



CAMBRIDGESHIRE BUSINESS TARGETING HARVESTING SUCCESS

A Cambridgeshire technology company has been awarded £60,000 funding by the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative to develop a robotic harvesting project.

Dogtooth Technologies, based in Haslingfield in South Cambridgeshire, has plans to develop the first strawberry harvesting robot designed to replace the hand-picking of strawberries.

The initial phase of the project will see ten harvesting robots manufactured and offered to UK growers. The robots will be able to navigate rows of strawberries, detect and locate ripe strawberries, pick and check the fruit before placing them into a punnet. Should the initial trial prove a success, the project would then seek to expand the production and sell the harvesting robots to farms across the country.

The overall aim of project, named 'Cabeirian', is to develop technology to allow a single human supervisor to easily deploy and manage teams of robots.

The grant will help fund the development and implementation of this project, the success of which will determine future growth, expansion and innovation within the harvesting process. The project has huge growth potential and therefore getting these initial stages right is essential to the longer-term opportunities available to the team at Dogtooth Technologies.

Mark Reeve, Chairman of the Eastern Agri-Tech Initiative, said:

“It’s impressive to see such ambitious and innovative development within the agricultural industry. To be able to offer this grant to support the team at Dogtooth Technologies means we are supporting a movement towards the systemisation of the harvesting process, which will enable farmers and their teams to more accurately predict how long harvest will take.

“The fruit-picking robots will also allow farmers to buy a high-quality and consistent harvesting capacity that will enable them to better control costs that can otherwise be fairly unpredictable.”

Ed Herbert, Founder of Dogtooth Technologies, said:

“We are thrilled to be receiving support from the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative. The project is crucial in developing a cornerstone of our scalable strawberry harvesting system and the support of the Agri-Tech Initiative has already helped to create jobs, both within Dogtooth and for our local suppliers.



“Our system will allow growers to regulate costs, predict and increase yield through early intervention, and deliver a consistent, high-quality product. This project will accelerate the delivery of robotic harvesting and Dogtooth looks forward to helping our customers compete in an increasingly demanding market.”

The Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative is run by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with support from New Anglia LEP, Norfolk County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, 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.

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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 productivity in the food and drink sector. 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.

For further information and interview opportunities, please contact Rebecca Knight at the LEP on 01480 277180 or email rebecca.knight@gcgp.co.uk.