Case Study:
Partnering with Dstl

Dstl maximises the impact of science and technology for the defence and security of the UK, by working with industry and academia to create winning technologies for the Ministry of Defence (MoD.)

In 2010, Dstl began working with the University of Kent to establish how its main research areas could respond to key science and technological needs of the defence industries, including Human Capabilities, Materials and Energy and Cyber Security.

Working partnership
Developing close links with Dstl's programme areas, domains and its Centre for Defence Enterprise (the MoD's gateway to the outside world), by the end of 2012 Kent successfully secured over 500k in project funding to support research and enterprise collaborations.

A wide range of projects spanning Science and Social Science faculties have been awarded funding to solve problems in communications, counter-terrorism, system security, psychology and human behaviour, logistics and power sources. Latest research in the Materials arena includes battery building and design, and improving the performance and characteristics of energy storage.

Kent's leading research in social psychology and sports studies is contributing to the Human Capabilities arena with 'Brain Endurance Training' to increase soldier resistance to cognitive fatigue. Groundbreaking research from the University's Centre for Cyber Security focuses on assured remote access to the cloud; body worn antennas; biometrics including facial expressions and linking to neuroscience and cognitive systems.

Future collaborations
Multi-disciplinary project collaborations are also underway with the School of Engineering and Digital Arts; and academic fellowships are in place with the School of Psychology, School of Engineering and Digital Arts and the School of Physical Sciences.

Dstl’s Jim Wilson said of the working partnership,

“Universities benefit from our experts as lecturers or in supervisory roles, and Dstl benefits with access to specialist facilities, research and expertise. Kent has a rich vein of hitherto untapped expertise in key science and technology areas that can help address Dstl requirements. The past year has provided the opportunity to explore mutual areas of interest, and we very much look forward to strengthening the relationship.”

For further information on how your business can benefit from our support and services, contact Kent Innovation & Enterprise, University of Kent, T: +44 (0)1227 827376  E: enterprise@kent.ac.uk  www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/