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NORTHERN TRUST
INVESTMENT | DEVELOPMENT | REGENERATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 3rd September 2009

HAT TRICK AT NORTH STAFFS BUSINESS PARK!

Northern Trust's newly completed development of 17 industrial / workshop units at North Staffs Business Park is now half full having secured a further three lettings, since being completed less than six months ago.

Rondol Technology Limited has taken a five year lease of units 1-4 totaling over 8,000 sq ft, whilst DJ Ventures Ltd has leased the 1,100 sq ft unit 11 on a 3 year agreement, and Boon Boats Ltd have also taken a three year tenancy of unit 5 covering 2,190 sq ft. Completion of these three deals now leaves only ten units available on the estate, two of which are currently under offer. The remaining available units range from 1,099 sq ft to 2,553 sq ft.

North Staffs Business Park is the first phase of Northern Trust's £11 million investment at Chatterley Valley, Stoke-on-Trent, which also includes a state of the art serviced office facility, known as Genesis Centre, due to open in August.

Jonathan Houghton, Development Surveyor at Northern Trust, commented "We have been delighted by the exceptional level of response from the local businesses of North Staffordshire who have really taken to North Staffs Business Park. Whilst we have always believed in the quality of the buildings and our flexible approach to leasing, the lettings performance of the estate to date is a great endorsement of this. The 'easy in – easy out' agreements continue to prove popular with prospective occupiers and we look forward to announcing further deals shortly."

Commenting on the letting to Boon Boats, Chris Hodson of joint agents, Louis Taylor said "Boon Boats are specialists in dinghy chandlery and dinghy racing. The search for the right premises to grow the business had been on for some time and the units at North Staffs Business Park ticked all the right boxes. The high specification of the unit and the straight forward tenancy agreement allowed a hassle free move which meant that Boon Boats could start operating straight away."

Steve Broadhurst, Director of DJ Ventures, also confirmed that the excellent location, high quality of the units and flexible tenancy agreement were the major factors in the decision to locate his business at North Staffs Business Park. With over 25 years experience DJ Ventures are a Commercial Gardening and Cleaning Specialist.

Quentin Jones, Managing Director of Rondol Technology Limited, a niche technology company providing energy saving solutions to the plastics processing industries added that they were delighted with the prospect of operating out of the modern high quality premises and were impressed with the location of North Staffs Business Park.

Steve Doherty, Commercial Agent with Daniel & Hulme also said “The continued success of this development is proof that with a combination of a quality product, flexible terms and an understanding of both Landlord and Occupier requirements, lettings can be achieved despite the current market conditions.

Northern Trust has worked closely with Stoke on Trent City Council, North Staffs Regeneration Partnership, and Advantage West Midlands (AWM) to bring this development to fruition. Part of AWM’s total investment to the project includes £1.7 million of gap funding towards the scheme.

Henriette Lyttle, Advantage West Midlands’ partnerships director for North Staffordshire said “The strong business interest in this new Business Park is tremendously encouraging and a sign that North Staffordshire has a strong business base and a commitment to building to the highest design and sustainability standards. In addition to the business units, Chatterley Valley already features the world’s most environmentally sustainable logistics building – G. Park Blue Planet – and we will shortly see the opening of another sustainable development in the Genesis Centre. Alongside large regeneration programmes such as the University Quarter and the Central Business District, Chatterley Valley developments will help generate a world-class environment for business and will generate good-quality jobs for local people.”

North Staffs Business Park is strategically located on the junction of Chatterley Road and Reginald Mitchell Way at Chatterley Valley, on the northern fringe of Stoke-on-Trent. The business park is conveniently situated adjacent to the A500 dual carriageway providing easy direct access to junction 16 of the M6, which lies 5 miles west of the site, and the City Centre 5 miles to the south. The local amenities of Tunstall are readily accessible being less than a mile from the business park whilst Kidsgrove is just over 2 miles away.

The industrial/workshop units are available ‘To Let’ by way of an ‘easy in – easy out’ flexible internal repairing tenancy agreement.

Joint agents for the scheme are Daniel & Hulme (01782 213344), Louis Taylor (01782 260222), and Whittle Jones, Midlands (0121 523 2929).

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Notes to Editors:

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Northern Trust Co Ltd

Northern Trust was established in 1962 and is now one of the UK's largest and most successful privately owned property investment, development and land regeneration companies. Northern Trust's existing property portfolio is in excess of 8 million sq ft of industrial/trade and office parks and has more than 5,000 acres of land under ownership/management throughout the UK. Almost 2 million sq ft has now been developed in over 35 locations, and Northern Trust continues to expand through all three areas of its property business.

Northern Trust has extensive experience of working with the public sector, with a large proportion of the portfolio originally acquired from the Regional Development Agencies. In addition, new regeneration development partnerships have been entered into with various public bodies, to provide regeneration initiatives and employment premises for both Small and Medium Enterprises and larger occupiers.

Northern Trust has substantial funds available for new investment, development, and regeneration initiatives throughout the UK.

For further information on Northern Trust please visit our website at www.northerntrust.co.uk