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Homebase extends its partnership with Unipart awarding a unique 12 year contract, creating 200 jobs

Unipart Logistics, a leading full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence, has won a 12 year extension to its partnership with Homebase, the leading home enhancement retailer, which will create up to 200 new jobs over the next five years as the business grows.

Ian Jones, Homebase's Director of Retail and Distribution Operations said that the decision to extend the partnership is a direct result of the commitment and performance of the team at Cowley:

"Contracts in the retail sector generally run for three to five years, but when reviewing our distribution strategy we decided we needed a longer term relationship with a partner that would work closely with us to support our strategic growth plans.

"The team at Cowley have impressed us with both their commitment and engagement - and their strong focus on continuous improvement has already delivered significant commercial benefit to Homebase, helping us add real value to our end-customer's experience."

Nigel Basey, Head of Distribution for Homebase was convinced that a long-term partnership with Unipart was the right choice.

"When we started working with Unipart we were looking for a logistics supplier, but over time that has become a true partnership. The team at Cowley care as passionately as we do about getting things right first time for our customers and they work hard to understand what we are trying to achieve and deliver that creatively.

"Whilst a contract of this length is almost unique in the retail sector we are confident that it will produce an exciting and productive extension to a partnership which is already exceptionally successful."

Commenting on the contract extension, Frank Burns, Managing Director of Unipart Logistics said 'I am delighted that Homebase have shown their confidence in the relationship by giving us this significant contract extension.

We are also delighted to have won the Homebase 'Best Depot in the Network Award' in the past quarter and look forward to growing our partnership with them.”

Unipart has been working with Homebase since 2003, and created an Import Centre and warehousing facility for Homebase at the Cowley site in 2005. The centre processes imported products and provides warehousing and distribution services for a wide range of Homebase products to stores across the UK.

The new contract will run until 2022 and will provide for 430,000 sq ft of warehousing space at Unipart’s Cowley Distribution Centre. Over the next 12 months there will be a £2.2 million investment to further develop the site and increase its distribution capacity.

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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, Mobis and HMRC.