

## PRESS RELEASE 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010

### **‘Ground breaking’ ceremony marks beginnings of landmark business centre**

30<sup>th</sup> September 2010: Today, Basepoint Developments and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) hosted a ‘ground breaking ceremony’ for The Base, a 30,000 sq ft landmark office building located on the site of the former Unwins depot in Victoria Road, Dartford.



The project, led by SEEDA and funded by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), forms part of the wider regeneration of the Northern Gateway West area of Dartford town centre. Contractors, RG Carter, have begun work on the development which will be project managed and operated by specialist business centre operator, Basepoint. The Base will offer high quality managed workspace including offices and studio workshops for up to 75 businesses, encouraging and supporting small and start-up companies in the North West Kent and Dartford area.

The Base has been designed by leading architects, RH Partnership, and will be constructed to the highest environmental standards meeting the BREEAM ‘Excellent’ criteria, which includes low water usage and low CO2 emissions. The new building is expected to open in spring 2011.

Colin Clarkson from Basepoint Developments, commented: “Basepoint’s partnership with SEEDA on this project is a major boost to the small business community in Dartford, providing the ideal setting for both existing small enterprises and new business start ups, so we’re delighted that the building work is now underway. The quality of accommodation and the excellent environmental credentials will produce an exceptional new ‘base’ for the local business community.”

At the ceremony, Lee Amor, Executive Director of Enabling Infrastructure and Development at SEEDA, commented: "The Base is an exceptional new facility, which will provide sustainable working space for local businesses and entrepreneurs in Dartford. It will create a firm basis for investment opportunities in the area and help grow the local economy. SEEDA is proud to be leading this development, which would have not been possible without the strong relationship with our partners, such as the Homes and Communities Agency, which has provided the funding for the development."



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Ian Stone, investment and regeneration manager at the HCA, added: "Today marks the beginning of the transformation of the Unwins depot into a modern and exciting business centre. I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in making this project possible, which will boost and support the growing business community in Dartford and be the catalyst for further investment and regeneration in the area."

Basepoint Centres Ltd specialises in the development and operation of managed business centres for small to medium businesses across the south of England and the midlands. For further information, please telephone: 01753 853515 or visit [www.basepoint.co.uk](http://www.basepoint.co.uk).

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### About Basepoint

Basepoint specialises in the development and operation of managed business, innovation and enterprise centres. These centres provide comprehensive accommodation and support infrastructure packages to new and early-stage companies within a supportive and secure environment. The company operates both wholly- and part-owned centres as well as managing facilities on behalf of public sector bodies. Group operations currently extend across Southern England and the Midlands, with additional opportunities under assessment across the UK. Basepoint is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ACT Foundation, a leading grant-making charity dedicated to improving the quality of life of those in need. The ACT Foundation derives its income from a substantial and diversified property portfolio of which Basepoint is a major constituent.

For further information, please visit: [www.basepoint.co.uk](http://www.basepoint.co.uk) / [www.theactfoundation.co.uk](http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk)

### About SEEDA

SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the area.

SEEDA's support helped deliver the following over the period 2009-2010:

- Over 10,000 jobs created or safeguarded, including 7,000 jobs created through inward investment work
- 65 inward investment successes
- Some 52,000 businesses were supported to improve performance
- Over 5,700 new businesses created and demonstrating growth
- Nearly 16,000 people assisted to improve their skills and over 15,000 assisted to gain employment

For further information, please visit: [www.seeda.co.uk](http://www.seeda.co.uk).

### About HCA

The Homes and Communities Agency is the single, national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England. Our role is to create opportunity for people to live in high quality, sustainable places. We provide funding for affordable housing, bring land back into productive use and improve quality of life by raising standards for the physical and social environment.

For further information, please visit: [www.homesandcommunities.co.uk](http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk)

For further **press** information, please contact:

Emma Ward Hunt / Charlotte Young, Foundation PR Ltd  
T: 020 8542 7400 E: [emma.wardhunt@foundation-pr.co.uk](mailto:emma.wardhunt@foundation-pr.co.uk) / [charlotte.young@foundation-pr.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.young@foundation-pr.co.uk)