

Willie Thomson

Technical Director, Harbro Ltd

Willie Thomson, Technical Director, Harbro Ltd; Industrial Leader of the proposed Agricultural Engineering Precision Innovation Centre bid for the next Centre for Agricultural Innovation

Willie Thomson is Technical Director of Harbro Ltd, a leading supplier of livestock nutrition and animal health products. The company specialises in providing high-level technical support to large, progressive producers throughout the UK and abroad. Harbro has very close links with leading UK research institutes and is currently engaged in an extensive research programme focussing on key issues affecting customer profitability.

A need to understand the dynamics of farm production led Willie to form Innovent Technology Ltd, a technology company focused on livestock data modelling and live animal image analysis. The company now exports its innovative qscan system, which assesses growth using advanced video imaging technology, to the USA, Europe and China. This technology allows an understanding of growth and variance without the need to physically weigh pigs.

Currently Willie is leading a bid to form the UK's AgriTech Innovation Centre in precision engineering. This bid has brought together 75 companies representing the UK supply chain and leading technology providers, along with some of the UK's top academic Institutes, to create a world-class Centre of Innovation in the field of precision agriculture. Should this Centre come to fruition it will put UK agri-engineering at the heart of attempts to improve UK farm efficiency.

Willie is a Fellow of the RSA and a member of the KTN animal sector advisory group.