



A highly productive collaboration between the University of Lincoln and the global electronic firm Siemens has addressed the lack of higher education engineering provision in the region. With Siemens struggling to attract the right caliber of engineering graduate, the university founded in the UK's first new School of Engineering for more than 20 years.

The Engineering Hub, opening in 2011, houses both university's School of Engineering and Siemens' Product Training Group, whose own training programmes are accredited by the university. The university's degrees are tailored to ensure that the content meets industry needs.

Among the far-reaching effects of the £37.5 million projects are a twofold increase in demand for Siemens' training courses and hundreds of contacts established between the school and regional businesses.

The mutual collaboration has been praised widely. John Hayes, former minister further education and skills, declared the venture a "perfect marriage".

The awards judges shared this outlook. Sir Deian Hopkin, president of the National Library of Wales, said it was "an excellent example" of a scheme "both to construct a major teaching and research facility and to address a skill shortage in the region. In turn, the university has won significant research contracts and hugely increased its reach to small and medium-sized businesses in the area, and this has boosted demand for the university's engineering course."