

PATRICK TATHAM, PLIQO LONDON LTD

▽ **ALTHOUGH I** enjoy designing travel goods, I'm no longer a frequent flyer myself, but it was very different in the late 1990s when I worked for Standard Chartered Bank developing the first internet banking offerings.

My patch stretched from Ghana to Bangladesh, and I was flying constantly. After several mishaps travelling in my suit, I started thinking about a garment bag small enough to pack into hand luggage – what was to become our signature product, the Pliqo compact garment bag. It would make travelling in a suit a thing of the past

I began work on it in 2014. My financial background was helpful for business planning, but not for product development.

My retraining included going back to college to learn bag making. After several years of prototyping, the Pliqo bag finally launched with a crowdfunding campaign in mid-2017. Then, as now, around 85% of our products sell overseas, making the bag a minor export success story.

I miss the travelling of my banking days, and many friendships made around the world, but there's nothing like having your own project – I couldn't see myself returning to corporate life any time soon. ■

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