

£2million investment and 20 new staff for Warrenpoint haulage firm

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Ulster Bank supports HMT Shipping's ongoing growth

A Northern Ireland haulage company is investing over £2million with support from Ulster Bank to expand its operations in the north of England.

HMT Shipping Limited, which is increasing its workforce by 20 people to 120 as a result, has acquired premises in Preston with finance from the bank to act as a distribution centre for its growing business in the region.

The company's managing director, Jarlath Magee, says that 2015 promises to be another strong year for the business.

He says:

"We have had very good growth in our pallet business in the last few years, particularly in the north west of England, where we have won several major distribution contracts with blue chip clients in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. The new distribution centre, which we are acquiring, having outgrown our existing premises, will provided us with a larger, better-located base with direct motorway access to further expand in areas such as Lancaster, Blackburn, Burnley and the Fylde coast." "As we expand the business outside of Northern Ireland, this has significant ongoing benefits for our existing cross-channel business as it provides an established delivery network for onward distribution and collection of customers' goods and improves efficiencies in the supply chain. The new facility will enable us to offer warehousing, pick and pack and inventory control for Irish customers with overnight delivery to every region in the UK", he adds.

Girvan Gault, Head of South East NI Business Centre, at Ulster Bank says:

"HMT's new distribution centre comprises a 47,000 sq ft warehouse and 4,000 sq ft office space set on 3.5 acres. It is just 4 miles from Preston city centre and within easy access to some of the main arterial routes in the north of England. So it will act as an excellent base for the company's ongoing growth in the area, and we are very pleased to have played an important role in enabling it to happen."

HMT Shipping was established over 15-years ago and has grown to be one of the leading transport companies throughout the UK and Ireland.

It operates from its head office in Warrenpoint with depots in Dublin, Dundalk and Heysham. Its fleet comprises of over 400 trailers.

HMT Shipping became a member of Palletline plc in March 2010. Palletline is the UK's leading specialist in the collection and delivery of 1 to 5 pallet consignments. As a shareholding member of Palletline, HMT forms part of a nationwide network of independent distribution businesses, working together to provide a professional, high-quality collection and delivery service on low volume consignments.

www.hmtshipping.co.uk

www.ulsterbank.co.uk

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