



Ely Packaging Services company secure grant to Scale-Up product range

An ambitious Ely-based company has secured a grant for just over £67,000 to help fund a new bottling line to scale-up their business capacity.

Beams Packaging Services Ltd (BPS), has successfully been awarded funding to purchase a second fully automated bottling line to enable them to bottle larger formats of up to 1000ml. Previously, the company has specialised in the automatic bottling of a wide range of food and beverage products of up to 100ml, so this new line will provide a new service for customers.

This is the second grant awarded to the business by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough's Agri-Tech Growth Initiative. The company received just over £13,000 back in 2016, for investment in a bottle rinsing component to add to their process line. This investment has enabled the bottling element of the business to grow significantly in response to retail demand.

Whilst currently BPS can handle small orders for larger volume product, this is currently done via using semi-automated processes that is time consuming, making it difficult to deliver volumes of scale.

Bob Russell (Chairman of Beams Packaging) said: "Everybody in the company is delighted to have secured the help and backing of the Greater Cambridge & Greater Peterborough Agri-Tech Fund as this enables us to continue to grow in an increasingly automated sector, with the new equipment we will be able to grow our workforce, upskill team members and take on more business."

This increase in bottling capacity will enable the company to be more competitive within the bottling market, supporting their continued growth. In addition, the increased capability is anticipated to create up to ten brand new positions within the next three years

Martin Lutman (Agri-Tech Programme Manager) said: "It's great to see local companies expanding their service offering to support their continued growth. After seeing the positive impact that the first grant has had on Beams Packaging Services, we were confident that this investment will not only help the company to grow further, but also create new jobs in the local community."

The Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative is run by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with support from New Anglia LEP and the local authorities covering this area.



Grants are available to organisations looking to invest in specialist equipment, new market and supply chain development, ways to improve productivity and efficiency, and the application and commercialisation of Research and Development.

To find out how the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative could help to grow your business, visit www.agritechgrants.co.uk or call the LEP on 01480 277180.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

1. The Initiative has two separate funds that are available for businesses. The first is an **Agri-Tech Growth Fund**, which will provide grants of between £10,000 and £150,000 to support improvements in agricultural productivity. Whilst the **R&D and Prototyping Fund** will provide grants of between £10,000 and £60,000 to support the development of innovative technology. Find out more at www.agritechgrants.co.uk.