Tribosonics have close links with the University of Sheffield as their founder, and Sheffield alumnus, Dr Phil Harper, used research he conducted whilst at the University to set up the company.

If you don’t know what tribologists do you’re not alone. Imagine a world of manufacturing, oil and gas production, aerospace or nuclear production without a system of checking that the parts used in the processes don’t have wear and tear. Then you can begin to understand, at a very basic level, the work that Tribosonics do. Tribosonics is the combination of areas of engineering to develop a set of powerful techniques for monitoring, measuring and investigating a wide range of real world engineering applications.

Founded in 2006, the company has a passion for engaging with students from the University of Sheffield, giving them stimulating real-life engineering work and hopefully retaining the talent in Sheffield for the future.

Dan Richardson, Office and Quality Manager at Tribosonics says “We were founded in Sheffield by a PhD graduate from the University of Sheffield and the majority of our employees are graduates from the University. Being in Sheffield, with the talented graduate base, is great for business. We have collaborated together on projects and have a great working relationship with the University and this has benefited both us and, hopefully, the University and students who get to work with some of the biggest engineering players in the game.”

Tribosonics have used various methods to engage with students including advertising on the Careers Service’s free online vacancy system, Career Connect, and attending the Engineering Placement Fair. They have also met students at the annual Faculty of Engineering “Global Engineering Challenge”, a week-long project where all first year students in the Faculty tackle real-world problems from a global perspective.

Louise Cooper, Placement Officer for Engineering says “It’s fantastic when we can build up relationships with smaller local companies who engage with us on different levels. Job vacancies for local companies are extremely popular with our students and it is really satisfying when an employer feeds back that the recruitment has been successful and they continue to work with us in the future”.

Tribosonics offer students the opportunity to work with them over the summer or for a full year as part of their undergraduate degree course. Scott Beamish recently completed a one year placement with the company and said “My previous three years studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sheffield gave me an insight into the theory behind engineering, however there is no better way to develop yourself as an engineer than by putting your knowledge into practice at Tribosonics. The diversity of skills I have developed in such a short space of time is exceptional and I have had the opportunity to work alongside some of the biggest companies in the world. If you want to learn and be challenged every day I cannot recommend working at Tribosonics enough.”

So what next for Tribosonics? They are continuing to grow their recruitment programme this year by launching a new three-year apprenticeship scheme, with the University of Sheffield's
Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), and have also received extended certification from the British Standards Institution (BSI) for the work they do.

If you’d like to know more about the work of Tribosonics, visit their website at: www.tribosonics.com. If you’d like to find out more about how the Careers Service can help you as a SME, visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/employers/support/sme