

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR DTI's Electronics Design INDUSTRY PARTNER

June, 2001...Huddersfield based Andel Limited, a participant in DTI's Electronics Design Programme and its forerunner, Microelectronics in Business, has received the coveted Queen's Award for Enterprise (Innovation category).

Andel is a market leader in Water Leak Detection Technology, with installations in prominent buildings such as Canary Wharf, the MoD and Windsor Castle. Last year, a second generation microcontroller-based detection system, developed in conjunction with the Electronics Design Support Centre at Bolton Institute of Higher Education, received recognition from the Royal Academy of Engineering with an Award for Engineering Excellence. Andel also received a 'Millennium Project' award in the year 2000.

The award winning Andel 'Floodline 128 project is an advanced range of water leak detection products developed to interface with high-tech building management control systems. Like other security systems, the products are installed in the hope that they will never activate, but should a leakage occur, the zoned system is able to pinpoint exactly where the problem lies, allowing the user plenty of time to take appropriate action.

Ian Pogson is Andel's Managing Director. "In the early days we were selling a concept. The market was slow to accept at face value just what we had to offer - with only a few specifiers having any practical experience of leak detection.

Working alongside the Bolton Institute Support Centre team has given us the opportunity to develop the products to keep up with new technologies and stay ahead of the competition. An introduction to the TCS Programme (formerly Teaching Company Scheme) and our subsequent participation gave us a tremendous boost in confidence. Our turnover will be four times what it was before the Programme and double what it would have been without the help we received.”

The team’s TCS Associate was Marshall Booth who is now Andel’s Technical Manager. Bolton’s ED Support Centre Manager, Harold Convey, was clearly delighted at news of the latest accolade.

“The award is one that has international acclaim and tremendous kudos. It acknowledges innovation and excellence in engineering and technology. Equally important to Bolton Institute is the recognition at the highest level, of our success at working with, and relating to, the industrial and commercial sectors.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. ELECTRONICS DESIGN PROGRAMME

The DTI’s 3 year “Electronics Design” programme was launched in April 1999 and has attracted a growing level of support and participation by UK industry. The £3.6 million campaign aims to help management understand and introduce low-cost design tools and techniques designed to get the right products to market at the right price and at the right time. The programme offers management seminars, and through its UK network of eight Support Centres, provides free and independent consultancy, “hands-on” project design support, training and signposts to UK and European sources of government funding, such as the TCS Programme.

2. THE TCS PROGRAMME

TCS is a Government programme which helps companies access the knowledge and skills within the UK’s ‘knowledge base’ (universities, colleges, independent research and technology organisations and Government-funded research institutions).

It involves high quality graduates working in companies, normally for two years, on technology transfer projects central to the needs of the company.

Small to medium-sized business with the potential to grow can participate in TCS and take advantage of:

- the expertise of academics and researchers in a Higher Education Institution or research based organisation
- the knowledge and skills of a graduate working on a project central to the needs of the company

3. ANDEL LIMITED

Founded in a modest garden shed, by its Managing Director Ian Pogson - close to the 'Last of the Summer Wine' tourist town of Holmfirth - AnDel has grown, in less than a decade, to become a highly successful, technically driven company, specialising in the design, manufacture and installation of well-proven, flexible and sophisticated water leak detection systems.

In the early days of the company's development, the concept of water leak detection was relatively new, with basic systems being installed beneath the raised flooring of computer rooms and occasionally in other areas where valuables and irreplaceable items had to be protected against potential water damage. The rapid development of IT and telecommunication technologies, however, forced changes in building design with regard to the provision of special heating, cooling and air conditioning services. With the advent of these changes, Pogson saw big potential for the use of his electronic water leak detection systems in protecting the vast areas of sensitive cable networks and power supplies, commonly found in close proximity to air conditioning services and pipework.

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