This project is the result of a collaboration between the Open University Acoustics Research Group and two musical instrument makers: Howarth of London (woodwind) and Smith-Watkins Musical Instruments (brass).

- The main aim is to evaluate the magnitudes and causes of differences between nominally identical musical wind instruments, with a view to improving manufacturing processes.

- Pilot study: Demonstrating the efficiency of existing acoustical and psychophysical techniques for studying the consistency of wind instrument manufacturing.

The effectiveness of the acoustical and psychophysical techniques for comparing nominally identical instruments has been demonstrated. The next step is to compare higher quality instruments and to identify the stages in the manufacturing process which could be improved.