



Belfast: a city campus

Among those social enterprises that have benefited from consultancy support using Ulster's academic expertise is Belfast based Avec Solutions. Chief Executive Maurice Kinkead sought help and advice from Ulster University on several aspects of employment law. Commenting on the University's expertise, Maurice said:

"I gladly acknowledge that the help we have received from the University of Ulster by way of advice on an urgent employment law matter and a very clear, comprehensive and helpful report on a much more complex range of issues was exactly what we needed. The support we received was simply excellent and offered in a very professional yet user-friendly manner."

The University of Ulster's track record in consultancy is grounded in both its excellent reputation in the arts, science, engineering, social sciences and business sectors as well as its ability to mobilise multidisciplinary teams from these disciplines. Its policy on the provision of consultancy by its academic staff is unique amongst higher education establishments in Ireland.

The University is modern and progressive with an established

track record in supporting the Northern Ireland economy and in creating opportunities for individual personal development, for developing the skills force and in ensuring that local businesses have the research and development skills that they require to compete.

The University provides skills and knowledge in key sectors including health, business, IT, biosciences, the creative and media industries, environmental sciences and real estate. Working with a variety of partners in the business, educational and not-for-profit spheres, the university delivers training, consultancy, research and development services, and knowledge transfer throughout Ireland and further afield.

Each campus houses internationally recognised centres of excellence. Some examples illustrate the breadth of the University's work. At Jordanstown, NIBEC - the Nanotechnology and Integrated Bio-Engineering Centre - is a purpose-built research complex. NIBEC has developed a series of innovations that have lead to cutting edge medical devices that in turn have stimulated the creation of spin-out companies. The most successful of these being HeartSine Technology, Sensors Technology and Devices Ltd. ►

Case Study

James Leckey Design Ltd is a global market leader in the design and manufacture of equipment for children with disabilities. Following a strategic review in 2004, the company began an ambitious product development plan to replace its existing range with new products incorporating the latest thinking and current best practice in positioning children with special needs.

To provide the much needed clinical input to the product development programme the company entered into a KTP with the University's School of Health Sciences and employed an occupational therapist – the first KTP programme in the UK to appoint an allied health professional.

