



e-Innovation Centre
Accommodating business...encouraging development

Case Study

Smart technology helps prevent fraud

KPR Midlink, based in Wolverhampton, provides specialist software solutions for innovative payment and management systems.

Established for over 30 years the company leads the way in payment kiosks and portable electronic cash systems utilised in places like markets and Meals on Wheels rounds.

One of its most popular products is a robust kiosk which can be located in convenient places for customers. Developed mainly for Local Authorities Remittance Payment Kiosks (RPKiosks) can be used for anything from paying invoices and council tax to parking fines and rent by cash or credit/debit card. The kiosks can display account balances, give change and produce receipts and have touch screen technology in multi-lingual formats.

Recently, the e-Innovation Centre IT consultancy team has been assisting KPR Midlink to add additional functionality to its existing payment kiosk system.

In order to prevent fraud or for those who have trouble remembering their pin, a biometric fingerprint capability was developed.

In addition the e-IC team developed smart card "Electronic Purse" technology to help move into a cashless system for market rent collection and similar payments.



KPR
Midlink Ltd

Dr Garry Homer,
e-IC Technical Director (left)
with Jeremy Bradin
KPR Midlink Director

How we helped...

- Investigated and evaluated the biometric fingerprinting market and similar emerging 'identity' technologies
- Developed the software to install fingerprinting technology on a payment kiosk
- Initial R&D advice on introducing cashless payments system
- Prototyping and installation of 'Electronic Purse' on demonstration kiosk
- On-going evaluation of both new technologies to enable modifications and improvements



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Wolverhampton Telford
Technology Corridor

Outcomes...

Biometric fingerprint recognition widely used in Japan is relatively unknown in this country.

As part of continuous improvements to its product range, KPR Midlink wanted to investigate this new technology for its RPKiosks.

With no expertise in this area they approached the e-Innovation Centre after an on-line search revealed the University of Wolverhampton's expertise in touch screen technology.

Bob Smith, KPR Midlink Director said: "Dr Garry Homer and the e-IC team have proved the concept of biometric fingerprinting giving us a competitive edge and differentiating our product."

The e-IC was also able to help KPR Midlink after an approach from the Markets team at Birmingham City Council about introducing cashless rent collection.

The e-IC developed and installed an 'Electronic Purse' smart card facility that can be topped up by the stallholder via a debit or credit card using a payment kiosk and then presented to pay rent. The card would be debited by a hand-held PDA or other mobile 'smart' device.

The concept was installed on a kiosk located within the University and demonstrated to the customer who is now evaluating the system.

Commenting Bob Smith, KPR Midlink Director said: "Without e-IC assistance, the introduction of smart card technology would have been far more difficult and time-consuming. We are now in a position to look at this technology for our other products."



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Bob Smith, KPR Midlink Director

Accommodating business... encouraging development

The e-Innovation Centre (e-IC) provides an opportunity for start-up and small companies to be located in prestigious business accommodation and aims to support entrepreneurs with the creation and development of their businesses.

The state-of-the-art e-Innovation Centre, built as part of £7 million project is funded by the University of Wolverhampton, Advantage West Midlands and the European Regional Development Fund. The e-IC is a key project within the Wolverhampton Telford Technology Corridor.

Offering meeting rooms, shared day-hire suite, fully-furnished 'incubation' office units, and 'grow-on' space for expanding businesses. Companies also have access to additional University resources.

The e-IC also provides impartial advice on tailored IT solutions for businesses and offer eligible companies 5 days funded IT and business consultancy* from a team of specialists in IT Strategies, Web and Mobile Technologies.

*subject to being located within an eligible area.



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