

## **T.J. Morris Expands Liverpool Distribution Centre**

### **Retailer gears up supply chain for long term growth**

Following a complete strategic review of its supply chain operations, T.J. Morris, one of the fastest growing retailers in the UK, is redeveloping its existing 330,000 sq ft warehouse facility at Gillmoss, Liverpool.

The decision follows an assessment of the business's supply chain by Total Logistics, the independent consultancy, that considered the current and future needs of the retailer, given its planned growth over the next eight years. The company operates from 160 outlets in the UK, a figure which is planned to rise to over 350 by 2016. Total Logistics considered a number of options – including the establishment of new warehousing operations in the North and Midlands – before recommending the development of the existing site due to operational and managerial considerations.

Following the strategic review, a supplier selection process resulted in the appointment of SSI Schaefer, the materials handling specialist, to develop appropriate and flexible handling systems at the site, which is being considerably extended.

Mike Oliver, partner at Total Logistics, said: "T.J. Morris is one of the fastest growing retailers in the UK, selling a range of health and beauty, clothing, alcoholic and dry food goods from its UK stores. With its turnover estimated to rise from £320m to £1bn in the next eight years, getting the supply chain right is a major strategic challenge for the business. In this exercise, the joint project team was able to start from a fresh page, focus on what the business might look like in eight years time, and review the solution options to support the business. Only after the preferred solutions had been identified did the team consider the constraints of the existing infrastructure.

"We looked at several scenarios, assessed the cost and availability of labour in various locations and recommended that the development of their existing freehold facility was the best option."

The extension of the site will increase the size to c. 600,000 sq ft and storage capacity to around 70,000 pallets. The building work on the site will commence later this year, with the new warehouse anticipated to go live in Q4 2009.

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