

Press Cutting	
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## Invest Milton Keynes head pleased with a 'good start'

GRANT SEELEY, head of Invest Milton Keynes, a division of Milton Keynes Partnership has only been in his new role since July 1 – and already Milton Keynes is benefiting from new investment, a host of new enquiries and job creation.

A vital part of Seeley's brief is to present Milton Keynes as a premier business location both nationally and internationally. The city is delivering the UK's highest rate of business growth, which has resulted in a thriving economy as well as strengthening international relationships with countries including the United States, Denmark and Japan.

The city has been the focus of many regional and national media campaigns, which have successfully attracted the interest of a number of corporate organisations. This is reflected in the year on year (2004/5 – 2005/6) relocation and new land enquiry figures that have in-

creased by 26 per cent and 100 per cent respectively. As a result of these initial enquiries the successful relocation conversion rate has also increased considerably.

Amongst incomers is the UK's largest property portal Rightmove, which relocated here in October 2005 from Leighton Buzzard. Miles Shipton, commercial director at Rightmove, comments on what attracted the company to Milton Keynes: "With its growing population, Milton Keynes is an ideal location for recruitment. We had simply outgrown our original office in Leighton Buzzard and looked for larger premises to accommodate our expansion."

"Milton Keynes' transport infrastructure, well-trained workforce and high-quality office space were key factors in the decision to relocate."

The sentiment is echoed by David Taylor, managing director at Lightning Source UK, the UK operation of US-based Lightning Source Inc, the world leader in print on demand technology (POD).

The company has expanded significantly since it arrived in Milton Keynes in 2001 and continues to grow at an annual rate of 70 per cent.

"Milton Keynes is within a three hours drive of 80 per cent of the country, centrally located between London, Birmingham, Oxford and Cambridge, as our major clients include Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Amazon," said Mr Taylor.

LogBuy, Denmark's largest internet-based benefits provider, opened its first UK office in Milton Keynes in March and has experienced considerable growth, resulting in LogBuy UK managing benefits for a portfolio of over 10,000 UK businesses.

"We felt our business would benefit from being located in Milton Keynes, and this has definitely been the case," said managing director David Wal.

"We feel it is a progressive city, with a strong vision for development, growth and innovation – all of which we can strongly identify with."



**GRANT SEELEY, head of Invest Milton Keynes, is driving the city forward.**

Milton Keynes is positioned to attract more high-growth, high-value, knowledge-based businesses resulting in an increase of well paid jobs which will be required as the city contin-

ues to expand.

Grant Seeley concludes: "We've made a good start, but there are still several elements of the Invest Milton Keynes strategy to put in place."

"Once that is achieved I expect to see the pace of high quality incoming investment pick up still further."

"This is an enormously exciting challenge and one that I relish."