Visit to Vegware Edinburgh

28 November 2016

Meeting hosted by: Joe Frankel, Managing Director

Members in attendance: Andy Wightman

Background

Vegware is the UK's only completely compostable food packaging firm, producing two thirds of the biodegradable packaging.

Vegware has a turnover of £15 million and mainly supply work-based catering. Their products are made from annually renewable or recycled materials. Manufacturing takes place in the UK, Ireland and Taiwan. Vegware sell mainly to Europe, the US, Australia and Hong Kong.

Issues discussed

Currency fluctuations have been the initial concern. They have found that currency devaluation does not lead to an increase in exports. Furthermore, the food packaging industry is price driven and the costs of importing raw materials (paper from Finland, bioplastics from US) have increased. A significant part of the UK manufacturing sector is in the assembly of partially finished products and will face similar costs.

Twenty percent of Vegware’s overall sales are to the Eurozone and they are seeking to refocus over the next 12-14 months, laying down stock in Europe and the US.