

Final: March 2008

FOUNDATIONS SET FOR 3MG

Key enabling work to prepare for the £80 million expansion of the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) has been completed.

The six month project, completed by scheme partner O'Connor – a division of the Stobart Group, has expanded the storage capacity of 3MG logistics park's freight terminal by 1,000 containers to 5,000.

The work paves the way for the main development to begin at the site which will see up to 3.5 million sq ft of new warehouse space added.

3MG Programme Manager with Halton Borough Council, Sally McDonald, said: "The development of 3MG is geared towards creating the perfect freight terminal and combating inefficiencies in the industry.

"Once the full expansion of the site is completed 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 and rail networks.

"This will have massive economic and environmental benefits, which will encourage more companies to invest in Halton and create up to 5,000 more jobs."

3MG will continue its development 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.

3MG is being delivered by a partnership comprising of Halton Borough Council and O'Connor, a division of the Stobart Group. It is endorsed and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

Ends

Notes to editors:

Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) is located in Widnes WA8 0PE

3MG has:

- Large, highbay warehousing to customer specification
- Excellent motorway access
- Secure and on-site rail access
- Daily rail links to deep sea ports (such as Felixstowe and Southampton. Liverpool Freeport is a short road journey north)
- Two international airports on its doorstep (serving 200 international destinations)
- Three major ports on its doorstep (including the Port of Weston which helps to move freight around the UK)
- 60,000 sq ft of prestigious office buildings in planning

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