



Stobart creates hundreds of new jobs

Stobart and Nestlé UK and Ireland have officially opened Nestlé's new distribution centre in Bardonia, Leicestershire, operated by Eddie Stobart Ltd.

Over the last six months the site has undergone a £7 million refurbishment, transforming it into a state-of-the-art warehousing and distribution facility, which will handle up to 75% of Nestlé UK's deliveries.

The new increased-capacity centre is generating an extra 62 jobs at the site, taking the total number of employees to 185. It is one of the largest capacity distribution centres in the UK, with capacity to hold 110,000 pallets, or 88,000 tonnes of goods, at one time. At peak times, vehicles will depart every eight and a half minutes, moving 3,000 tonnes of goods a day. By consolidating warehousing and distribution operations, Nestlé will improve the efficiency of its operations, cutting down on empty lorry journeys and reducing the distance products have to travel.

Andrew Tinkler, Chief Executive of Stobart Group, said: "Customers are constantly seeking ways to drive down costs, whilst making environmental improvements and this is a first class example of how the team has worked in partnership with Nestlé to achieve this."

Chris Tyas, Nestlé UK and Ireland's Business Services and Supply Chain Director, added: "This year at Nestlé we are focused on driving greater efficiencies through our supply chain and improving service to our customers. Working with Stobart Group we have been able to achieve operational efficiencies and environmental improvements by consolidating our warehousing and distribution activities to the benefit of all our stakeholders"

The Stobart Group has also created around 1,200 jobs with the completion of a distribution centre and chilled food warehouse in Cheshire. The sites cover more than 71,000m², and is part of the Mersey Multimodal Gateway logistics project at West Bank, Runcorn. The project has seen more than £100m investment, and reclaim more than 200 acres of land,.

Steve O'Connor, managing director of Stobart Ports, says the chilled food warehouse, which will be used by Stobart customers creating 300 vehicle movements per day, will take three months to achieve full refrigeration.

The Stobart Group gained permission to redevelop the Port of Weston to handle more than a million tonnes of freight per year.

Andrew Tinkler, chief executive of the Stobart Group, says: "By returning the port of Weston to a fully functioning port, we will further enhance our range of cost-effective logistics solutions for our customers, while helping to reduce carbon emissions and the amount of freight transported around the country's road network."