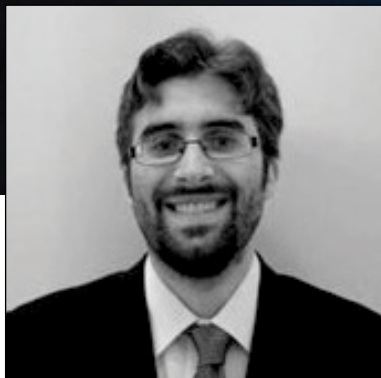


# EnterprisePlus

Supporting small companies in the chemical sciences

Connect  
Develop  
Succeed



## Key info:

EnterprisePlus member since June 2015

Secured Internship Grant in July 2015

Have hired their intern as a full-time, permanent employee

## Oxford nanoSystems

EnterprisePlus Internship Grants – helping Oxford nanoSystems find new talent and speed up development.

Oxford nanoSystems is a high-tech company that focuses on developing nanocoatings to improve heat transfer surfaces, creating cheaper, lighter and more efficient materials. The company became a member of EnterprisePlus in the summer of 2015 and has already taken advantage of the Internship Grants scheme, which provides EnterprisePlus companies with funding to employ an intern for 3 months.

Alexander Reip, acting CEO at Oxford nanoSystems explains how the grant enabled them to take on Andrew Anderson, a recent graduate with a Masters in Chemistry with Nanotechnology:

***“As a small start-up we don’t have the funds available to recruit large numbers even when the work load increases. Having fully funded placements lets us bring in and test out new talent before making the choice of whether we can afford to hire them.”***

SMEs often face difficult decisions about the work they should be prioritising. Hosting an intern allows companies to accelerate the progress of short-term, business critical projects, and also expand the scope of their activities:

***“The internship grant came at the perfect time for us. Andrew learnt our techniques very quickly and has got on with the projects we have set him as well as starting some of his own, which have helped our short and long term goals. The scheme is a way to bring in new skills, experience and a different way of thinking.”***

Due to the location of Oxford nanoSystems on the Harwell Science and Innovation campus, Andrew also had the opportunity to take part in the European Space Agency Hackathon, which his team went on to win. Hosting an intern enables existing employees to develop their supervision skills and experience line-management, and Alex feels that this has been the biggest lesson for Oxford nanoSystems. He would also strongly encourage other SMEs considering the scheme to apply:

***“Definitely go for it. The interns bring in a different way of thinking which will really improve the business as well as bring in new skills which you may be missing.”***

Oxford nanoSystems were so impressed by Andrew’s performance that they offered him a permanent contract when his internship was up. Andrew has stayed with the company and is now working full-time as a Process Chemist.

***“We had hoped to be able to find the funds to keep our intern on and he has shown great willingness to want to stay and work for us. We couldn’t do what we do without the support of institutions like the RSC and the funded internship programmes are a great way of helping us increase development.”***

The EnterprisePlus Internship Grant has helped Oxford nanoSystems bring in skilled talent at a critical time, enabling them to push on with key projects and speed up their development. Their current employees have benefitted from the supervisory experience and they have found a valuable addition to their team through the process.

Find out how EnterprisePlus can help you connect and develop your company to succeed in the chemical science industry: [www.rsc.org/sme](http://www.rsc.org/sme)

