

**Issued on behalf of Onward Holdings Ltd****Date: December 16<sup>th</sup> 2016****Ref: PR61a WMS****ONWARD HOLDINGS INVESTS IN NEW MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO HELP DRIVE PROFITS AT CASTLEFORD**

Onward Holdings Ltd has made a further investment in its Castleford warehouse by installing OpenWMS, a new software package designed to deliver a wide range of benefits to help its business tenants boost efficiency and increase the profitability of their logistics operations.

Adopting the specialist warehouse management system at the West Yorkshire site streamlines stock taking and shipping processes, improves productivity by freeing up staff to concentrate on other duties and maximises space utilisation. It follows other significant investments by the family-run company in renewable energy at Castleford, and some of its other sites, which will lower electricity bills.

OpenWMS is a highly accurate, configurable warehouse management system for both Third Party Logistics (3PL) providers and for owner-operated use. It creates a complete supply chain management solution suitable for a wide range of products including food and drink, packaging, electronics, IT equipment, homewares and office supplies.

Investing in the new system at Castleford is more proof of the commitment by Onward Holdings to provide 21st Century solutions for businesses seeking warehouse space that will control their costs. OpenWMS will help optimise vehicle loads and routes, enhance picking/dispatch accuracy and timeliness as well as improve job costing and yield control.

In addition to the warehouse management system and new solar panels, the Willowbridge Lane site has the advantage of being close to the motorway networks for fast delivery to all parts of the UK, the railway freight network, Humber ports and regional airports. The facility is in a superb location and can be utilised for a wide variety of uses.

It is an ideal warehouse base for those needing to quickly move and/or store goods in the north of England. The site has huge advantages for those using containers including two dock levellers for loading and unloading and box vans.

**Onward Holdings Ltd PR61a WMS continued:**

Government initiatives for the Northern Powerhouse are expected to drive significant future growth in the Yorkshire and Humber region, meaning demand for suitable sites for warehouses and logistics operations is expected to outstrip current supply.

The Castleford site is just one of a number of prime locations for logistics operations that are owned by Onward Holdings in the north of England – the others are in Doncaster, Ackworth, Scunthorpe and Featherstone. Almost all the current sites on its books have been fully leased or units are under discussion with interested parties.

However, the company is looking for additional units to purchase, or potentially buy land, as part of its investment plans aimed at delivering high-quality warehouse facilities for companies to set up logistics in the Yorkshire area.

Onward Holdings director John Storey says: “We are mindful that businesses operating a distribution or storage facility are under pressure to keep costs under control. We are striving to help at Castleford by adopting new energy and warehouse management systems that can boost the bottom line of our tenants by delivering efficiency benefits.”

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