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 Certificate issued on December 3, 2022 to English Account NG C3 for personal and temporary display.
news-20221026-TPEW-fa74b3ca-aae2-4f75-8ed1-b8075de68f55

Source name
The Peterborough Examiner (ON) (web site)

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Source type
Press • Online Press

The Peterborough Examiner (ON) (web site) • 331 words

Periodicity
Continuously

Geographical coverage
Local

Origin
Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

Noblegen facility still a go at Cleantech Commons in Peterborough, despite layoffs

Joelle Kovach

Although workers temporarily laid off by the Peterborough technology firm Noblegen have now been terminated, founder and CEO Adam Noble says he still intends to expand into the planned new Cleantech Commons research park at Trent University.

Noblegen is the \$100-million-plus technology firm that started eight years ago in Peterborough, developing new ways to purify water. More recently it has been producing plant-based meat substitutes.

In March there was a round of temporary layoffs — the company never said how many — as Noblegen awaited a new round of financing.

“Since then, we had to make the very difficult decision to make these layoffs permanent,” Noble told The Examiner in an email Wednesday.

He further said that Noblegen, “like all startups,” has been “refocusing our pri-

orities” to face “economic and market challenges” brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

He also said in his email that “new funding opportunities” may yet arise and that he expects to continue growing the company.

Recently Noblegen has been producing its plant-based meat from a location on The Kingsway and doing laboratory work at Trent University.

That work continues in both those locations, he wrote, plus he still plans to consolidate operations by building in the planned new Cleantech Commons, a green technology research park soon to be developed on campus at Trent University off Pioneer Road.

The 85-acre research park is being built with the aim of attracting dozens of green technology firms.

Noblegen’s plant-based meat is made from euglena, a single-cell micro-organism similar to yeast (from which alco-

A 2019 architect’s render of the Noblegen facility planned for the Cleantech Commons business park at Trent University. Noblegen still plans to open a facility there, despite recently laying off employees.

holic beverages are made).

Noble told The Examiner in an interview in 2021 that he expects to sell the product to major companies worldwide as an ingredient for their foods.

joelle.kovach@peterboroughdaily.com