



Oakham Ales raises a glass after securing £150,000 grant for business expansion

An ambitious beer producer based in Peterborough has been given the go ahead on vital expansion plans thanks to a £150,000 grant from the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP.

The funding comes from the LEP's Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative, which is designed to help companies in the agriculture, food and drink sector to grow.

Oakham Ales, a large local employer, was established in 1993 in the town of Oakham in Rutland, before being relocated to Peterborough in 1995 when it was purchased by the now senior partner, Paul Hook. The business ambition to be supported by this growth grant is to propel the business to a £20M turnover by 2023, in turn creating 13 brand new jobs for GCGP LEP area, and furthermore safeguarding a further 44 jobs already with the business.

The company is a successful producer of high-quality cask ales, keg beers and bottled beers that are supplied into the UK on and off trade. They are now looking to deliver a multi-phase expansion project to enable them to diversify into producing both lager and keg type beer products, and deal with the subsequent differing brewing processes of each. The grant will commission the following:

- A CIP system upgrade, water system and RO plant and controls
- Larger vessels, accompanying steelwork and electricals
- Kegging line, carbonation system and supporting equipment

With 80% of the UK drinks market being in larger and keg type products, the grant will allow Oakham Ales to stay relevant, expand, and continue in a direction of growth whilst preserving the high-quality favours and produce they pride themselves on.

Mark Reeve, Chairman of the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative Board and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP, said:

"Oakham Ales already has a reputation for being an award-winning business, with a strong presence as a local employer. We are pleased to support their ambitious growth plans that will create new jobs and increase their competitiveness in the marketplace. We are excited to see the development of these ambitions unfold with our grant support."

Adrian Posnett, managing Director of Oakham Ales, said:

"Continuing to develop our business is crucial to everyone at Oakham Ales where we believe in delivering the very best that we can. Having the ability to diversify into new markets is crucial and the grant we received means the future for everyone involved, and those yet to join, is even more exciting. Our beers continue to increase in popularity and we are positive that new lines added to our famous names will be a fantastic asset to Oakham Ales. We are proud to be based in Cambridgeshire and are looking forward to welcoming new employees who will be joining a forward-looking, expanding and competitive company."



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 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.