Reach Separations

EnterprisePlus – supporting Reach Separations to recruit the right people.

Reach Separations has specialised in chromatography for small molecule analysis and purification across the pharmaceutical, agrochemical and fine chemical sector since 2012. Joining EnterprisePlus in early 2014 has seen their staff levels and links across industry grow.

Phil Abbott, Technical Director, tells us how Reach Separations has matured and developed as a company with the support of EnterprisePlus.

Employing the right people for the company is a challenge they face. Opportunities to advertise full time positions in Chemistry World and recruit an Industrial Placement student through Cogent Skills have helped Reach Separations approach a wider pool of expertise and build their staff numbers.

“We’ve been lucky to receive the Industrial Placement grant and with the help of Cogent Skills, we have a scientifically excellent student in the lab. As a young company, one extra person in the lab is a large percentage increase on the amount of scientific staff we have.”

In the past, Phil explains that they have prioritised some projects over developing long term science as a result of business requirements. Reach Separations have made steps towards securing their future since their placement student joined the company. Phil explains that the project their student has worked on focusses on advancing the science and has the potential to bring major benefits to their company and the wider chemistry community in the future.

“Another benefit we’ve seen is collaboration with Waters. They’ve given us access to a state-of-the-art analytical SFC machine to support our student with her research. This isn’t something that a company of our size would normally get access to, certainly not for the extended time period they’ve given us.”

The Industrial Placement grant scheme gives Reach access to top talent from universities without the additional recruitment costs. In the future, Phil hopes that they will eventually be in a position to offer permanent employment to placement students who perform well.

“Since we joined EnterprisePlus, we’ve seen a number of other benefits including having access to the scientific remuneration survey. This gives us a guideline to where we should be paying our scientists to enable us to get the top talent in.”

Phil also sees the benefits of networking opportunities EnterprisePlus has facilitated.

“We get to meet other scientists who are not necessarily in the same field but it’s only a good thing when scientists get together and network.”

Recently, Reach Separations has expanded their laboratory space to accommodate new instruments and members of staff. Owning 13 pieces of preparative kit over three laboratories, their expansion enables them to continue their day-to-day activities as well as focus on the more demanding method development work.

The EnterprisePlus scheme has supported Reach Separations with making investments in their science. We’ve provided them with opportunities to grow their networks within academia and industry and recruit the right people and expertise to join their company going forward. Find out how EnterprisePlus can help you connect and develop your company to succeed in the chemical science industry: www.rsc.org/sme