

March 26th 2019

White Horse Plastics (WHP) aids the eWATERpay revolution



Successful WHP innovation in action

Oxfordshire-based Injection moulding innovator White Horse Plastics has helped bring life-saving technology to market as part of the eWATERpay's mission to African countries.

The award-winning project utilised the complete WHP skill set – from design and redesign to prototype tooling, tooling revisions and then injection moulding of the finished product.

Rob Hygate, Chief Technical Officer (CTO) at eWATERpay says that ‘working with White Horse Plastics has been great. They were enthusiastic, highly skilled and worked long hours in order to help make our innovation become a reality.’

The execution of a recent number of challenging projects such as eWATERtap assisted White Horse Plastics (WHP) to successfully complete a Management Buy Out (MBO) of the company at the beginning of this year. The new WHP team led by Managing Director Paul Bobby, will continue to press forward with its signature strengths in developing and producing tight tolerance technical injection mouldings and plastics-based sub assemblies.

Says Hygate, ‘from the beginning WHP used its signature strengths and its 40 plus years of manufacturing experience to help us achieve our goals. Our initial sketches and ideas quickly took on the shape of provable and workable manufacturing technology.’

Thanks to a successful partnership eWATERpay is now poised to develop full production moulding runs for the global marketplace.'



Effective client liaison is part of the WHP process

In essence, eWATERpay is a low cost PayGo water system using mobile technology and a proprietary design moulding. WHP's contribution has been the design and production of the two part plastic casings for the system.

The casing design needed refreshing throughout the course of the project in order to factor in developing needs such as device security (anti-tamper proofing); evolving electronic circuit boards, choice of polymers for moulding and water dispensing.

David Eyles of WHP says that we are delighted to have partnered eWATERpay through a very interesting and challenging development cycle. Not only did the product need to be tamper proof and leak proof, there were many other factors to accommodate.'

The WHP design and production team integrated water tightness, IP rating requirement and health and safety factors into the design of the device. Additional factors included selection of the materials to cope with the harsh weathering factors (temperatures and sunlight).

A total of 103 eWATERtaps have now been deployed in seven villages in The Gambia last year, working closely with the Ministry of Water. Two villages in Tanzania followed suit, working with DFID, Babati District Council and Water Aid.

The innovative tap systems currently provide reliable water for 40,000 people every day. Text alerts via the eWATERcare app enable water supply operators to carry out repairs within 5 hours. People buy eWATERcredit using mobile money or NFC/App transfer.

eWATERpay looks like fast becoming a Made In Britain success story for our times. Based on last year's successful field trials it is now aiming to be a low cost, proven technical solution that will transform the lives of 2.1 billion people by providing sustainable access to water and reducing climate change risks.

And eWATERpay uses mobile phone technology to deliver financial sustainability for water supply operators. Users can buy one litre on the way to school or hundreds of litres for their livestock. Taps are connected to eWATERcare via global networking which captures and processes huge volumes of real time operational usage and sales data - connected to 440 mobile operator networks in 170 countries offering global opportunities.

Rob Hygate says that 'we have achieved our win-win vision and ambition with White Horse Plastics. E Water proves to the world that technology, modern materials and humanitarian aims can really work hand in glove for the betterment of all.'