

# Benefitting from Industrial Secondments

The Royal Academy of Engineering's Industrial Secondment Scheme enables academic staff teaching any aspect of engineering in UK universities to spend three to six months (on a full-time basis or for longer on a part-time basis) in industry with a view to improving the quality and industrial relevance of their UK undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, leading to engineering graduates better suited to the needs of industry.

**T**he secondments have numerous benefits to the secondee, his or her university and the host company. These include:

- an opportunity for the university to introduce new or revised industrially-relevant modules, programmes and/or short courses;
- new case studies;
- new student/research projects and/or to secure collaborative proposals for funding;
- publications and patents;
- guest lecturers from industry;
- student visits to the company;
- student placements and industry-sponsored PhDs;
- help with the accreditation of engineering programmes; and
- enhanced credibility of academic staff.

There are numerous benefits to host companies too, including opportunities to:

- work with a highly qualified academic/expert at no (major) cost;
- acquire access to the secondee's university staff, students, laboratories and workshops;
- make an input to the design of the engineering curriculum thus influencing the



Vidin-Calafat Bridge

- next generation of engineers;
- offer placements to students;
- select and recruit suitable graduates;
- build long-term collaborative links involving research or consultancy work; and
- donate software and/or equipment.

Dr Kevin Stone of the University of Brighton's School of Environment and Technology spent a six-month Royal Academy of Engineering-supported Industrial Secondment with HPR Limited (formerly High-Point Rendel). His aims were to develop and enhance the content of his existing modules by incorporating up-to-date design practice and case study material, to strengthen industry-academia links, and to initiate collaboration in ground engineering research.

Kevin was a member of the geotechnical team and his secondment work was primarily

focused on the £260m New Tyne Crossing project, which involves a complex tunnelling operation beneath the Tyne. The project is particularly interesting as it involves three different tunnelling technologies – cut and cover, immersed tube units, and several small sections of a sprayed concrete-lined tunnel.

In addition to the New Tyne Crossing, Kevin also worked on the geotechnical aspects of the Vidin-Calafat Bridge project. This structure is a multi-span, cable-stayed bridge crossing the Danube from Bulgaria to Romania.

The secondment resulted in many benefits to HPR Ltd as well as to Kevin's teaching and research and acted as a catalyst in renewing his enthusiasm for geotechnical engineering.

For further information on the Industrial Secondment Scheme please contact Dr Imren Markes at The Royal Academy of Engineering (020 7766 0600; E-mail: [imren.markes@raeng.org.uk](mailto:imren.markes@raeng.org.uk)).

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