

Innovation turns to celebration as RBS selects new green ideas to test on the bank's estate

Release date: 7 October 2014

The first successful innovators to go through the RBS Innovation Gateway have been announced by RBS.

After a final day of pitches and presentations at RBS' offices in the City on Monday Nov 10th, the bank selected 10 innovators who will now go on to test their ideas and innovations on the bank's estate - 2,500 buildings and branches. A further 6 conceptual innovations will receive a £3,000 grant and development support.

RBS has worked with a range of world-class project partners, including 2degrees, the world's leading platform for sustainable business, to help build the online Gateway community and to help develop a healthy innovation community. More than 600 innovators have signed up to the Gateway online within the first 6 months.

Announcing the successful finalists, **Marcela Navarro** from RBS, who established the RBS Innovation Gateway, said: *"I am thrilled to have great innovations to test in RBS estate. This is going to make a real difference to our ability to continue to reduce the cost and environmental impacts of running our properties; and it will also contribute to accelerate access to market for this group of brilliant innovators."*

The RBS Innovation Gateway was launched in March this year. The initiative has three aims; to help the bank save energy, water and waste across the RBS estate, to nurture a new wave of brilliant innovators and to accelerate access to market.

The Gateway attracted more than 140 submissions in 40 days, from brand new concepts through to market-ready products and services.

Martin Chilcott, CEO and Founder of 2degrees added: *"The quality, creativity and the range of ideas has been phenomenal. All entrants have been on an incredible journey to make their innovations commercially accessible. Since RBS opened the gates to the innovations, the Gateway has become a hub of new businesses seeking access to the tools and contacts to bring their innovations to the market. We hope that these ideas inspire others to start their own sustainable journey."*

Over the last six months an independent panel of experts from academia and the business world has worked with RBS and 2degrees to analyse each innovation and assess how it could help drive resource efficiency across the RBS estate.

Twenty six innovators were shortlisted for yesterday's final, which involved a Dragon's Den-style presentation to a distinguished panel of experts, featuring former Tomorrow's World presenter Maggie Philbin and John Elkington, known as the grandfather of sustainability.

Greg Lavery, Director, Rype Office, one of the successful innovators said: *“We are delighted to win this award and thank RBS for reaching out to small businesses. Being chosen as a successful innovator by the RBS Innovation Gateway confirms that there is a market for remanufactured office furniture and gives confidence to other potential customers to choose our products.”*

Another successful innovator, **Mark Forester** at HSG added: *“It is hard to put into words how everyone involved at HSG is feeling at the moment. For us to have made the initial shortlisting was a tremendous achievement. To have then made the final was fantastic, but to be announced as one of the winners, was something we never expected when we first submitted our product in March. We believe in our product but to have a selection panel with huge experience in sustainability also agree, for us is very humbling.”*

The successful finalists include:

Innovator	What is the innovation?
CONCEPTS CATEGORY	
City Farm Systems	City Farm Systems doesn't offers energy savings but ensures that 100% of energy consumed is used effectively. CFS offers the ability to place long life polytunnel based systems on rooftops as an intensive growing facility that can uses waste heat and consumes CO2. As such making a city building a place of carbon consumption and improving city air quality. By creating these facilities on rooftops w here the building below either sells or consumes fresh produce in volume. This means transportation is not required increasing the economic viability further.
The Solar Cloth Company	The PowerBlanket allows the client and RBS to take an existing asset such as a roof - Wall space or create an Awning within an existing building and allow a tenant or start up to create Green /Clean electrical energy . This then can use as a supplementary or a total power source, and then when the owner relocates, they can move the energy creating PowerBlanket with them at a minimal cost.
Limetools	Our online know ledge transfer tool, Buildings@Work, will engage all the staff in RBS necessary to maximise resource efficiency in the RBS estate, buildings and facilities, while at the same time reducing risk and environmental and consequent reputational damage. This online tool could also offer added value to the customers of RBS Corporate Banking, so that they may join in on the journey to more efficient management of their own facilities, thereby enhancing their own operations and profitability, and reducing risk and exposure for RBS in their dealings with them.
Reduse	Reduse Ltd has invented a technology to remove toner-print from paper, using laser ablation. This technology, which we call “unprinting”, allows s office

	<p>paper to be reused instead of being recycled. Unlike alternative methods, unprinting can work on all regular office paper and is not dependent on the use of any special toner. By applying unprinting in the office environment, cost savings of at least 40% can be achieved compared to buying recycled paper, while simultaneously reducing the associated carbon emissions with up to 80%.</p>
Rype Office	<p>Remanufactured office furniture (which by definition is returned to as-new condition) is not now available in the UK. Rype office will capture office furniture at the end of its first life (reducing waste) and remanufacture it. Remanufacturing reduces the materials, energy, greenhouse gas emissions and water embodied in products by over 80%, while creating new semi-skilled jobs and improving resource security. It is also saves money for purchasers due to the substantial resource savings.</p>
Powervault	<p>Powervault is the UK's first specialist provider of cost-effective distributed energy storage solutions to domestic homes and SMEs, lowering consumers' electricity bills whilst reducing peak grid electricity demand. The Powervault device can accommodate most battery storage technologies. Our background IP, for which we have a patent pending, lies in the control and integration elements of the storage device and in its interface with the existing household electrical system.</p>
GARAGE TESTED CATEGORY	
Glaze and Save	<p>Targets up over 60% reduction in heat loss for sash and case windows in conservation areas and listed properties.</p>
MARKET READY CATEGORY	
HSG	<p>The Ureco Water Management System, once retro-fitted into the out-let of a urinal enables the reduction of the standard daily number of cistern flushes to just four per day. The protected technology behind the Ureco, uses hydraulic physics to create a highly efficient 100% odour lock, preventing unpleasant odours entering the washrooms. What sets the Ureco apart from the competition is the Enzyme capability within the cap.</p> <p>Urinal cisterns with little or no water controls in place, typically flush between 4 and 8 times per hour. This constant flushing not only is a huge cost, but with over 315,000 litres per annum of fresh potable water, literally being flushed down the drain, this is a huge environmental disaster. By flushing the cistern just 4 times per day reduces the usage to just 13,140 litres per annum a potential saving of over 300,000 litres per cistern.</p>
Alquist	<p>Alquist's innovation is to run fibre-optic temperature sensing cables above, below and within server racks</p>

	to create highly accurate heat maps of each data hall. Alquist uses relatively new “Distributed Temperature Sensing” technology, which founder Andrew Jones helped develop for pipeline and power transmission cable monitoring in the oil and gas and power industries. Through measurement of photon refraction from a laser beam fired inside the fibre-optic cable, precise temperature readings are taken every 15 seconds, every metre, along a 4km cable, obviating the need for stand-alone temperature sensors.
Raise Energy Solutions	<i>LED Plug N Play Tubes</i> and G24's replace existing fluorescent lamps with no fixture modifications. This product reduces energy consumption by 46%- 70%
Sunamp Ltd	Using Sunamp heat batteries to drive cost reduction in heating and cooling properties while significantly reducing operating carbon by switching to more renewable electricity and heat pumping.
Senselogix	EnergyLogix utilises the building user as its key sensor for managing the office environment. From managing the users' desk space, to heating and cooling the user depending on their presence, EnergyLogix connects the user to the buildings services. By doing this EnergyLogix ensures the buildings services are continually optimised and the when the user is not as his or her desk space, then the buildings services are turned off or optimised to ensure no energy is wasted.
Chalmor	eTRV+ is an energy saving retrofit to replace existing radiator thermostats (TRV's). It will enable RBS to control heating on a room by room basis according to usage, across a diverse estate with a wide range of building types. Energy savings are made through accurate temperature control. A built in timer can enhance this in areas with planned usage. For areas with intermittent use, occupancy sensors can reduce temperature in empty rooms. eTRV+ saves energy by preventing overheating and providing appropriate heating per area. eTRV+ reduces energy use by 25%+, which will make a huge indent on the next 75%.
Propelair	Propelair is a new and highly innovative WC which reduces water use from an average of 9 litres to 1.5 litres per flush - a six fold reduction. It has been designed with a closeable lid, which allow s air to efficiently purge the contents of the pan into the drain while only using a very small quantity of water for cleaning and drain function. It is neither vacuum nor compressed-air technology but a totally new approach that is inexpensive and able to connect to conventional drains as an end-of-pipe solution for old and new buildings alike.
Datum Phase Change	Suspended ceiling tile systems incorporating phase change technology. The thermal inertia of

	ThermaCool® enables temperature variations in a room to be reduced. A relatively large amount of cooling capacity is supplied in the form of radiative cooling. These characteristics have a favourable effect on thermal comfort.
Certero	PowerStudio reduces energy wastage across desktop PC's. It detects when PC's aren't being used and powers them down when appropriate. It reports to a central management console how energy is consumed across your PC estate and how Power Studio has reduced energy wastage.

For more information please visit: www.rbs.com/innovationgateway

ENDS

For further information about 2degrees, please contact:

Simon Ward, 2degrees, simonward@2degreesnetwork.com 01865 597 645

For further information on the RBS Innovation Gateway please visit: www.innovationgateway.rbs.com

For a full list of selected finalists, join the Gateway and then [click here](#).

For a full list of Panel members, join the Gateway and then [click here](#).

About 2degrees - www.2degreesnetwork.co.uk

2degrees helps major corporations cut costs, reduce risk and achieve smarter growth by being more sustainable. It does this by helping them transform out-dated business practices, using fully-linked collaboration to make it simple and efficient for them to work closely and at scale with suppliers, internal operations and customers.

It also manages an online collaboration platform with more than 44,000 professional members which acts as an important facilitator, helping to engage, inform and enable companies in a value chain to work together to realise the benefits of being more sustainable.