



MEETING OF THE EASTERN AGRI-TECH PROGRAMME DELIVERY BOARD

Date: Friday 18th September 2020 **Start Time:** 10am **Finish Time:** 1.25pm

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

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); Cllr Mathew Shuter (Cambridgeshire County Council) and Cllr Beverley Spratt (Norfolk County Council).

It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate in line with the governance arrangements for the Programme Board.

There were no conflicts of interest with any members of the Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board.

Item 2: Applications For Grant Support

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

In the order they appeared on the Agenda, the successful applicants were Antobot Ltd; Fieldwork Robotics Ltd and Tulipland Potatoes Ltd. The application from Agricobot Ltd was unsuccessful.

Antobot Ltd was awarded an R&D grant of £42,731 towards the cost of developing two robot prototypes capable of automated navigation and autonomous driving, with obstacle avoidance capability.

Fieldwork Robotics Ltd was awarded an R&D grant of £50,332 towards the cost of developing a cheaper platform and motors in the arms for its autonomous robot which harvests produce on and off rails.

Tulipland Potatoes Ltd was awarded a Growth grant of £70,725 towards the purchase costs of a new machine that will enable the company to grade more sizes of potatoes in their raw state and store them for a longer period of time.

The application from Agricobot Ltd was unsuccessful for several reasons. In essence the Board found the proposal and supporting information unconvincing.

Date of Next Meeting

25th September, starting at 10am, to be held via the Zoom on-line meetings platform.

Prepared By:
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