“It’s through curiosity and looking at opportunities in new ways that we’ve always mapped our path”

Michael Dell, Founder, Dell Technologies

Find out how the University worked with Drax Technology on alarm management and realising new market opportunities
Many organisations have to contend with managing multiple buildings with different alarm systems and rapidly changing alarm regulatory requirements. Drax Technology designs and manufactures software and hardware interface products that allow users to connect and centrally monitor events from different manufacturers’ alarm systems, regardless of their location.

Drax Technology were looking to develop their core offering by incorporating cutting edge developments into their products. In particular, Drax Technology were looking to examine a number of key areas including novel methods for communicating emergency information, alternative ways for mass evacuation, and gathering and analysing their existing data.

To overcome these challenges, Drax Technology and the University of Bedfordshire were successfully awarded funding for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP). A KTP helps businesses to innovate and grow by linking them with a research organisation and a graduate. Dr Paul Sant, Head of School of Computer Science and Technology, is an expert in algorithm (software) design and has significant expertise working with cloud-based solutions and developing Internet of Things (IoT) systems, both in software and hardware. Having been involved in the £16 million MK:SMART project, Dr Sant is supervising the research process of the KTP.

Dr Alexander Kofinas, Principal Lecturer in Business Systems and Strategy from the University of Bedfordshire Business School provided critical marketing expertise for the launch of Drax’s innovation, and incorporated new processes into the business model of the company.

The graduate, Usman Ali, has managed to complete prototype solutions for Drax Technology within 12 months. This prototype offers cutting edge solutions into alarm management and communication, and represents an exciting commercialisation opportunity for Drax Technology.

Having been awarded the KTP, Drax Technology are looking to explore further collaborative opportunities with the University of Bedfordshire.