

SustaPack Secures £1 Million Grant to Advance Sustainable Packaging Technology Project

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SustaPack, a multimillion-pound research initiative, has received a £1 million (\$1.2 million) grant from the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to enhance the production of sustainable, paper-based packaging.

This collaboration, led by Pulpex, a packaging technology company, in partnership with the University of Surrey, aims to refine manufacturing processes for creating environmentally friendly bottles from natural wood fibres.

"We are thrilled to strengthen our collaboration with the University of Surrey to enhance our technologies and processes," said Scott Winston, CEO of Pulpex. "The SustaPack partnership will significantly advance the development of safe and sustainable packaging solutions, enabling brand owners to achieve their net-zero targets. This initiative provides consumers with sustainable choices, empowers brand owners to meet their environmental goals, and facilitates the transition towards more sustainable supply chains for retailers."

The project, supported by the UK Research and Innovation co-investing program, will focus on refining Pulpex's patented technology for producing degradable bottles that can be recycled within existing paper waste streams. A critical aspect of this research involves improving the multilayered barrier coating of the packaging to enhance its performance and extend the shelf life of packaged goods.

The University of Surrey's multidisciplinary team will leverage advanced technologies, including thermal imaging and AI, to detect and correct defects in wet coatings during the manufacturing process. This

innovative approach will enhance product quality and ensure high production reliability.

By advancing sustainable packaging solutions, SustaPack aims to redefine industry standards and empower brand owners to meet stringent environmental regulations while offering consumers eco-friendly alternatives to traditional plastic packaging.