

28th July 2006

Atlas Ward furnish IKEA with its 15th store in the UK

Atlas Ward Structures is currently working on a new store for leading home furnishing retailer, IKEA, on behalf of the RG Group. The new store, based in Ashton-under-Lyme will be the 15th IKEA store in the UK.

The North Yorkshire-based steelwork contractor has designed, fabricated and erected in excess of 2700 tonnes of structural steelwork for this project. The footprint for this building is 149,328 sq ft. The scope also includes the provision and installation of planks, ramps, staircases and intumescent fire protection. The Ground floor and Floors 1-2 are for retail use and the 3rd and 4th floors are for car parking.

The site is the former United Utilities depot at the corner of Wellington Road and Oldham Road, in Ashton town centre. This development continues a significant period for IKEA expansion in the UK, which began just before Christmas with confirmation that the Central Government is happy for consent to be issued for their first ever city centre store in Coventry, and which continued with the opening of their 14th store in Milton Keynes on December 27th.

Scott Cordrey, IKEA UK Property Manager said,

“As the public know, we have been trying for many years to bring IKEA to Greater Manchester, and to finally achieve this with such a fantastic site in Ashton is great news for us and for our customers both locally and in the Greater Manchester area.”

The fantastic new store will feature 2 floors of home furnishings inspiration, 50 inspirational room sets, a 500 seat restaurant, 2 floors of rooftop parking, 1000 parking spaces including dedicated parking for families and disabled

customers and Smaland, the magic forest, which is a free interactive childrens play area and is supervised by qualified staff.

The Ashton development will bring 500 new jobs to the area.

The new store is due to be fully operational in October later this year, and the overall contract value is £35 Million.

Editor's Notes:

About Atlas Ward Structures






Atlas Ward Structures Limited are one of the largest Structural Steel Fabricators in the UK. They design, fabricate and erect structural steel framed buildings in the Industrial, Commercial, Education, Residential and Health sectors.

Atlas Ward Structures Limited operates UK wide and is a subsidiary of Severfield-Rowen Plc – it's parent company, with a turnover of over £230 million.

Severfield-Rowen Plc acquired Atlas Ward Structures Limited on 1 April 2005.

About Severfield-Rowen Plc

Severfield-Rowen Plc is the market leader in structural steel, and consists of the following major Group Companies:

-  Severfield-Reeve Structures, Dalton, North Yorkshire
-  Watson Steel Structures, Bolton, Lancashire
-  Rowen Structures, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottingham
-  Atlas Ward Structures, Sherburn, North Yorkshire
-  Steelcraft Erection Services based at Dalton, North Yorkshire

The combined resources of the Group of Companies have the design, engineering skills and experience to handle complex projects over a diverse range of sectors.

The Companies can facilitate the production of a wide range of steelwork packages, including projects requiring high added value engineering content.

Proven Group Strengths:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Performance and Value |  Multi-Sector Presence |
|  Project Completion Track Record |  Fabsec® Beams/Firebeam® |
|  Capability and Flexibility |  Plate Girders |
|  Design Engineering |  Stairs and Feature Steelwork |
|  Customer Focus |  Sections |
|  Health & Safety Record |  Tubular Constructions |
|  Financial Strength |  Intumescent Coating |

Recently:

On the 3rd February 2006, Severfield-Rowen plc and Murray Metals Group ('MMG'), one of the UK's largest structural steel and specialist metal suppliers, announce the creation of a new joint venture company – Steel UK Ltd ('Steel UK').

The formation of Steel UK is a key strategic development for its founding members and results from the ongoing consolidation of the steel industry. Steel UK, which will be jointly directed by senior executives of Severfield-Rowen and MMG, is an amalgamation of end-user and distributor and, as such, will have a major synergy potential.

The two companies will remain independent and separate in their core operating fields of Constructional Steelwork Contracting and Steel Stockholding.

About RG Group

The RG Group is an independent company that provides construction and consultancy services relating to the retail, distribution and commercial sectors.

They deliver certainty. Time and again their management skills have ensured delivery of their clients projects, ahead of programme and within budget. Perhaps that's why 85% of their work is repeat business.

About IKEA

IKEA sells low-price products, including furniture, accessories, bathrooms and kitchens at retail stores around the world. While our core business is the selling of home furnishings, we also develop and purchase IKEA products in relationship with suppliers.

INGKA Holding B.V. is the ultimate parent company for all IKEA Group companies, including the industrial group Swedwood, which manufactures IKEA furniture, the sales companies that run IKEA stores, as well as purchasing and supply functions, and IKEA of Sweden, which is responsible for the design and development of products in the IKEA range.

INGKA Holding BV is wholly owned by Stichting INGKA Foundation, which is a foundation registered in the Netherlands.

Inter IKEA Systems B.V., the Netherlands, owns the IKEA concept and trademark, and there is a franchising agreement with every IKEA store in the world. The IKEA Group is the biggest franchisee of Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

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Photo:

Photos are attached in JPEG format to the email. Named – 'IKEA'

Acknowledgements:

Ultimate Client -	IKEA
Main Contractor -	RG Group
Architect -	Stubbs Rich Architects
Structural Engineer -	BWB Partnership
Structural Steelwork -	Atlas Ward Structures