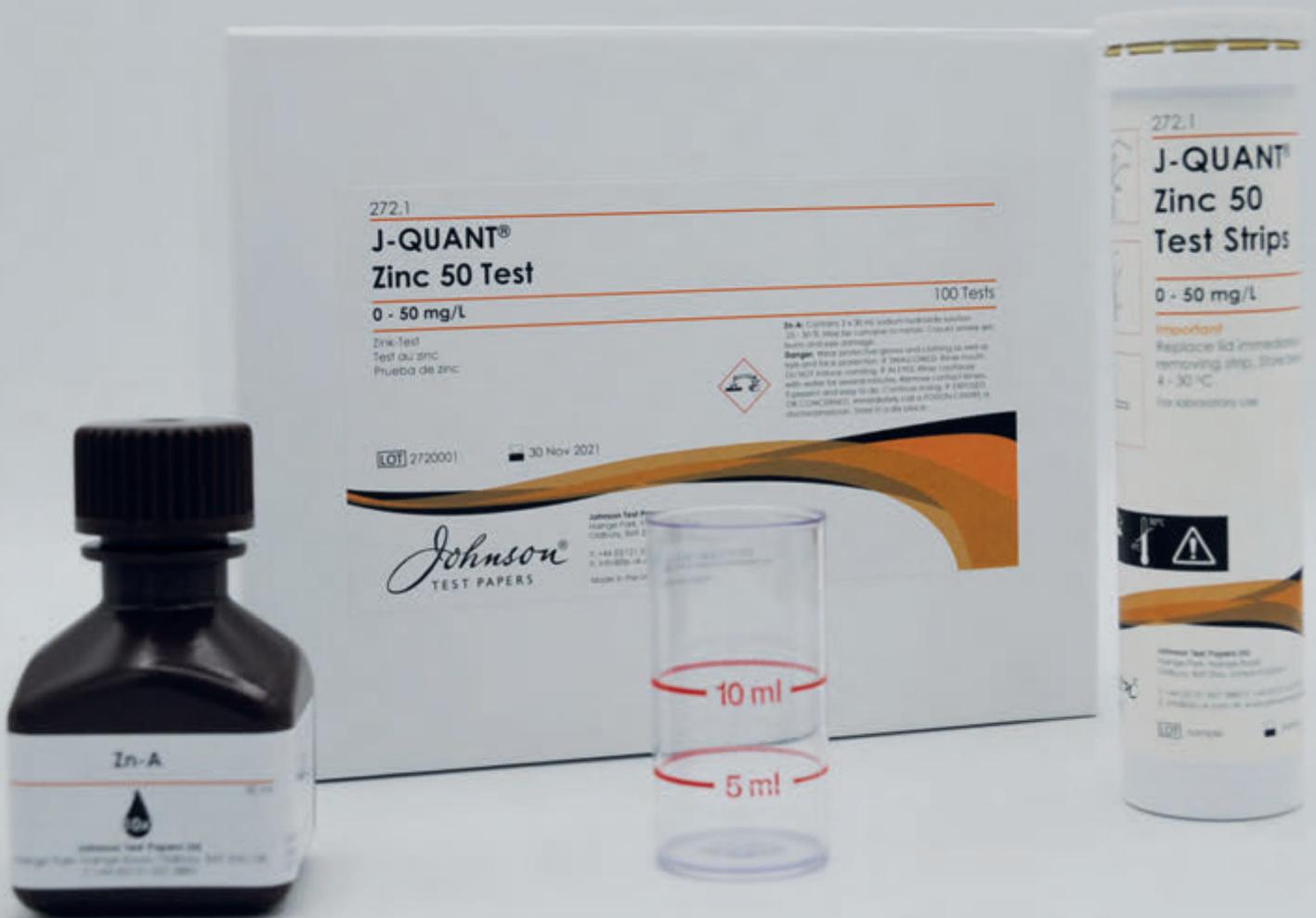


Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

A Case Study



The Business Partner

Johnson Test Papers (JTP) has been manufacturing a wide range of pH indicator and test papers in the United Kingdom since the 1940's. These products provide immediate and accurate results for a number of applications. Products range from simple tests for acidity or alkalinity, water contamination, wide and narrow range indicator papers as well as specialised detection and indicator papers. JTP products are used globally in schools, universities, hospitals, laboratories and other specialist industry sectors.

Challenge

Johnson Test Papers had already completed an outstanding graded KTP programme in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton which saw the successful development of a new R&D department and the introduction of over 30 new products to the JTP catalogue.

The overall aim of the new KTP programme was to undertake further and more complex product development in order to develop and manufacture novel portable reagent test kits for testing for pollutants in water, sewage, soils and gases. This would allow the business to continue development within existing markets and also expand into higher and new value areas.

Solutions

A new 30 month KTP programme was established between Johnson Test Papers and the University of Wolverhampton. The Associate was a graduate who brought a range of new skills and knowledge into the business. She was supported by a trio of chemists from within the Faculty of Science and Engineering, including Dr Catherine Duke and Dr John Mole who supported the first partnership with the new addition and expertise of Prof Gary Hix.

The Associate worked alongside the R&D team, with the input of academic support, to create new products and update existing production and testing procedures.

Results

The KTP has led to the development of over 20 testing kits for analysis of heavy metals and other water based pollutants. These new kits have allowed Johnson Test Papers to increase their product portfolio as well as enter new markets being driven by growing environmental legislation and users' awareness of the environmental impact of both the contaminants and the testing methods.

Improvements to business laboratory facilities also evolved during the partnership including the installation of a new laboratory, replacing the previous cramped facility and giving a significant increase in the lab footprint. Improvements were also made to manufacturing facilities to increase production capacity such as the purchase of new warehouses, a strip cutting machine and a purpose-built paper impregnation machine.

The Associate has since joined Johnson Test Papers as a permanent member of the R&D team and will continue to be responsible for the products she has created. Johnson Test Papers hope to continue working with the University of Wolverhampton through future placement opportunities and degree apprenticeships.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The Business Partner

"Our second KTP, it has again provided a bridge between our manufacturing expertise and the knowledge provided by the Associate, accelerating product development and allowing for greater opportunities worldwide."

Dr Greg Mann,
R&D Manager at Johnson Test Papers

The Associate

"The KTP gave me the opportunity to apply what I had learnt at University whilst still having access to support and guidance from academic supervisors."

Caitlin Forster

The Knowledge Base

"This has not been my first KTP, but it has been perhaps my most satisfying and I feel like I have made a real difference to the company, staff and UK PLC in general."

Dr John Mole,
University of Wolverhampton