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Welsh Government

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The R&D Factory Ltd

The R&D Factory was set up with the goal of profiting from innovation. Now it is set to access the global plastics market worth \$180 billion.



The R&D Factory set out to invent and develop socially responsible products and processes which would deliver environmental and commercial benefits.

Following Welsh Government funding for extensive research and development, the R&D Factory created Streamoulding, the world's first retro fit plastics foaming process for injection moulding. The process uses tap water as a foaming agent to create a lightweight plastic that can reduce up to 40% of a traditional polymer's weight. This saves material and energy in moulding most plastic items. As an example, with eight billion plastic coat hangers ending up in landfill every year, there is a huge opportunity for Streamoulding to be used to reduce environmental impact

and the amount of plastic and raw material used.

With successive tranches of funding from the Welsh Government's SMARTCymru scheme the R&D Factory is soon to realise commercial interest from many large international companies including the world's leading manufacturers of plastic garment hangers. Market opportunities have been identified in the UK, Europe, and the Far East, in particular, China. The company has also secured a patent for Streamoulding in the UK and has an international application in process in three

key markets; US, Europe and China.

The R&D Factory director, John Heaton said: "We challenge existing conventions and focus on developing commercial solutions – "profit through Innovation" is our mantra. Our financial objectives are to deliver income streams from direct sales and licensing of our IP. The research and development required to bring our Streamoulding concept to market was always going to be lengthy, but thanks to Welsh Government funding we hope to realise the commercial benefits soon."



To find out more about funding and support from the Welsh Government:

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innovation