

Greenbank expansion secures future of Derby factory site

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A manufacturing facility in Derby is set for a new lease of life thanks to the expansion of a locally based engineering group.

Work ceased at the industrial unit on Northbridge Business Park in Alfreton Road with the high-profile collapse of an historic engineering firm, but now Greenbank has stepped in to save part of the former Garrardale factory and a significant number of jobs.

As part of a deal struck with administrators and the landlord, Greenbank has acquired on-site plant and equipment and access to the large Unit 7 facility. Greenbank has already re-employed numerous Garrardale employees and many more are being offered new roles.

Charles Conroy, Greenbank Group Managing Director, commented: "It was a sad day for the city when the factory closed in August, but by taking on the facility we will ensure manufacturing continues on the site.

"The move also marks another significant step forward in our plans for diversification and further expansion, particularly in the rail sector."

Mr Conroy explained that Greenbank and Garrandale had previously worked together on the delivery of a number of contracts, including the manufacture of components for trains, rolling stock and railway infrastructure.

“Looking to the future, this is set to become an increasingly important market for us, and we have already taken on twelve former Garrandale employees and we will be making more appointments in the near future,” he added.

News of the acquisition has already been welcomed by former Garrandale clients who are now working with Greenbank, including Derby-based railway engineering company Loram UK.

The company’s Commercial Director, Andrew Watson said: “Loram are excited to hear that Greenbank, a well-respected local firm, is looking to expand its operations and support the staff and the customer base that have long been associated with the ex-Garrandale site.

“Core to Loram’s philosophy and values is the employment of local people which doesn’t just stretch to our own skilled workforce but also those present within our supply chain from whom we rely on to meet our demanding customer requirements. This is great news for Loram and the railway Family.”

At nearly 1,800 sq m, Unit 7 on Northbridge Business Park will complement Greenbank’s existing manufacturing and fabrication plants in Woodville, Derbyshire; Creswell, Nottinghamshire; and Connah’s Quay, Flintshire.

Together they serve clients across a wide range of industries, including power generation, minerals processing, manufacturing and water treatment, delivering a wider range of engineering services.

The Derby site has been secured on a long-term lease through Derby-based agents DB Brown Commercial.

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