

Boortmalt opens new 580-tonne germination vessel to strengthen malt supply for Scotch whisky distillers

Soitheach Eòrna Shrath Spè boosts capacity and efficiency at Buckie, supporting the company's sustainability goals

Buckie, Moray, Scotland, 27 October 2026 – Boortmalt, supplier of distilling malt to Scotch whisky producers, has officially opened a new germination vessel at its Buckie maltings in Moray following a substantial investment in the plant.

The vessel, named *Soitheach Eòrna Shrath Spè*, holds 580 tonnes of barley per batch. Its name pays tribute to the River Spey and the surrounding land of Strathspey, whose waters supply the region's distilleries and whose fields grow malting barley at the heart of Scotch whisky. It strengthens a plant that produces around 125,000 tonnes of malt a year for distillers across Scotland.

The project was delivered in 12 months while the maltings remained in full production. The vessel's design improves energy efficiency, in line with Boortmalt's sustainability goals and those of their customers.

The investment reflects Boortmalt's confidence in the long-term future of Scotch whisky. Distillers lay down spirit today for bottles that will be enjoyed many years from now, and they need a malt supply that can match that horizon. By adding capacity and modernising its Buckie plant, Boortmalt is positioned to meet customers' future demand reliably while reducing the energy used in each tonne of malt it produces.

The vessel was formally opened on 27 October 2026 at a ceremony attended by distilling customers, project partners, employees and members of the local community.

Quotes

Stuart Sands, Managing Director of Boortmalt, said:

"Every bottle of Scotch whisky begins with malted barley, and our customers rely on us for malt they can count on, batch after batch. Soitheach Eòrna Shrath Spè is a long-term commitment to them and to Scotland's whisky industry. It gives us the capacity and control to grow alongside our distillers, while making our process more energy efficient and sustainable for the long term."

"Whisky is a long game. The spirit distilled from this vessel's malt will mature for years before it reaches the glass. This investment is about being ready for the future: securing supply for our customers, strengthening our presence in Moray, and building a plant fit for the decades ahead."

"I'd like to thank our team, our contractors and partners for delivering the project"