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SECOND MAJOR COUP AS TOWERS TAKES SPX
- NEW JOBS TOTAL TOPS 400 FOR MANCHESTER -

Speculation over the much publicised move to Manchester by US manufacturing giant SPX Corporation is over as Dutch property company Wereldhave announces that approximately 200 new jobs are heading to its 300,000 sq ft Towers Business Park in Didsbury, South Manchester.

The North Carolina based company which manufactures flow technology, testing and measurement equipment will open a European shared services centre in the 19 acre Park's Ocean House at the end of March.

The news follows the earlier letting to The John Lewis Partnership in December 2009 for a shared office centre to accommodate 200 jobs in the Scotscroft building at the Park, bringing the jobs total achieved by the Park in just two months to 400.

The search for the right location took over twelve months according to SPX's property advisers CB Richard Ellis with several European cities being closely considered until Manchester became the focus. According to CBRE's Will Kennon, Towers' close proximity to public transport infrastructure and town centre amenities, together with its existing strong track record in hosting established shared service centres was integral to securing the deal over other Manchester and Salford Quays office schemes which were under consideration. "The quality of existing occupiers there is unparalleled and SPX will have some great neighbours at Towers."

Mary Sczudlo, Vice President Global Business Systems at SPX commented: "Manchester offers many opportunities and advantages for our Shared Service Centre. There is a strong and diverse skills base in the Greater Manchester area as well as good international connections and a well developed SSC community. Our global talent management team has begun to work with local partners to identify and recruit the best people for the new operation."

Joint letting agents GVA Grimley and OBI Property confirmed that the Ocean House building would undergo a complete refurbishment, ready for SPX's occupation in a few months time, project managed by OBI Property's Building Consultancy team.

In order to attract SPX, the Towers team had worked with existing leaseholder Mapeley and its advisers Canning O'Neill to take a surrender of their lease, freeing the space and facilitating the transaction.

Concluded Wereldhave's MD Jonathan Speakman-Brown: "This deal took a great deal of teamwork not only with our new tenant but with an existing leaseholder and our overall advisory teams so we are delighted to announce this success.

"This level of new jobs for the city reflects extremely well on that teamwork and the wider team, including MIDAS, who have worked so hard to make it happen.

“From our perspective, we are confident that Towers is set to capture more major names to grow its roster of blue chip international tenants such as British Airways, Cisco Systems and Logica and to greatly benefit the Greater Manchester local economy for the future.”

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