

The School of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Wolverhampton are in their second phase of delivery on four major Government funded projects to help SME's in the West Midlands with the development of innovative ideas and business improvements.

The projects have already helped over 1000 businesses and the second phase will finish in 2008 so if you require help it is best to get in quickly!

The projects offer specialist advice in manufacturing, marketing, design and business development utilising a unique blend of industrial experts, equipment and technology from two sites at the University- The Innovative Product Development Centre [IPDC] at Telford and The Centre of Engineering Excellence [CEE] at the Wolverhampton Science Park.

If you have a new product idea or you have a new business improvement scheme, such as developing your CAD facility, or you are looking for new sales then the consultants will be pleased to talk to you and direct you to the right project for your company. The Schemes include The Advanced Engineering Cluster, The Polymer Cluster, West Midlands Network Technology and Innovation Direct.

In the past these projects have helped in the production of 3 dimensional CAD drawings and the development of CAD systems within the company, produced working prototypes, helped in testing, material validation and selection, improved manufacturing processes and research to evaluate new markets. The projects can solicit other University or specialist help and the cost of the assistance is entirely funded through the Government Office.

The University of Wolverhampton has attracted external funding to make the IPDC one of the leading centres in Europe for DMLS and SLS work [Laser sintering in both metal and nylon to make prototype and metal tool parts]. The Rapid Product Development for metal parts is in a continuous research phase and leading the way in rapid manufacturing techniques.

If you wish to take advantage of the projects ring the IPDC on 01902 32198 or contact them through their web site www.wlv.ac.uk/ipdc. A consultant will come out to see you to discuss the criteria and what support can be offered.