

# Research & Development claim for a brewery business

## Background

ETC Tax recently assisted a well-established brewery company with the submission of its R&D claim. The brewery industry is unique in terms of the regulatory reports required and the need for accurate recording of the alcohol content of beers. This presents both challenges to brewery businesses and opportunities for R&D. Despite many companies in the brewery sector investing in R&D, a large proportion are unaware that their activities could qualify for R&D tax relief.

## The challenge

The brewery had previously used a variety of off-the-shelf software for the purposes of managing the administration side of the business. The company needed an integrated software to streamline its various internal functions. The current software, with its lack of integrated functionalities, was failing to meet this important requirement of the business. There was no integrated off-the-shelf software available which could provide the company with exactly what they needed in terms of the regulatory reports and recording of alcohol content of beer.

## The solution

At the outset of the project, the company was unsure whether they could create a system which fully integrated into their production process and met their unique requirements. The brewery invested heavily to create a bespoke integrated system. They undertook significant R&D activities including thoroughly testing and developing a script code. This enabled the company to successfully develop an integrated system that automated the syncing of all customer data within the various software. The end result was a fully integrated system tailored to the company's requirements which produced the bespoke reports desired.

The company successfully managed to re-develop from scratch their own beer duty analysis report written in a set code and developed bespoke reports for recording details of each brew to conform to compliance requirements.

ETC Tax then collated all the data following discussions with the company directors and prepared the R&D claim on behalf of the company which was submitted to HMRC. The brewery received their R&D tax credit within a few weeks of submission of the R&D claim, which the directors were extremely pleased with. This was a great success for the brewery and an excellent showcase of the benefits of R&D.