



10.4.15

DEGF1513wine

Bottling plant secured with Derby Enterprise Growth Fund

Support will support region's prospering drinks industry

A Derbyshire wine-maker is forging ahead with plans to set up a bottling plant for beer, wine, cider and other British-produced drinks thanks to a grant and loan package from Derby Enterprise Growth Fund.

The English Wine Project, run by former Army captain Kieron Atkinson, produces award-winning wines and sparkling wines at vineyards in Renishaw Hall, North Derbyshire, as well as in Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

The company identified the need for a local bottling facilities for its own wine as well as real and craft ales, cider and other locally-produced drinks, and applied to DEGF for support.

Complete Bottling, the new bottling facility in Raynesway, Derby, will open in June thanks to a £100,000 grant and £311,000 loan from DEGF which is run by Derby City Council and supported by the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

DEGF aims to provide a catalyst for growth and job creation in businesses in the city and surrounding area through a mix of loans and grants.

Mr Atkinson explained: "Thanks to DEGF support, we have been able to go ahead with our goal of opening a bottling facility here in Derby.

"It will handle our own wines and sparkling wines, those of other wine and cider producers and particularly the real ale brewers in the city, region and beyond.

"Derby is the real ale capital of the UK but there are no bottling facilities locally and those that are available elsewhere are all hugely over-subscribed.

“Bottling issues is therefore holding back many real ale producers and micro breweries from expanding and reducing their ability to sell their high quality produce to more outlets both in the UK and abroad.

“The DEGF grant and loan has enabled us to source the best bottling equipment out there which will ensure consistent quality control. Production will start at 10,000 pints a day and we have the capacity to increase that to 15,000 pints as production increases.”

The new facility will in time create 14 full time production, clerical and sales jobs – growing the English Wine Project company which continues to win acclaim for the quality of its wines and sparkling wines.

Derby City Council Director of Regeneration Richard Williams is a member of the DEGF panel of industrial and financial experts which considers business applications.

He said: “The DEGF support for the English Wine Project will not only facilitate the growth of this successful and innovative company but will have wide-reaching benefits to the real ale producers and micro breweries in the city and surrounding area.

“This facility will enable real ale, wine and cider produced here to be bottled locally quickly and efficiently to capitalise on the export opportunities throughout the UK and abroad.

“It will therefore support the growth in the market, create more local jobs in the industry and greatly enhance Derby’s credentials as the real ale capital of the UK.”

Due to the unparalleled success of the Fund in making loan investments rather than simply distributing grant payments, the Fund will be available to support businesses for years to come. To find out more visit: www.derby.gov.uk/degf . Alternatively call 01332 641628 or email degf@derby.gov.uk

ends

Media enquiries: Sarah Jenkin-Jones, JJPR Tel: 01332 515102/07951945665
sarah@jjpublicrelations.co.uk

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Derby Enterprise Growth Fund

The Derby Enterprise Growth Fund is a £20 million holistic finance scheme delivered by Derby City Council offering grants and loans to Derby businesses and those that operate within the city's travel to work area.

The Fund focuses on stimulating innovation, expansion and investment in enterprises with the key objective of creating jobs.

The Derby Enterprise Growth Fund can be used for a variety of purposes. This could involve innovation, research and development of products, processes and systems which will result in business and supply chain efficiency, resilience, growth and profitability.

The Fund also promotes business expansion, providing loans and in some cases grants for enterprises with growth potential across all sectors, including social enterprises. Eligible expenditure includes support with costs of relocation from abroad, investment in both development to enable additional overseas trade and capital equipment, site and building infrastructure, working capital, workforce development as well as help to become investment-ready.

Due to the unparalleled success of the Fund in making loan investments rather than simply distributing grant payments, the Fund will be available to support businesses for years to come. To find out more visit: www.derby.gov.uk/degf . Alternatively call 01332 641628 or email degf@derby.gov.uk

About the Government's Regional Growth Fund

The Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF) supports eligible projects and programmes raising private sector investment to create economic growth and lasting employment. It has invested nearly £3 billion to help businesses in England to grow; so far generating over 100,000 jobs.

The English Wine Project and Complete Bottling

Founded in 2011 by Kieron Atkinson and Jane Travis, the English Wine Project is a consultancy-based wine business which supports and champions English and Welsh wines and helps improve the quality of production across the UK. Kieron, who lives in Derby, produces award winning wines from vineyards across the region and recently set up Complete Bottling, through support from the DEGF, to facilitate a growing demand for bottling the region's drink products.

www.englishwineproject.co.uk

Complete Bottling is a state of the art bottling facility based in the centre of the country, at Derby, opening in June 2015 and offering a first class bottling service to support the requirements of all drinks producers – from microbreweries to established drinks companies.

www.completebottling.co.uk