

A SERT FOR SUCCESS - MAJOR DISTRIBUTION COMPANY'S £9 MILLION INVESTMENT

South Derbyshire was delighted to land one of the "plumb" wholesale distribution projects of the year - Sert MST's consolidation of their centres in Wakefield and Nottingham within a single 240,000 sqft state of the art facility at Tetron Point in Swadlincote. Some 150 jobs are being brought to the District with the potential to attract more as the Company continues to grow and expand its sales and distribution of major brands to around 6,500 retailers across the country.



HEAD QUARTERS ZONE IN SWADLINCOTE

Another interesting project has been the decision of Environmental Scientifics Group (ESG) to locate their UK HQ at Bretby Business Park, Swadlincote. ESG has brought together some of the best-known brands in scientific testing services including: Soil Mechanics, Scientifics, TES Bretby, PMC and CL Voelcker. ESG has 26 offices and over a thousand staff across the UK and Ireland but has chosen a 10,900 sqft centre here in the District for its operational headquarters. The Group provides expert testing, analysis and advice that is UKAS accredited and legislatively compliant. The decision to locate on Bretby Business Park underlines the District's outstanding opportunities for professional and technical service firms who need a central UK location. ESG House, as it has been renamed, is one of several refurbished suites available at this secure technology and conference complex.

Further success for Bretby was achieved this year when they developed a brand new 40,000 sqft industrial unit for one of their anchor tenants. Hi-Tech Fabrication Ltd is one of the District's fastest growing companies and already employs more than 50 people with customers worldwide. This new development and the accompanying refurbishments of other properties underpin Bretby Business Park's credentials as a business centre with a strong future.

LOCAL ECONOMIC NEWS:

Local authorities were tasked with preparing a Local Economic Assessment for their area by the previous Government. The work on these documents is continuing and presents a fascinating and comprehensive insight into economic trends in each

area – ideal for informing business planning and investment decisions. The draft assessment can be found at www.derbyshire.gov.uk by searching for "Local Economic Assessment". The following Table highlights some key statistics for South Derbyshire - collectively these economic indicators should give investors great confidence in our long term economic future.

Latest Published Statistics	Type	SD District	Derbyshire	EM	England
Working population Skilled to NVQ L4	%	34.9	28.3	27	30.5
Working population Skilled to NVQ L2	%	77.2	69.1	67	69.4
Growth in businesses per 10,000 people	%	10.1	2.5	5.9	11
New business survival rates +1yr	%	97.7	95.9	96	95.5
New business survival rates +3 yr	%	71.1	69.2	65.4	64.6
Weekly Employee Wage Rates	£	431.15	439.2	456.6	495.5
£' 000 - avg GVA per employee *	£	41.8	40.9	40.8	96.0
Workforce employed in Manufacturing	%	26.9	19.9	14.4	9.4
Increase in population to 2038	%	35.3	17.2	22.5	16.7

*South Derbyshire figures are taken from the South & West Derbyshire Statistical Area

FEATURED FINANCE:

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND (RDPE)

South Derbyshire's rural and forestry businesses are encouraged to take advantage of a welcome boost of financial support through the RDPE programme in the East Midlands. £61 million is to be allocated by 2013.

There are seven types of project that businesses in South Derbyshire could pursue, including support for diversification, renewable energy, adding value through improved efficiency, co-operative development of new products, processes and technologies, improving the economic value of forests, water resource management and skills & training. Although the Programme is predominantly aimed at land-based businesses it does encompass some other rurally-based activities.

Minimum grants are from £25,000 rising to a £440,000 ceiling. Typically grants are for around 25-50% of a project's total eligible costs, although all projects are judged on their own merits. Recent changes have seen specific support targeted at rural business broadband coverage and forest micro-enterprise support. The National Forest has also successfully applied for funding to help businesses apply for this latter theme. A full copy of the guidance can be obtained from: www.emda.org.uk/rdpe/emdaRDPEProspectus.pdf

OUT OF THIS WORLD BUSINESS SUPPORT

Universities, scientists and inter-stella projects are not the only ones who can land grants from the European Space Agency. A small but significant amount of the €3.6 billion goes to companies looking to research and commercialise "spin off" technologies. 'LET-SME' aims to help small and medium-sized enterprises to do this and can award grants of up to €200,000. The science involved must be interesting, for example innovative uses of GPS and satellite broadcasting. The Agency also recently re-launched its Business Incubation Centre giving it the capability to support start-up businesses. For further information, please go to the website: <http://smeprojects.esa.int/TechnologyforSMEs.asp>



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

**Making South Derbyshire
a better place to live, work
and visit**



**Rosliston's Low Carbon Enterprise Centre:
An artist's impression of the five new units
due to be completed in August 2010. For
further info: www.rushtonhickman.com**

Issue No. 3 August 2010



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

South Derbyshire

Investment Gazette

South Derbyshire remains an area where multi-million pound property deals get done and exciting new developments continue to appear. This pattern has happened not just once or twice during the last few, difficult economic months, but repeatedly throughout 2009 and 2010. This edition highlights deals including a £9 million outright purchase and some excellent deals secured by local agents.

The Economic Development Team continues to receive interesting new enquiries on an almost daily basis. A proactive approach has been taken to promoting our offer to expanding retail groups looking to identify additional sites. A new Swadlincote Chamber of Trade has been formed, which is keen to work with partners to attract new retail investment. Alongside the investment news and updates for potential partners, the Gazette outlines significant economic trends, and each edition carries a feature on grant support - in this edition we look at a little known source of R&D funding and specific support for rural businesses from the European Union.

WELCOME PROPERTY DEALS:

GREENEST SHOOTS OF RECOVERY

Paramount amongst the new developments is Rosliston Forestry Centre's new Enterprise Centre – a development of low carbon business units designed to achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating for energy management and design. South Derbyshire District Council has secured the funding for this venture including a grant from the Derbyshire Economic Partnership and interest is keen. Alongside this, the demand for other small/medium sized high specification business units remains one of the strongest trends in the local economy. There is now only one unit available at Tipton Business Park in Woodville after two of the remaining properties went under offer. Congratulations to Positive ID Labelling on their purchase of a 1,500 sqft unit on the Castle Lane Estate in Melbourne. Their attractive new unit incorporates a unique piece of public art. June presented a double deal for Astron Business Park with the last two units let to Evisa Fitness and Dawsons (Wales) Ltd. Continuing to capture this trend the first letting on the new Gresley Business Park at Tetron Point sees temperature controlled distributor Polar Speed move into the William Davis development.

South Derbyshire Changing for the better