

turning knowledge into solutions

A 'smart' way to increase shelf-life

There are smiles all round at Biofresh Ltd after an increase in revenue resulting from input from Food Processing Faraday as part of their Northern Food Industry Innovation Network (NFIIN).

NFIIN, a collaborative initiative to encourage innovation and research in the food and drink sector, provided funding to support a feasibility study which underpinned the creation of the biofresh smartpallet® - a self-contained rechargeable Europallet facilitating the in-transit treatment of fresh produce. The unit maintains prescribed levels of ozone in the storage atmosphere to curb microbial spoilage and extend shelf-life.

The development was delivered using a partnership approach lead by the Faraday, which provided the best knowledge-based solution, drawing-upon the skills of the Regional Centre for Innovation and Design at Newcastle University.

As a result several generations of prototype were developed, which were rigorously tested in the field prior to launching the commercial smartpallet® onto the market.

To date 50 units are out on trials and there is a move toward mass producing the units both in the UK and in the US, through manufacturing partnerships. Commercial interest in the smartpallet® grows daily and the product is already in use in several European countries, with negotiations reaching an exciting stage with potential distributors who seek to launch the product into US and Far East markets.

The project created 1 new post, secured the jobs of 4 full-time Biofresh employees and is assisting in securing local employment.

Professor Jerry Barnes, Co-founder and Technical Director of Biofresh, comments 'The feasibility study part-funded by the Faraday certainly opened a door to explore a significant business opportunity that may otherwise have stayed closed.'



To know more about how your company can benefit through innovation support from Food Processing Faraday contact enquiries@fpfaraday.com or telephone 01664 420066

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