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Case Study



Komodo Fireworks

Part-funded by:



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



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Rob Sosbe,
Director



Fireworks company hopes to come back from the pandemic with a bang!

Inspiration for what is believed to be the only moving firework system in the UK came to Rob Sosbe during his toughest time as a business owner. Watching light beams bounce around illuminated buildings in November 2020, part of their Covid-safe firework event, has led to the design and build of the innovative ‘i-MOVE’ product.

Komodo Fireworks specialises in providing bespoke, dynamic and musical firework displays for weddings, bonfire nights and other special occasions. He has a team of 50 part-time display managers and operators who do the preparation work and run the shows.

Komodo was hit hard by Covid-19 which affected two summer wedding seasons, despite restrictions easing here and there. However, it did give Rob the time to look at opportunities in fireworks and new effects, and this is when the new ‘i-MOVE’ project was created.

Rob wanted to bring something totally new to the market, giving them the potential to grow rapidly post Covid. Essentially the business has reverse-engineered existing equipment on the market for lighting, removing the light and putting fireworks in their place. They can drive the ‘i-MOVE’ unit to independent positions and move it in a 360-degree tilt and pan movement throughout a show so fireworks synchronise in time with the music – this has never been done before.

They’ve also built a bespoke mounting system in the lamp unit that contains fireworks and the firing system to enable them to remotely fire the product using the existing kit.

Buying a new lighting unit would have cost around £10,000 so a second-hand unit was the most cost-effective option. After months of research and development with some hiccups along the way, they had their first unit working.

Rob began to explore additional funding to support the project so they could build more units. He got in touch with the Business

Gateway to ask for help and was introduced to Business Adviser Paul Bennett, who loved Rob’s idea.

Rob faced huge time pressure to get all the documentation in before the application deadline and had to work tirelessly to get everything in working closely with Paul. The application was successful and they received a £6,000 grant, (35% of the total £18,000 costs) for controls and software.

He said: “Paul’s help was like gold dust. He was able to steer us in the right direction with specific details on what the panel wanted. With the timescales we had, that kind of help was so useful.”

Rob estimated with other ancillaries and component assets the ‘i-MOVE’ project would take the overall investment well into £40,000.

He added: “I think it’s great, we’ve had some recognition of the work that we’re doing through this grant approval. Recognition from our peers in the business community for an innovative project they can support. It’s a pat on the back from our perspective and it encourages us as a business to look at other growth opportunities.”

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Support: Grant and advice

Impact: New product development and diversification

Area: Market Harborough

Employees: 50 part-time employees

Delivered in partnership with:



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