

For immediate release 7th June 2010

Contact: Debbie Daly, Communications Manager Tel. 01865 383068
E: debbie_daly@unipart.co.uk

Unipart ranked with best companies for Corporate Responsibility

Unipart Group, one of Europe's leading private logistics and consultancy companies, has achieved the platinum band in the Business in the Community's 2009 Corporate Responsibility Index - the UK's leading benchmark of responsible business. This achievement rates Unipart amongst the top companies in the world for best environmental, community, workplace and business practices.

Companies that achieve platinum in the BITC index have demonstrated their deep commitment to corporate responsibility through improving their performance continually over a number of years.

Key highlights of Unipart's CR work this year have been:

- The introduction of a 'zero environmental impact' goal for Unipart's suppliers.
- A programme encouraging suppliers in low cost economies to ensure they meet and maintain strict ethical and environmental criteria
- A 90% reduction in carbon emissions on global freight for one of our key clients.
- Eliminating all landfill waste from the company's largest site
- Providing free support and training through Job Centre Plus for professional jobseekers in the marketplace

Unipart has been taking part in the BITC Index since its launch and has consistently improved its rating over the years. The Unipart Way - the company's business philosophy and business system for delivering continuous improvement – has accelerated the company's ability to engage people in dozens of improvement programmes in every part of the company.

Commenting on the platinum award, John Neill, Unipart's Group Chief Executive said: "We were delighted and honoured to achieve this award - it will stimulate and motivate Unipart people to try even harder to eliminate waste by working in close partnership with our stakeholders".

This year Unipart has worked hard to engage with all of our stakeholders to create CR improvements across the supply chain.

Engaging Employees

Programmes such as Unipart's own version of problem solving circles, which bring together small groups of employees in problem solving teams, have engaged employees in the CR agenda across the business. For instance, one circle looked at the waste recycling performance on our largest site. By creating comprehensive recycling procedures, together with clearly zoned areas and obvious and unambiguous signage the team were able to eliminate landfill waste completely at the company's largest site.

Engaging Suppliers

Unipart has continued with its supplier Ten(d) To Zero programme, which it developed more than 20 years ago to work in close partnership with suppliers to reduce waste for mutual advantage. This year the programme has placed even greater emphasis on the tools and techniques to reduce environmental impact and is being extended to our global supplier partners. In addition the company has introduced a new process for sourcing from low cost economies, which ensures that suppliers are tested on key ethical and environmental elements before being becoming approved suppliers and followed up with a regular, robust audit process to ensure that these aspects are maintained.

Engaging with Customers

Jaguar is one of Unipart's most established clients and, to maintain the close relationship, one key area for improvement this year has been a 90% reduction in carbon emissions on global freight. The team achieved this by detailed inventory movement planning to ensure that airfreight is only used in exceptional circumstances.

Engaging with the Community

One of the effects of the recession during 2009 was that a significant number of professional grade employees were seeking work without success. Unipart has been working with Job Centre Plus to provide free training for professional and executive jobseekers. This interactive training improves their confidence, develops their job seeking skills and has been successful in helping individuals to obtain their next role. Several attendees have reported that they found new jobs as a result of the training that they received at Unipart.

"Across our Group, Unipart people are working to make a difference in the community, in our marketplaces and in environmental programmes," said John Neill. "This platinum award is a great tribute to their efforts and our shared commitment to develop the people within our company to excel in everything they do through training, coaching and a strong philosophy of continuous improvement that our people bring to life everyday."

- ends -

Editors' Notes:

About The Unipart Group

The Unipart Group employs more than 10,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, marine, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group's proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

Unipart also offers expert consultancy in implementing Lean principles and in supply chain management across a variety of industry sectors.

The Group's clients include Sainsbury's, ASOS.com, Homebase, Vodafone, 3, BSkyB, Jaguar Land Rover, Severn Trent Water and HMRC.