



Operational Practice

Infrastructure Depot Management



Unipart Rail and Metronet combined their expertise to successfully create a 'Model Line' satellite depot, establishing the London Road depot as an industry leader in operational practice.

The challenge began back in 2007 when Metronet began discussions with Unipart Rail about ways they could work together. Unipart Rail were invited to collaborate with Metronet to create a 'Model Line' satellite depot, handling Metronet's infrastructure materials.

Bob Martin, Metronet's Track and Signalling Warehouse Manager said the challenge was *"to establish London Road, one of the key operational centres in the city, as a platform from which to deliver best operational practice within the industry."*

Unipart Rail accepted the challenge and their Expert Practitioners brought their logistics skills and experience together with Metronet's knowledge of the industry; their combined expertise identified five areas that required their attention (see overleaf).

The team created a carefully structured action programme, which brought together the latest thinking and operational practice to tackle each of the five problem areas.

The action programme included the introduction of a new inventory management system and the removal of any unwanted products. A new purpose-built racking system was installed and new 'product flow' procedures were bought in that identified and categorised products by usage rate.

The whole depot received a much needed 'facelift', to portray a clean and modern image. The transformation was remarkable and Unipart Rail and Metronet achieved the challenge, and established the London Road depot as an industry leader in operational practice .



■ Industry Sector

UK Infrastructure.

■ Issue

Metronet wanted a 'Model Line' satellite depot, which would deal with the handling of their infrastructure materials.

■ Solution

Unipart Rail and Metronet collaborated to create a new inventory management system which helped to streamline their 'product flow'.

■ Benefits

The new system provided Metronet with greater understanding of their 'product flow' procedures and the practicality of the depot layout was drastically improved.

■ Next Steps

Metronet are going to roll-out the use of this system into other depots.

Improvement Areas

The Unipart Rail and Metronet team identified five problem areas the were in need of improvement, these were:

- Better understanding of the quality and value of materials.
- Identification of materials and their fitness for purpose.
- Improvements in the storage and product layout of the depot.
- Stricter standards on issues affecting Health and Safety.
- Redesign of operational processes and controls.

For more information:

Unipart Rail, Gresty Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 6EH UK

T +44 (0)1270 847600 **F** +44 (0)1270 847601

E enquiries@unipartrail.com **Web** www.unipartrail.com