



JF Finnegan secure major Swedish deal

Sheffield developer JF Finnegan has secured one of the region's largest pre-let deals; Swedish global industrial group Sandvik, with a £1.7M supporting grant from Yorkshire Forward, is introducing a new state-of-the-art Sandvik European Centre of Excellence (SECoE) to be sited at JF Finnegan's Beighton Link Business Park in South Yorkshire.

In a deal secured for JF Finnegan by sole agent, Crossland Otter Hunt, Sandvik will be utilising the new 112,500 sq ft facility on a 15 year lease term for an undisclosed sum. Sandvik represented itself.

Work is now underway on the facility which incorporates a 90,000sq ft workshop, 22,500sq ft of office accommodation over 3 floors and 150 parking spaces. Upon its completion towards the end of 2009, the Centre of Excellence will bring together all the finish processing and supply management activities for the production of orthopaedic implants and instruments from Sandvik's existing Sheffield facilities. The company will then be able to streamline its operations and so reduce lead times and optimise production for

its customers. It will be well placed to build on its existing market leading position in the medical sector, becoming the ideal partner for medical device companies. The development will incorporate the latest in environmentally-friendly technology, minimising energy consumption and it is expected that the business will grow in the future, enabling the creation of new jobs.

David Beighton, President and Managing Director of Sandvik Medical Solutions, explained: "The new SECoE will bring together state-of-the-art technology with our commitment to skills development, faith in the Sheffield workforce and a determination to ensure excellent facilities both inside and surrounding the SECoE, making Sandvik a true employer of choice in the locality.

"Our Sheffield facilities have been successful over many years. The combination of our materials expertise, cutting edge production techniques and proactive approach to innovation have consistently delivered real competitive advantage to our customers.

"The development of the new SECoE in Rotherham will complement our existing

operations and create a platform for future expansion. The SECoE will provide an improved working environment and contain state-of-the-art technology and equipment. Employees will, therefore, be able to develop their skills through a comprehensive training programme and exposure to the latest technology available."

Philip Ryan, Chairman of JF Finnegan, said; "The development of Sandvik's SECoE at Beighton Link is a major coup for both the scheme and the region and confirms our initial confidence in the development as an integral part of South Yorkshire's regeneration. It further demonstrates the ability to secure large pre-let deals in the current climate and we will be undertaking an intensive programme of works over the forthcoming months to enable Sandvik to be fully operational by the end of the year."

Tim O'Connell, Business Development Manager at RiDO (Rotherham Investment & Development Office), said; "We welcome the announcement of this Sandvik project. It is yet another example of how advanced manufacturing companies can thrive and expand their businesses in this region"

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INTRO

Welcome to the summer issue of City Business Magazine. The weather may be brightening, but unfortunately the economic forecast still isn't great. For many of the region's businesses it's been a hard and stressful year so far, and there may be more of the same to come. However, the north of England is renowned for its grit and determination, and these are the qualities that will pull us through. Doncaster is a good example of a borough that is determined to maintain confidence and fight off the effects of the downturn, and in this issue you can read about some of the forward-looking programmes that are going ahead there. You will also find a section focusing on training, with a warning to businesses that cutting training out of their budget may prove a false economy in the long term. Tips From The Top are provided by Simon Stokes, a Sheffield entrepreneur who built up a successful business from scratch and learned many things the hard way. We road-test the Audi A5, and for businesses who may be in a dilemma over whether or not to replace their vehicles, we look at pros and cons of vehicle lease hire schemes. And we have our regular columns – news pages, book reviews, health tips, environmental comment, a whole range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you and your business.

Microblade Celebrate Success



Microblade Ltd, of Attercliffe, are celebrating following their success in winning the Best Newcomer category for small companies at this year's Yorkshire Productivity Awards held recently at the Royal Armouries in Leeds.

Tony Egley, General Manager at Microblade Ltd, said: "This award has already had a positive effect on the company's productivity by empowering the workforce to come up with, and implement, their own new ideas. It has also had a great impact on the performance of the Microblade team as a whole and everybody involved should take great pride in what they have achieved."

Microblade, who employ around 50 people, have been established in Sheffield for over 200 years and manufacture circular cutting blades for the sanitary paper industry.

Steve Wainwright, Investor Development Manager at Creativesheffield, commented: "This is great news for Microblade who has made some real steps forward as an organisation during the past year. They are a great example of a company who are determined to continue investing in their people during these difficult economic times through expanding the skill base of their employees."

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In business there are many

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