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DERRY'S HUNTERS APPAREL SOLUTIONS LTD. SEWS UP GROWTH WITH HSBC SUPPORT

Derry-based corporate work-wear and uniform designer, supplier and manufacturer Hunters Apparel Solutions is targeting sales growth after securing a comprehensive funding package from HSBC.

The company, which dates back to 1936 and is now in its third generation of family management, has secured trade finance facilities from HSBC's Northern Ireland Commercial Centre to support the import of materials and clothing from suppliers from South East Asia, Eastern Europe and North Africa, as well as working capital facilities to help support sales growth. The finance has come from HSBC's new £100 million fund specifically to support Northern Irish businesses.

The company is set to achieve sales of nearly £8 million this year, compared to £4.6 million for 2013, and has just won the UK's top three Professional Clothing awards for its achievements. It employs 42 people at its base on the Springtown Industrial Estate.

Hunters specialises in supplying top end products to sectors that face challenging weather conditions, such as military, transport, utilities and postal. The leading UK supplier of Britain's fire service uniforms, its clients also include the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police, Kuwait Airways, Body Shop, An Post and HSCNI.

Managing Director Simon Hunter C Dir., who is the third generation of his family to lead the firm, said: "We have invested heavily in the business, particularly around technology to add real client value and in our warehouse facility in Derry, and we have been growing sales on the back of that. The funding from HSBC has helped us increase our stock levels by enabling us to import more material and stock from overseas, whilst the working capital facility has helped us accelerate sales."

HSBC Northern Ireland Area Commercial Director Simon George said: “Hunters is one of Derry’s oldest businesses but is one that understands the benefits of investment, which is helping it to expand. HSBC is well-positioned to support businesses in Northern Ireland that are looking to grow and I would urge companies to come and talk to us about their plans.”

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