William Beckett Plastics Ltd

Partnership enables the development of new production techniques, leading to the launch of new company, Beckett MIM

About the company
William Beckett Plastics Ltd (WBP Ltd) is a leading manufacturer of Specialised Cutting Tool Packaging for the cutting tool industry and supplies its product range worldwide. The company hold a competitive advantage in the UK; possessing the manufacturing facilities for plastic injection moulding, blow-moulding and thermo-forming. The internationally active company were looking for ways to achieve growth by expanding their existing core competencies and exposing themselves to new ideas and markets.
The Mercury Centre. Engineering at Sheffield.

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Project objectives
The aim of the KTP was to develop Metal Injection Moulding (MIM) technology for the production of components for the use in engineering and other applications. Metal Injection Moulding (MIM) offers a myriad of advantages over other manufacturing processes. Where small part size, complexity, and high volume are primary factors; this sophisticated, time-saving, and cost-effective technology offers the optimal solution. The main challenge of the project was to develop a MIM process suitable for production scale.

Project outputs
The KTP enabled the business to access knowledge and expertise within the University to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance in this new technology area.

Extensive materials analysis and testing were performed using these expertise and facilities available at the Mercury Centre. This resulted in new products being developed using the new technique.

Business benefits
The growing interest and number of enquiries has led to the successful launch of a new company Beckett MIM, capable of mass producing complex functional parts, and the employment of the KTP associate, Lukas Jiranek as Technical Manager at Beckett MIM Ltd.

The partnership with the University also assisted WBP Ltd with the technical leverage needed to receive Regional Growth Funding necessary for the relocation of the new company and the purchase of machinery. The company will have continued access to the Mercury Centre’s facilities and further projects have since been launched.

“WBP Ltd has significantly benefited from the knowledge and enthusiasm of the associate and academics at the University of Sheffield which has enhanced the company’s knowledge of the MIM process, ensuring future growth and success in the marketplace”

William Beckett, Managing Director, WBP Ltd and Beckett MIM.

For further information please visit: mercurycentre.org

For further information on the ways to collaborate with the University and contact details please visit: Sheffield.ac.uk/business

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