



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Case Study: A Look at the Companies Benefitting from the Co-Innovate Project

THEME:

Research and Innovation

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€16,641,271.28

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland; the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland; and the Scottish Government

LEAD PARTNER:

InterTrade Ireland

PROJECT PARTNERS

Enterprise NI Ltd; East Border Region Ltd.; Local Enterprise Offices (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo); Scottish Enterprise; and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Start Date: 01/08/2016

End Date: 31/03/2023

 <https://co-innovateprogramme.eu/>

 @Team_COI

The Co-Innovate project is supporting over 1,400 SMEs and micro-businesses in western Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Support for businesses includes: collaborative project funding; workshops demonstrating how innovation can be brought to all aspects of the firm; business and innovation assessments; and one-to-one expert advice to develop innovation capabilities. Over 1,000 companies have been supported through the project including Donite Plastics and Tapa Healthcare.

Donite Plastics

The County Down plastics company revolutionised its operations and won new contracts thanks to its participation in the project. Attending the projects innovation workshops and receiving one-to-one business support, the small company was able to successfully develop its innovation capability. This included a move to new premises and doubling its staff and turnover. The company will continue to work with Co-Innovate towards a business-academic collaboration to further develop specialised thermoformed plastic panels to be used in off-road and agri-vehicles.



“We’ve always been focused on technical innovation but taking part in the Co-Innovate programme really made us think about our management structure and innovating in other ways which we hadn’t considered before. We have become much better organised and have vastly increased our production capacity. We are in a much improved position to go out there and pitch for new work which will make a big difference to our business’ long-term success.”

Michael Knight, Managing Director of Donite Plastics

Tapa Healthcare

Dundalk based Tapa Healthcare is a medical technology business that provides patient-centric care by harnessing the power of ICT. The Co-Innovate Programme allowed the company to review all aspects of its business, focusing on innovation and future opportunities. Advice, hands-on mentoring and real-life business support helped ensure innovation, research and collaboration was embedded in the business to support future growth.