Sigma Embroidery and Printing

Awarded £8,795 under Priority 2 Support for Micro and Small Businesses Intervention rate 40%

Sigma is classified as a micro business with 4 FTE staff and is owned by a sole trader. It was formed in 2002 and taken over by the current owner, Kim Oakhill, in April 2013. Sigma decorates clothing and gifts using embroidery and a variety of printing methods. The business has grown significantly, in both turnover and employees, in the last three years. This has been due to investment in new equipment. It has recently moved premises to cope with the growth. Sigma are based in premises in Littleport, Cambridgeshire.

The aim of the project was to expand the range of embroidery services that Sigma can offer thereby developing new markets, increasing productivity and growing the business. Sigma will create 1 FTE job and aim to grow turnover by 15 per cent year on year

Sigma have purchased a twin headed embroidery machine and a set of magnetic frames.

The twin headed embroidery machine will enable larger scale embroidery and open new markets such as horse blankets, theatre curtains and classic car covers. The magnetic frames will allow embroidering onto more awkward shapes and delicate materials. This will open new markets in areas such equestrian items, sports bags and personalised gifts. They will also speed up the process as they are quicker to use than manual frames.

Investment in new machinery will increase productivity and allow Sigma to enter new markets and address demand from existing customers that it is currently unable to satisfy.

Kim said, 'Sigma were so excited to have been accepted to receive a Leader Grant. The grant has allowed us to purchase equipment, which we otherwise couldn't have afforded. The new equipment has allowed us to increase the range of services we offer and has therefore opened up more business opportunities, which is helping us to grow. We aim to take on a new member of staff shortly.'

Find out more about Sigma www.sigmaembroidery.co.uk

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