



## **MEETING OF THE EASTERN AGRI-TECH PROGRAMME DELIVERY BOARD**

**Date:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October     **Start Time:** 2.30pm **Finish Time:** 4.30pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting via the Zoom meetings platform

### **Present**

Mike Burrows	New Anglia LEP
Dr Jonathan Clarke	John Innes Centre
Dr Dave Hughes	Syngenta UK
Dr Lydia Smith (Chair)	NIAB
Cllr Beverley Spratt	Norfolk County Council

### **In Attendance**

Martin Lutman	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (Agri-Tech Lead & Secretariat to the Board)
Julie West	New Anglia LEP

### **Item 1: Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interests**

Apologies received from Dr Belinda Clarke (Agri-Tech East) and Cllr Mathew Shuter (Cambridgeshire County Council).

There were no conflicts of interest.

### **Item 2: Applications For Grant Support**

There were two applications for grant funding. The Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board considered and approved one application and rejected one application. This followed and applications and presentations from each applicant and discussions with the Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board.

In the order they appeared on the Agenda, the application from Orbital Media and Advertising Ltd was unsuccessful. The application from High Elms Partnership was successful.

High Elms Partnership was awarded a growth grant of £53,000 towards the cost of purchasing an aponic vertical agriculture system. The Board liked the proposal and the technology.

The R&D application from Orbital Media and Advertising Ltd was about validating soil sensors at farms in East Anglia which would optimise crop yield and minimize environmental damage caused by run off that pollutes waterways.

Although the application and presentation made some good points about soil degradation and fertility, there were several issues with the proposal that concerned the Board. The Board acknowledged that the Orbital team had a track record in delivering R&D projects, but this was not in the agricultural space. Given its overall concerns, the Board felt unable to approve the application.

Next meeting: 14 October 2020, starting at 2pm. The meeting to be conducted via the Zoom meetings platform.

**Prepared By:**

**Martin Lutman**

**Agri-Tech Specialist & Secretariat to the Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board  
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority  
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