

EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS ADVISOR

Regional Grant Supports Swedish Blacksmith's Expansion



“Once EUGA made us aware of the local funding opportunities, we found the application process straightforward. The relatively short amount of time we spent was very well rewarded, with the grant covering one fifth of our total project costs.”

Maja Lindell, Personnel and Logistics,
Jannebergs Smedja

FAST FACTS »

Situation

In spring 2006, Swedish blacksmith Jannebergs Smedja began to expand and recruit new employees. The growing company soon recognised it needed to invest in buildings and machinery to provide a safe working environment for its people. While exploring the possibility of using public funding for its expansion project, it found the European Union Grants Advisor (EUGA) Web site. A EUGA consultant directed the company to the County Administration of Blekinge, which offers support for small and medium-sized enterprises under its Regional Grant for Company Development.

Solution

Jannebergs Smedja found the grant application process straightforward and submitted the details of its project in October 2006. The County Administration then visited the company's premises to assess the proposal. The project focused on the construction of a building adapted for winter production and the provision of facilities such as locker rooms and eating areas. In addition, the company wanted to provide all its employees with machinery and tools that would allow them to better contribute to the company's success. Impressed with the project, the county administration awarded Jannebergs Smedja €13,000 (U.S.\$16,900) in December 2006. A requirement of the grant was that the company employ at least six people. Since receiving the investment, Jannebergs Smedja's workforce has grown to 15.

Benefits

- Improved working environment keeps employees happy.
- New machinery and tools increase productivity.
- Grant covers 20 per cent of project costs.
- Company now employs 15 people.