

**AN UPDATE FROM
VICE CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR PETER SLEE**

Dear ,

I hope this finds you well.

LBU is one of the UK's leading exponents of [Knowledge Transfer Partnerships \(KTP\)](#).

KTPs were established in 1975 to support innovation leading to economic growth. In every partnership, a private or public sector organisation works closely with an academic team to solve a specific challenge which will unlock the growth potential of a potentially innovative product or service.

Dr Martin Pritchard from our School of Built Environment, Engineering and Computing (BEEC) [is leading a KTP](#) in partnership with a geotechnical engineering firm with a base in Brighouse. Borehole Solutions helps other organisations gain a clear understanding of the geology of the sites they seek to develop or exploit. They are pioneering a relatively new technology called sonic drilling, which to date is little used in the UK. When compared with traditional rotary drilling techniques, sonic drilling has the potential to be safer, cheaper, quicker, cleaner, and with less environmental waste. It could be a game changer. Martin's team, which includes Dr David Andrews, Dr Anthony Smith and a KTP Associate who will work full time with Borehole Solutions for 30 months, are seeking to help verify the advantages and disadvantages of sonic drilling, and identify the most suitable application for the technique. If successful, this work could open the way to the widespread development of a new and more productive technology.

This partnership is one of 14 we currently lead with a range of organisations. LBU is among the top 10% of UK academic partners for KTPs in the UK.

This is a tremendous example of the way we fulfil our mission to make a decisive and positive difference to people, organisations, and communities. It exemplifies the partnership working which underpins everything we do, and the strong applied focus of so much of our work. I would like to thank Jo Griffiths and her colleagues in the Research and Enterprise Office for their expertise and for the support they have given to our colleagues and partnership organisations.

With my best wishes,

Peter

Professor Peter Slee, Vice Chancellor