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3MG TO TRANSFORM NORTH WEST BUSINESS

An £80m development is set to create the UK's largest warehouse and logistics park in Merseyside.

The expansion of the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) will create 5,000 jobs in the region and transform the site into a state of the art logistics hub, combining road, rail, and easy access to shipping ports and airports.

The plans were unveiled to members of the Rail Freight Group (RFG), which represents 150 industry members, when they visited the Widnes based site this week before hosting their North West Conference, which was focused on the future of logistics in the region.

Work is already underway to increase the capacity for holding and transferring containers, but the main expansion works begin in the next few weeks with the diversion of the principle sludge main to prepare the site for development.

3MG Programme Manager with Halton Borough Council, Sally McDonald, said: "With on-site work about to increase we thought that it was the perfect opportunity to invite potential customers along to see how our vision to expand 3MG will provide them with a cost effective and efficient solution to logistics.

"When the expansion is finished we will be able to offer businesses a fully integrated service allowing them to operate out of one location, with more office and warehousing space and connectivity with motorways, rail, sea and air.

"This will have massive economic and environmental benefits, which will encourage more companies to invest in Merseyside and create more jobs."

3MG will develop through to 2012 and is already operating daily rail services. It currently has 750,000 sq. ft. of existing sheds in place which will increase up to 3.5 million sq. ft. over the next two years, subject to planning approval.

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3MG is being delivered by a partnership comprising Halton Borough Council and the Stobart Group, who recently acquired the 3MG-based O'Connor Group of Companies. It is endorsed and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NRWDA) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- 3MG is an operational intermodal facility handling in excess 150,000 containers per year, including 65,000 by rail.
- It provides large, highbay warehousing to customer specification
- It has excellent motorway access
- It has secure and on-site rail access
- 3MG has daily rail links to deep sea ports (such as Felixstowe and Southampton. Liverpool Container Terminal and Liverpool Freeport are a short road journey north)
- Two international airports are on its doorstep (serving 200 international destinations)
- It has 60,000 sq ft of prestige office buildings currently under construction

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