

# Builders' merchant MKM Supplies expands with new branch at Central Park in Bridgend

Central Park in Bridgend has been boosted with another key letting. Independent builders' merchant MKM Supplies has opened a new 20,000 sq ft branch at the Robert Hitchens developed park under a 25-year leasing agreement.

The 355,000 sq ft park provides a mixture of trade and industrial warehousing properties ranging from 2,500 sq ft to 40,000 sq ft. Other tenants include Evri, PCI, Plumbase, Edmundson Electrical, Markes International and Pensord Press.

Development opportunities exist for a further range of commercial buildings from 10,000 sq ft to up to 145,000 sq ft.

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The new branch, which has created 18 jobs, is MKM Supplies' 132nd in the UK. Its other outlets in Wales include those in Cardiff, Llandudno and Ruthin. A further branch in Bangor due to open later this month.

Branch director Jonathan Thomas said: "We're bringing something new to Bridgend – a one-stop shop for builders, tradespeople and the public."

John Jones, senior asset and development manager at Robert Hitchins, said: "Our commitment to delivering employment-generating development in Bridgend and South Wales continues and we are proud to be investing further with commercial premises which are best-in-class," he said.

Robert Hitchins has developed Central Park over several phases since it acquired the former Kimball Electronics plant in 2006. A scheme of 16 trade counter units amounting to 51,000 sq ft was developed in 2008, followed by a 13,500 sq ft trade counter scheme in 2012, a 40,000 sq ft facility for PCI Pharma Services in 2017, and an 82,000 sq ft industrial warehouse for parcel giant Evri last year.

The new building from MKM, brings Robert Hitchins' investment in Central Park to more than £25m.

Mr Jones estimated that there are currently more than 500 jobs associated with Central Park.

He added: "We are proud to be investing for the long term in Bridgend by self-funding the development of high-quality buildings which has become increasingly rare in the commercial

property market due to rising build costs and other factors.”

The builders of the MKM unit were EG Carter & Co.

Robert Hitchins, based at Boddington in Gloucestershire, is one of the leading property developers, investors and asset managers in the south west of England and South Wales. It provides the full development process from site acquisition and planning through to development and investment.