

£1.3 million shared services contract between NWAA and Unipart Group

The North West Aerospace Alliance (NWAA) has signed an important contract with Unipart, aimed at providing regional aerospace companies with cost-cutting shared services. The contract is being managed at Unipart Rail's Crewe office with a team drawn from its expert pool, who have wide experience in setting up and managing similar contracts. The team is also supported by expertise and input from Unipart Group's central procurement team.

A first for the sector

The £1.3 million two-year contract is believed to be an aerospace sector first. It will see NWAA members working together to improve their purchasing power and secure better deals on everything from utility services and stationery to specialist advice services such as legal and human resources.

It launched officially in early 2011 and will initially be piloted with 45 north west based aerospace companies, with the aim of rolling out to cover all NWAA membership and beyond in the future. The project will be supported by a bespoke, 'one-stop shop' website which will enable companies to order goods online from a number of suppliers increasing purchasing efficiency.

Reducing costs

Paula Stell, Shared Services Manager, NWAA, believes the project will keep the north west supply chain competitive by introducing a year-on-year reduction of overhead and procurement costs. She said: 'We are confident that nothing like this has been done in the sector before. Large corporations or public sector bodies often share services, but we are bringing together separate companies all with common needs.'

'The purchasing power of a group of companies will be far greater than a single member of the supply chain and we expect there to be considerable cost savings available for those involved.' Graham Jackson, Managing Director, Unipart Rail - Manufacturing and Infrastructure, added: 'The objective of the NWAA Shared Services Team is to drive excellence within the north west aerospace industry through the development of high performance procurement initiatives.'

'We are really looking forward to working together with all of the key organisations and people on the programme to promote excellence and achieve significant results over the coming months.'



Visit Unipart Rail in 2011

Unipart Rail will be exhibiting and showcasing its latest product innovations and services at a number of key industry exhibitions in the UK during 2011. Visit the Unipart Rail stands at:

- Procurex - 8th-9th March, NEC, Birmingham.
- Traffex - 29th-31st March, NEC, Birmingham.
- Railtex - 14th-16th June, Earls Court, London.



Unipart Rail achieves BS EN ISO 14001:2004

Unipart Rail's Crewe site has achieved certification under BS EN ISO 14001:2004. The process of achieving certification has taken several months of very detailed work to ensure that it has identified the environmental impacts, created a register and recorded how they are compliant in every aspect.

With the new programme of administrative and physical improvements to the site, including a manual, procedures, audits, training and new recycling facilities, it is now able to comply with the requirements of 14001 to continually improve its impact on the environment and ensure that environmental aspects are considered in business decisions.

Les Hobson, Operations Director, said: 'Environmental aspects now form part of the annual planning cycle, with every department required to implement further initiatives to improve the site's environmental performance. This certification is not a one time action - it is now embedded in everything we do on the Crewe site.'