

Case Study - Innovating Scotland



Intelligent Growth Solutions Innovating Scotland

Established in 2013, Intelligent Growth Solutions (IGS) is an agri-tech business headquartered in Edinburgh and with a demonstration facility at the James Hutton Institute in Invergowrie. Their mission is to create the optimal conditions for commercially viable vertical farming. Through extensive trials at its demonstration facility, IGS has been able to develop a tried and tested technology that will provide the global vertical farming sector with a system that will help to revolutionise indoor food production.

The IGS technology has been designed specifically to address core challenges facing the vertical farming sector. Its goal is to deliver economic and productivity benefits by reducing power and labour costs whilst growing consistently high-quality produce to demand at the point of consumption.

Highlights

A patented Internet-of-Things enabled power and communications platform that helps optimise system performance/efficiency of vertical farms.

IGS has incorporated intelligent multi-spectral lighting, a dynamic power system and a closed-loop irrigation system / rainwater harvesting to minimise water use.

The IGS system delivers yields of 225% and labour savings of up to 80% compared to glasshouse production and energy savings of 50% in comparison to other indoor growing environments.



Winner of the Innovating Scotland Award 2019

Innovating from a grower's perspective, the company has combined electrical, electronic and mechanical technologies to deliver "total controlled environment agriculture". As part of the system, IGS has developed, patented and produced a breakthrough Internet-of-Things enabled power and communications platform to help optimise performance and system efficiency.

IGS has incorporated intelligent multi-spectral lighting which only delivers the light the plants need, a dynamic power system to flex responsively to the grid and a closed-loop irrigation system combined with rain water harvesting to minimise water use. The judges were impressed by the improvements and efficiencies offered by the system. For example, the IGS system delivers yields of 225% and labour savings of up to 80% compared to glasshouse production and energy savings of 50% in comparison to other indoor growing environments.

The Innovating Scotland Award recognises businesses that have introduced innovation(s) into their operations and obtained sustainability benefits as a result. The Judges were impressed by the potential of the project to reduce food miles and look forward to new developments. The judges were also impressed by the fact the same weight of produce can be grown in a 100m2 vertical farm that can be grown on a 1.1 ha conventional farm.



