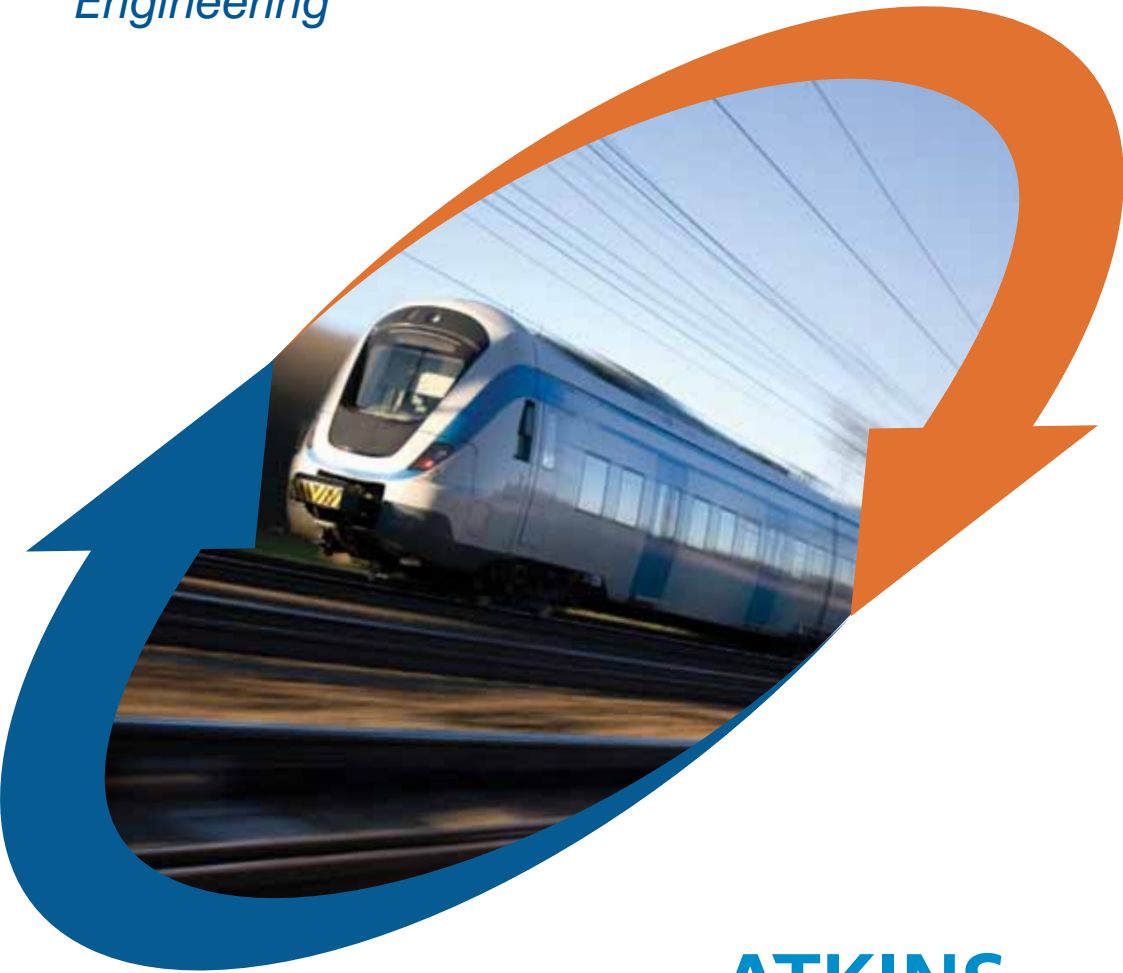




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Ideas into Action

# Accessing unique expertise via LTN networking event

*Engineering*



**ATKINS**

CASE STUDY 22

# Engineering

The UK's largest engineering consultancy Atkins have found innovation partners at universities across England, thanks to LTN's networking events and technology matching service.

London-based company Atkins plan and design everything from advanced rail network systems to innovative flood defence modelling. Their aim is to stay at the cutting edge of technology, and LTN (London Technology Network) has proved a perfect partner for the company. LTN matches companies with experts at universities across London and the Greater South-East to solve their research needs, and also hold regular sector-focussed networking events. It was an invitation to an event on transport technologies in 2004 which introduced Atkins' chief engineer Ali Hessami to LTN, and the company has been utilising LTN's services ever since. "I'm sold on the LTN concept," Hessami said. "I think it's one of the most effective and visionary ideas for how to access up-to-date know-how and technology developed in the academic sector." Atkins has forged links with four major universities thanks to LTN: at networking events on security, smart metering and sustainable transport, and via direct matchmaking by LTN's technology team. Atkins is working with Imperial College London on an IT project related to railway timetabling, and is developing technology with the computer science department of University College London. Collaborations are being formed with the University of East Anglia on environmental assurance and sustainability research, while contact with Coventry University has led to work on GPS technologies and security. LTN's unique access to 7,000 academics across the regions has saved Atkins time, money and reduced risk. "I frankly believe we live in a day and age where there's too much information and one has too little time to become master of all fronts," Hessami said. "It's best to approach people with a deeper understanding of a specific domain, especially from an organisation such as LTN. Every time we have made a request they have been very responsive." Hessami is also on the board of LTN's Environmental Technologies Special Interest Group, taking an even greater role in maintaining links between academia and industry.

For more information on LTN and how we can help your business, contact:

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