!



Obituary - Prof. George Fraser

It is with sadness that we marked the passing of Professor George Fraser in March 2013. George was the project leader for the Space IDEAS Hub and was a great champion of our work. Team meetings were all the better for George being there with his interesting insights and delightful wit.



George was an innovative and talented experimental physicist who was involved in many different research projects in areas ranging from X-ray astronomy to medical imaging and archaeology. His contributions to the Department of Physics and Astronomy's research, teaching and knowledge exchange programmes will be greatly missed.

Professor Ken Pounds, Emeritus Professor of Space Physics, said: "George's untimely death is a personal and collegiate tragedy. No one in my time has done more to make Leicester a world-leading centre for space research. He still had much to look forward to, not least with the forthcoming launch of Bepi-Colombo. He will be greatly missed."

So long and thanks for all the fish...

The Space IDEAS Hub project at the University of Leicester has come to an end. It has been a 3 year project of regional business support on knowledge exchange and technology transfer from the Space Research Centre at the University, aimed primarily at small and medium sized enterprises within the East Midlands Region.

We would like to thank you wholeheartedly for all the support you have given us during this time and for all the interesting projects you have brought us to work on.

As a lasting legacy, we would like to ask if you would let us know of any business success achieved over the past few years where our project has helped. Success stories are always good to hear and provide us with useful feedback on innovation in the region. Please send your success stories to enquiries@spaceideashub.com.

As for us, Lisa and Guy are staying with the University having secured new roles. Tim is retiring. Andy is off to work with the Knowledge Transfer Networks and Ed is planning future projects back in industry.

It's been a great deal of fun, with many stories to recount! Thank you once again and we wish you continued success.

Lisa, Tim, Ed, Andy and Guy
Space IDEAS Hub Team





HUB:BLE-3 - An Unmissable UnConference of an Event

Thursday, 12 June 2014, Phoenix Square, Leicester

Following on from the outstanding successes of our previous HUB:BLE events, the Space IDEAS Hub team invite you to a networking conference with a difference!

In previous events, we've brought you technology and business talks to inspire you and to help develop and grow your ideas and business. This time, we're turning the tables!

We want you to decide the content! We have put together the framework of the event with all the care and attention of our previous conferences but we are asking you to offer a talk you think will interest the delegates.

Ideally, we want the talks to be about science, engineering, technology, business or innovation to showcase the great work that you are doing. If you aren't sure - get in touch to discuss your idea.

We want you to post your idea online (at hubble.biz) and then people are going to vote on the ideas. You can let your contacts know and get them to vote for your talk.

We will preferentially select the highest-voted talk ideas, but reserve the right to 'tweak' things to make for a balanced and interesting programme. All speakers will be contacted individually to confirm their participation.

"Gem of an event"

"It was refreshing to see the diversity of businesses, speakers and support organisations"

"Good well balanced agenda / topics. More of the same!"

"One of the best local business events I've been to"



The Project in Numbers...

96
regional SMEs supported

"The workshop held at the University of Leicester was pivotal in consolidating the ideas used in developing and light-weighting the prototype of the Transfer System and helped to secure further funding."

Simon Hobbs, Managing Director, Canard Design Ltd

35
new business collaborations

13
graduates placed in companies

£1.3m
of additional investment to companies

"Gaining access to advanced materials analysis and testing equipment can be very challenging for a SME. The Space IDEAS Hub provided us with rapid results from materials testing, enabling County Drains to move forward with confidence in new product prototyping."

Stewart Osgood, Director, Country Drains (Leicester) Ltd

5
new businesses created

"For any SME it's very difficult to find and gain specialist knowledge - more often than not, it is also very costly. There are so many things you need to consider when designing new products/concepts, thus we moved very fast and gained professional support working collaboratively with the Space IDEAS Hub."

Vimal Chauhan, Founder of DriveMyCarHome.co.uk Ltd

3
technology sector events

19
products developed

5
technology licenses and patents

5
business networking events

£764k
funding support for regional development

"The technique being developed by the Space IDEAS Hub has the potential to significantly reduce the wastage of unused medicines in the UK and to improve the lives of millions of impoverished men, women and children who rely on Inter Care for life saving medical treatment."

Jean Widdowson, Trustee, Inter Care

175
m² of upgraded technology transfer floorspace

"The pneumatic modifications to existing NoDecS units are simple and elegant and there is no loss of functionality to the system, so the idea is a winner all round."

Andy Russell, Electronics Designer, Rober Ltd

242
local firms at project knowledge exchange events