

ADAPTING TO THE CHALLENGE

2014 to 2020 European Regional Development Fund



Sandford Orchards, Devon
High Value Manufacturing Advisory Programme

Projects supported through the 2014 to 2020 European Regional Development Fund Programme have been adapting and changing to respond to COVID-19. Through the use of innovative methods, processes and technology, ERDF projects are continuing to deliver benefits and impact across England and helping to tackle the challenges that COVID-19 brings to local areas, businesses and people.

As well as helping places to restart, MHCLG is working with partners to target remaining funding to support longer-term recovery. This vital programme of investment will continue to play an important role in helping to revitalise local economies over the next three years and inform the shape and design of future growth programmes.

Business Innovation - Meetings Needs and Demands

J. Wippell & Co. Ltd, academic robe manufacturer and clerical outfitter in Exeter, saw an opportunity to help the current shortage of PPE and switch the focus of their production. They sought support from the ERDF supported **High Value Manufacturing Advisory Programme** in the Heart of the South West for development activities, including tender writing, whilst also developing a sustainability plan to help adjust to new opportunities and markets. This has enabled the company, with their team of skilled seamstresses, to continue diversifying production to deliver to a local NHS provider. Current orders include adjusting around 40,000 face masks and manufacturing 400 sets of scrubs.



High Value Manufacturing Advisory Programme - £1.1 million ERDF

Crystal Doors, supported by the Growth Hub were able to change their normal business activities to deliver over 5,000 bed tops, side table and cupboards to help stock the NHS emergency treatment centre built at the NEC in Birmingham. The **Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub** has completely tailored and adapted the support it provides for local businesses. Traditional face-to-face meetings now replaced with virtual meetings utilising Zoom, Skype and Google Hangouts.

Marine sail and boat cover manufacturer EXE Sails & Covers, has recently diversified their product range to respond to the current need to produce PPE and scrubs for the NHS. After initially producing gowns, scrubs and face shields for a hospital in Exeter, the demand has grown. In response, the business have purchased a number of 3D printers and have organised 150 outworkers to turn material into the gowns. The ERDF **Manufacturing Advisory Programme** supported them with a business review and are looking at opportunities for new markets.

Business support programme **AD:VENTURE** is helping Dabble - an eco-friendly delivery service that launched on the first day of the COVID-19 lockdown. Dabble uses bicycles to provide a delivery service for a range of shops around the local area, enabling customers to continue supporting local businesses even if they can't physically reach their premises. The launch was pushed forward because of the current demand for home delivery and their ability to provide a vital service to the community and support local businesses.

Haigh's Bakery (Guiseley) Ltd in Leeds, provides commercial catering on a wholesale basis to suppliers which were closed and resulted in loss of income. ERDF support through the **Strategic Business Growth Programme**, helped the company to sell products online to new markets, providing supplies to supermarkets and deliveries at Butchers and Grocers in remote local communities. They also set up a new product around baking for kids, which sold over 50 units in the first half an hour of going on sale.



Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub
£11.7 million ERDF



High Value Manufacturing Advisory Programme
£1.1 million ERDF



AD:VENTURE - £9.1 million ERDF



Strategic Business Growth Programme - £2 million ERDF

Technology Advances

SoLSTICE has helped the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and Spirit Healthcare to provide digital remote monitoring support for vulnerable patients with respiratory and heart failure conditions from their homes. Funding has helped Spirit Digital's remote monitoring platform CliniTouch Vie to be completed nearly two months sooner than expected to help the NHS with its COVID-19 response. The technology connects patients and nurses delivering care easily and safely and flags to medical teams quickly when a person exhibits health deterioration so they can intervene earlier



SoLSTICE - £612,502 ERDF

West Yorkshire manufacturer Kirkstall Precision Engineering, began making ventilator components at cost, whilst their order book halved due to COVID-19. A plan was put in place with help from the **Manufacturing Growth Programme 2**. As part of this they addressed the urgent need put out by the Government to the medical sector and decided to support Rolls Royce with the components to manufacture ventilators at cost value. This helped boost revenue, secure jobs and help with the crisis.



Manufacturing Growth Programme 2
£11.8 million ERDF

ERDF helped support manufacturing specialists at the University of Sunderland to create a tool that could help reduce the spread of COVID-19 across NHS sites. Staff at the **Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing Project** developed two 3D-printed prototypes in a bid to reduce the risk of infection in hospitals and other facilities when opening doors.



Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing Project
£2.6 million ERDF

Supporting Innovation and Growth in Healthcare Technologies (SIGHT) - a business support programme developed by the University of Portsmouth - is providing help and guidance to businesses in the healthcare technology sector. They have supported Exhalation Technologies Ltd to identify Laboratory space for rapid trial deployment opportunities of new COVID-19 related technologies. They are also working with several companies in the local area to explore the accelerated trial of technologies at Portsmouth Technologies Trials Unit to help fight the pandemic.



SIGHT - £843,149 ERDF