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By Michael Barker

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Seven-figure funding boost for Blue Skies



Fruit supplier secures Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan to ensure continuity of business during Covid-19 crisis

Blue Skies has secured a seven-figure loan from HSBC UK through the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme.

The fruit importer says the cash will be used to build in contingencies to ensure continuity throughout its supply chain during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a large exporter of consumer goods, the company said it had taken action to retain its highly skilled staff, support farmers and invest in logistics to ensure continuity across its entire supply chain, as well as provide its customers with a consistent supply of fresh fruit.

The funding from HSBC UK

will assist Blue Skies in pivoting its distribution model, as it takes necessary steps to reduce the impact of supply chain disruptions, the company said.

Anthony Pile, chairman and founder of Blue Skies, explained: "As a company that relies on a fluid supply chain to get our fresh-from-harvest products to market, the challenges caused by Covid-19 have led to us implementing important measures across our entire logistical programme.

"I would like to thank the team at HSBC UK, including our relationship director Nick Clements, for being supportive and understanding the unique challenges faced by our business

in the UK and our export markets during these uncertain times."

Simon Pyatt, HSBC UK area director South Midlands Corporate

Banking, added: "HSBC UK is committed to supporting its customers during this period of uncertainty. Blue Skies has a responsibility to the customers and communities it serves, more so than ever during these difficult times. We were delighted to provide additional support to the company as they continue to keep retailers' shelves stocked and provide the public with access to fresh fruit."