

Case Study 5 – Paul Costigan, Smalls Dredging

Somerset dredging company introduces innovative methods to UK

Smalls Dredging is providing Ports and Harbours, the Environment Agency and major water companies in the UK innovative solutions to clear waterways and drainage.

Using methods and equipment which is effectively used by its associate business in Holland, the company is working hard to bring these cost effective and environmentally friendly techniques to benefit local and national projects.

Paul Costigan, Managing Director of Smalls Dredging, said: “There are a multitude of businesses and clients in the UK that have yet to be introduced to these methods. Our aim is to educate local authorities about what our business can do and provide solutions at a fraction of the price they have been paying.

“We have had lengthy discussions with Harbour Authorities, Drainage Boards and Water treatment contractors across the country and are looking forward to working with them.”

Having seen the company’s innovative dredging plans during a visit to the Highbridge Enterprise Centre, Local MP James Heapey has become an enthusiast of the operations and is championing the benefits they can provide.

Paul continued: “Being based at the Centre has given the business some fantastic connections in Somerset and beyond. We have been working with the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and local MP to raise awareness of the company and what it can do to help. The office space has been great for us as we have been able to establish business links with the other tenants and continue to look to the future of the business.”

As the business becomes more established and grows Paul will be looking to add to his team, and train local people about the dredging operations. Along with labourers, mechanics and lab technicians Paul will need Project Managers and administrators to complete the varied projects.

Jakki MacPhail, Highbridge Enterprise Centre Manager, said: “Smalls was one of the first companies to move into the Centre and although they work nationally it is appropriate that we could offer a base near the Somerset Levels.

“Smalls will definitely grow in the near future and will need to expand and contract in line with project staffing levels. I am really pleased that the Centre can offer flexible space to reflect these needs, reducing the risk of permanently taking on bigger office space.”

For more information about the office space and work hub facilities available at the Highbridge Enterprise Centre email Andy Tudor on Andrew.tudor@tedcltd.com or call 01278 550250.

Ends

Summary Quote:

Paul Costigan, Managing Director of Smalls Dredging, said: “The office is local to me and ideally located on the M5. The inclusion of business advice from a Somerset Business Centre advisor is a real plus and I have already benefitted from training on the video conferencing facility. This will enable me to communicate face to face with my partnership company based in Amsterdam without the cost and time it would take to travel.

“I have met some useful contacts at the Centre already and connected with tenants that specialise in marketing and media. Networking with other businesses will help me develop my new company in the future.”