

IMAGINE IF PIONEERING GREEN TECH FIRMS WERE FREE TO FLOURISH



AT THE TIME OF ITS LAUNCH IN 2009, C-CAPTURE WAS QUIETLY WORKING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS TO CREATE SOMETHING GROUND-BREAKING THAT WOULD TRANSFORM THE WAY CARBON DIOXIDE IS CAPTURED FROM THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. AS A SPIN OUT COMPANY OF THE SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, C-CAPTURE BROUGHT A UNIQUE COLLABORATION OF ENGINEERS AND CHEMISTS TO CREATE A STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY WITH MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. BY ENSURING THE START-UP COULD NAVIGATE ITS WAY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSIONS AROUND PATENTING ITS TECHNOLOGY, ADDLESHAW GODDARD HELPED PROTECT THE COMPANY'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) AND ENSURE COLLABORATION DOES NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THEIR CONTINUOUS INNOVATION OF A PIONEERING GREEN TECHNOLOGY. C-CAPTURE'S TECHNOLOGY IS NOW EUROPE-LEADING.

The challenge:

C-Capture was established to help find new solutions to remove harmful gases from the atmosphere across a range of industries. Given the revolutionary nature of their technology, the C-Capture team were quickly approached by investors and partners wanting to collaborate. However, without the right patents in place or a way to protect intellectual property, the business was at risk of missing an opportunity to develop.

How we are helping

Addleshaw Goddard has been working alongside the C-Capture team since 2016, helping to find the right balance between collaboration, investment and protecting their intellectual property.

A challenge for many start-ups is raising investment and scaling up technology while retaining ownership and control of their products. That makes it essential to have clear agreements in place. Addleshaw Goddard advised on these agreements and, importantly, set the guardrails for all partners to ensure alignment. This starts with filing patents for carbon capture so that the ideas being shared are locked down and completely confidential.

The impact

C-Capture is free to work with more partners in the private sector and with the UK Government, as it has the right agreements and guardrails in place that enable them to innovate and collaborate without risking their IP. The company is now seeing more investment from the private sector as green technologies take centre stage. The company has recently had a new round of funding and are now at the stage of full commercialisation.

Key learnings

With the huge focus on the green agenda, and a growing need for environmentally-conscious power generation and industrial processes, the government and investment industry will be placing more capital into green initiatives. Collaboration will be a vital component to addressing the climate change challenge. For pioneering organisations in this space, there is a significant opportunity to make a positive impact and drive change. But being a responsible company also means ensuring that their people, their business and their products are protected. Businesses need to be able to keep their options open. Technology is moving at an exhilarating pace, but will need the freedom to keep innovating and collaborating.



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