



Tulip excellence ambition wins grant support

Tulip is asserting its competitive edge in the high quality meats sector with an ambitious growth project accelerated by a £147,000 grant from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

The investment is from the LEP's Business Catalyst Fund which exists to help eligible businesses improve productivity and create or safeguard jobs and is funded by the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

Across the country over 3,000 small and medium sized businesses have received money from the Regional Growth Fund, including SMEs in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

Tulip employs almost 2,000 people at its operations in Bodmin, Bugle and Redruth and is a leading supplier to major supermarkets of quality pork, bacon and cooked meat products. The LEP's investment is part of a £490,000 project to develop the business, with the balance of funding coming from the company.

Tulip's Cornwall Operations Director Ray Hanly said: "Our ambition to create a centre of excellence for gammon and bacon production in Cornwall is being realised sooner by this grant support.

"Keeping and expanding our excellent in-house butchery skills at Bugle, delivering a butchery apprenticeship programme in partnership with Duchy College and Brian Etherington Meat Company, and increasing productivity at Redruth to develop our sliced gammon range will help us maintain our competitive edge in challenging market conditions.

"The grant funding provided an opportunity to re-evaluate the direction we took to strengthen our market position and job security in Cornwall moving forward. We are also creating new career and training opportunities for our employees because we want to keep good people and give them and the local community a real sense of having a future with us."

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP Board Member Andrew Williams said: "Tulip is a major local employer and this Business Catalyst Fund boost will accelerate its plans to increase productivity and invest in workforce skills development and new apprentices. The agri-food sector remains a key part of our economy and the LEP is committed to helping our bedrock industries innovate and prosper."

The £5 million Business Catalyst Fund is managed by Cornwall Development Company on behalf of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP and Cornwall Council.

Copy ends

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Note to editors:

Photo caption: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP Board member Andrew Williams (left) congratulates Tulip's Cornwall Operations Director Ray Hanly on securing a Business Catalyst Fund grant to accelerate its business growth.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was launched in May 2011. Private sector-led, it is a partnership between the private and public sectors and is driving the economic strategy for the area, determining local priorities and undertaking activities to drive growth and the creation of local jobs. www.cornwallandislesofscillylep.com

Regional Growth Fund

The Regional Growth Fund is a £3.2 billion fund designed to help companies in England to grow. So far £2.6 billion of funding has been allocated to support projects and programmes committed to deliver sustainable jobs and economic growth. Round 5 closed on 9 December and selected bidders will be announced in the spring 2014. For more information, please go to www.bis.gov.uk/rgf

Business Catalyst Fund

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership successfully bid for £7 million from round two of the Regional Growth Fund, which is available to businesses that are not eligible for European Regional Development Fund support. It includes £5 million for the Business Catalyst Fund to support businesses to improve productivity and promote business growth primarily through job creation. The LEP and Cornwall Council has commissioned Cornwall Development Company to deliver the RGF programme.

www.cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk/catalyst

In May 2012 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP announced the Business Boost investment programme totalling £17 million. The Business Catalyst Fund is one of a suite of investment opportunities which also includes Superfast Cornwall Fund, Growing Places Fund and Business Investment for Growth.

www.cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk/businessboost

For more information contact:

Jason Clark
DCA Public Relations
01208 77900
jason.clark@dca-pr.co.uk