

PRESS RELEASE:



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Surrey business helps Start Up Loans reach 30,000 loans

The Start Up Loans Company has reached a significant landmark - issuing their 30,000th loan to a married couple from Surrey.

Husband and wife team Anjali and Gavin Healy have started their business A&G Choclatl with the help of a £20,000 loan from the Start Up Loan Company through the Virgin StartUp scheme. A&G Choclatl uses whole cacao beans to produce traditional drinking chocolate, taking it back to its original pure form, with no additives or artificial flavours.

The business has got off on a strong footing, already supplying Mexican restaurant group Wahaca with drinking chocolate, sometimes producing up to a quarter tonne at their home kitchen in a week. The couples' Start Up Loan is being used for new equipment and to help upscale the operations, taking production into a factory and getting start up stock ready.

Going forward A&G Choclatl will start producing a ready to drink version for supermarkets, as well as developing their range of flavours. Having already been shortlisted with Ocado's Britain's Next Top Supplier, they have also developed serious interest from several other national wholesalers and retailers across the UK. The products will be the first of their kind in the UK.

Last week, the Prime Minister was delighted to announce the 30,000th announcement and underlined the government's commitment to increasing the number of loans over the course of the parliament.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron said:

"Business owners across the country are already using these start-up loans to launch innovative new companies. As part of our long-term economic plan this One Nation government is committed to more than doubling the number of loans to 75,000.

“We've already seen 299 loans given to businesses in Surrey County local authority area, creating jobs and opportunities for families across the region.”

Co-owner of A&G Choclatl, Anjali Healy said:

“We are so excited about the road ahead and the buzz around our product as we set out to quietly redefine the expectations of chocolate.

“Everyone needs a little support along the way, so thank goodness for the outstanding network, talent and resources at Virgin StartUp and to Start Up Loans for their phenomenal support to small businesses in the UK”.

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For more information please call BLJ London on 020 7932 1599 or startuploans@blj.co.uk

About Virgin StartUp: Virgin StartUp, is a not-for-profit organisation, which gives budding entrepreneurs the funding, information and support they need to get their business ideas off the ground. Find out more at virginstartup.org

Notes to editors: