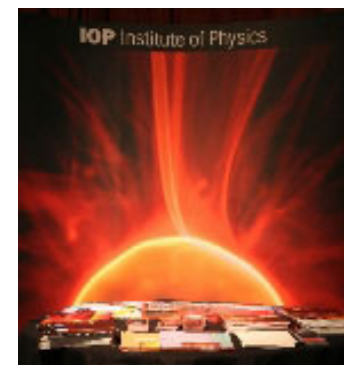


[Your sector](#)
[Scottish Technology News](#)
[Showcase helps researchers to share knowledge and ideas](#)

## Showcase helps researchers to share knowledge and ideas

**Running alongside the Scottish Technology Showcase for the first time this year was the SUPA (Scottish Universities Physics Alliance) Knowledge Transfer Showcase. STN caught up with chief executive of the Institute of Photonics Tim Holt, who chaired the afternoon session at the event. How has the event been going?**



It has been very positive so far. This is the first time we've had a dedicated Knowledge Transfer event for SUPA and there has been a very good level of interest across all of the stands. The co-location with the Scottish Technology Showcase means we are getting the crossover with the industrial people next door, which is even better.

### Why are you running this Knowledge Transfer event?

There is a lot of knowledge transfer already going on within SUPA but much of it is hidden. One of the key aims of the event is to actually highlight how much is being done in terms of knowledge transfer. We have the capability to do a lot more knowledge transfer but it is expensive so we also need to look at the funding for the collaborative research we are doing with industry.

### Is it an opportunity for potential funders to see what is going on?

Yes absolutely but it is also a chance for each university to see what is being done in other establishments. You obviously tend to know what is happening in your own area but there are other areas within SUPA which may be unknown to you. Today has been a great opportunity to speak to other researchers and compare notes.

### Is there a chance that people may find other, unexpected applications for their technology?

Indeed, that is the big issue. When you are very involved in research you can become quite blinkered in the potential applications of the technology. But then somebody from industry comes along and says 'I could use this technology'. You can then maybe give it a little tweak and you have a whole different, unexpected application for your technology.

### **Have you seen anything particularly interesting today?**

Yes, there's everything from a potential dental imaging application, using lasers instead of x-rays to take images of teeth, to the use of light to help cure skin cancer. It's great to see examples of all the wonderful work being done at Scotland's universities under one roof.

 [For further information, visit the SUPA website](#)