

# UK-China cooperation delivers boost to economic growth in Lancaster

The Lancaster China Catalyst Programme (LCCP) is a programme delivered by Lancaster University and supported by SIN China to generate partnerships between small and medium-sized enterprises, in the UK and China. The programme has supported activities including joint research and development, as well as the development of products and services. This partnership has already created significant opportunities for the companies involved leading to a £2.4m boost to the local economy, creating 23 jobs and helping 429 UK businesses. Further benefits are predicted in the coming years.

## The Story

The main aim of LCCP was to address the needs of UK companies looking to enter the Chinese market, in particular SMEs seeking to develop R&D partnerships with Chinese counterparts in Guangdong Province. Each project is structured into three stages: investigate, accelerate and collaborate. The programme also includes building capacity in R&D through the development of an MSc degree in International Innovation (MSc.II): this allows students to take part in R&D projects with the companies participating in the programme in both China and the UK.

### Overview of LCCP delivery



During the delivery of LCCP, SIN China facilitated key partnerships between Lancaster University and the Guangdong Department of Science and Technology (GDST), the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Department for International Trade (DIT), the China Britain Business Council (CBBC) and Innovate UK and helped LCCP build up their team in Guangdong.

## What was the result?

According to an independent evaluation conducted by Warwick Economics and Development, the LCCP has delivered a £2.4m boost to the local economy, creating 23 jobs and helping 429 UK businesses. Another estimated £21.8m Gross Value Added dividend and 224 further jobs are due to be created within 5 years. The delivery of these future benefits will result in a fivefold return on investment (a return of £5 in economic growth as a result of every £1 invested).



Successful Cases:

- Far UK, a composite materials company based in Nottingham, and GZRINM are developing the design and manufacture of a new automotive brake system based on ceramic materials. “With Lancaster China Catalyst Programme, Far UK has been able to approach the Chinese market with confidence. We now have research and development work ongoing in China and a broadening network of commercial contacts. We have already conducted some commercial work in China and we believe we will shortly sign additional contacts. The impact of the programme has been to revolutionise our opinions of approach to and success in China.”  
---- Lyndon Sanders, Director & General Manager - Far UK
- MSc International Innovation students worked with LanHai, an online career management company based in Preston, and their Chinese partner, Xuanyuan Industrial Development Co Ltd to adapt the LanHai on-line e-learning system, which provides career development learning tools and business skills resources for universities and businesses, for the Chinese market.
- Croft Filters Limited, an SME based in Warrington and the South China University of Technology secured funding of RMB 1million (£112,000) from the Chinese government plus another RMB 1 million in matched funding to pursue their joint industrial equipment project.

SIN China Contact: [Ming.liu2@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Ming.liu2@fco.gov.uk)