



# Interface

The knowledge connection for business

## Connecting businesses to Scotland's world-leading academic expertise

Based regionally throughout Scotland, Interface works with businesses of all sizes, in all sectors, matching them to the world-leading academic expertise within Scotland to support industry led research and development.

Engaging with industry can help academics to:

- impact the economy through application of research
- grow industrial contacts and networks relevant to research themes
- provide additional income to fund staff and departments
- support student engagement with industry via work based learning and sponsored students to provide new ideas, skills and enhance employability
- increase academic publications and provide evidence for Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021) impact case studies
- create commercial opportunities from specialist facilities and off-the-shelf technologies
- establish new avenues for applied research
- research and solve real world industry challenges
- build relationships with other universities and disciplines

### How we can help you?

*Seeking new industry collaborators?*  
*Wish to apply novel research in an industry setting?*  
*Don't know what businesses are looking for?*

***This is where the Interface team can help!***

Interface **promotes academic expertise** as a valuable resource for research and development to businesses. Every day the Interface team engages with businesses and industry leaders across the country to understand their individual business and wider sector challenges and through an established process **with all Scotland's universities, research institutes and colleges** will identify appropriate expertise, technologies and specialist facilities **to help solve these challenges**. By working together to accelerate entrepreneurship and innovation Interface can drive sustainable economic growth and help make Scotland a CAN DO place for business.



### Interface in numbers

Business supported by Interface contribute **£64.2 million** gross value added (GVA) a year for the Scottish economy, supporting around **1,060 Scottish jobs**. Since 2005, Interface has introduced **over 3,100 businesses** to academic partners and its success story is reflected in the following:

- Over **2,250** company and university collaborative projects initiated
- **33** multiparty group projects addressing key growth sector challenges
- **71%** of businesses were partnered with academic disciplines outside of their industry sector
- **83%** of businesses recorded reduced operating costs, increased productivity, profits, export, turnover and new or safeguarded employment
- **92%** of expertise searches identified
- **97%** of businesses said that their project would either not have happened or taken longer without support from Interface

### Connect with Interface

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## Sunamp and the University of Edinburgh



Interface matched Sunamp with the School of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh in 2008 to analyse Phase Change Materials (PCMs) to develop systems that store renewable energy as heat. As a result, the School of Chemistry has developed a new area of research and students have learned from the business and gained employment within the company. The partnership continues today, nine years after the initial introduction.

***"This is the most rewarding and enriching academic/industrial collaboration that I have been involved in. It is particularly gratifying to see the impact of fundamental research being applied in real world applications in such a short time."***

Professor Colin Pulham, Head of the School of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh.



## Snap40 and the University of the West of Scotland



Life & Chemical Sciences

Snap40 worked with the University of the West of Scotland, through Interface, to devise a method for monitoring hydration levels, and subsequently patients' health, through their non-invasive wearable device. This initial project has led on to follow-on work between the university, the company and the Digital Health & Care Institute.

***"As an early stage researcher, this project was very useful in demonstrating to me how companies and universities can work together with regard to knowledge exchange, intellectual property and commercial needs. The project was a success in that we were able to demonstrate our technology for the Snap40 application."***

Dr Dave Hughes, Research Fellow at the University of the West of Scotland, Founder of Novosound Ltd.



## Timespan Museum and Arts Centre and the University of St Andrews



Social Enterprise & Third Sector

Interface connected Timespan to the University of St Andrews to help them develop a virtual museum. The initial project was funded through an Innovation Voucher and since then the company and university have continued their partnership funded by a Follow On Innovation Voucher, a Student Placement Innovation Voucher and an EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA).

The project was included as an impact case study in the University of St Andrews submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014). The technology used for the Timespan project has spun out of the university to form Smart History, a company specialising in using new technologies in heritage and tourism contexts.