

Somerset haulage firm acquires new multi-million-pound site

A Somerset-based haulage and warehouse company has secured a multi-million-pound funding deal to purchase new premises.

Willmotts Transport, which provides logistics solutions for a wide range of companies including many food and drinks retailers, has added a 400,000 sq ft warehouse in Midsomer Norton to its portfolio of seven warehouses across the county.

The firm, which employs more than 150 members of staff, said it had emerged from the pandemic from a “strong position”, with consistent year-on-year growth, and was looking to capitalise on demand within its supply chain.

The century-old company, which has more than 100 vehicles in its fleet, said its new base would allow it to consolidate customers’ stock more centrally, and reduce its reliance on smaller rented satellite operations.

Willmotts Transport, whose head office is based in Shepton Mallet, secured the funds that financed the acquisition from Natwest.

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Andy Stott, managing director of Willmotts Transport, said: “We were fortunate in that we could continue operating during the various COVID-19 lockdowns and we saw strong demand from our customers within the supply chain.

“This funding from Natwest has allowed us to capitalise on that demand, almost doubling our capacity with this new premises.”

The deal was managed by Natwest relationship director, Michael Mills, and Ian Hussey, relationship manager at RBS Invoice Finance.

Mr Mills said: “We’ve supported Willmotts Transport for many years, and it’s been great to see them continue to find new avenues for growth.

“This new premises gives them scope to continue to build on the success they’ve seen, while also consolidating the number of leased satellite sites they have across their portfolio.”