

PRESS RELEASE



Mark Boodice and Emma Ellis-Yorke

Amtrak and Orbital join forces with innovative delivery services for local businesses

07 August 2006... Award-winning parcel carrier Amtrak Express Parcels has earmarked Leicester for major expansion following a tie-up with local transport and logistics company Orbital Despatches. Orbital has been awarded the Amtrak franchise for Leicestershire and has embarked on a major business expansion, opening a new East Midlands distribution centre and purchasing a new fleet of vans. Amtrak has been voted Parcel Company of the Year and won a prestigious innovation award earlier this year.

Amtrak's expansion in Leicestershire is being underpinned by new technology that will allow local companies to manage all of their parcel shipments via the web. Called Online Despatch, the web service connects sales order systems direct to Amtrak's parcel despatch systems and eliminates traditional paper forms such as consignment notes and manifests. Crucially it allows parcels to be pre-labelled ready for collection from any location. This is revolutionising UK industry by allowing companies to ship goods direct from their suppliers, eliminating the need to hold stock in their own warehouses.

Emma Ellis-Yorke, owner of Orbital and Amtrak franchisee, believes there is enormous potential for Amtrak's services locally. "In the last few years Amtrak has pioneered a whole range of new services geared to meet the changing needs of manufacturers, retailers and their customers. At Orbital we have always provided a one stop shop for national and international transport and logistics services. By incorporating Amtrak's services, we now have access to the industry's most advanced IT, a national next day delivery network and a whole range of premium services".

Amtrak acquired another overnight carrier, Nightspeed, last year, creating a £100 million turnover company with 100 regional depots and a 2000 vehicle fleet nationwide. The new Leicester distribution centre incorporates Nightspeed, adding to the 4000 customers that Orbital has previously serviced. Amtrak has become a major player in home deliveries, having developed a range of service that are convenient to people at home, including evening and Saturday deliveries.

“Amtrak has become a major player in the UK market. We see real potential locally now that Amtrak has the technology, network and services to provide a competitive advantage” continues Emma Ellis-Yorke.

Orbital was formed in 1994 by brother and sister team Mark Boddice and Emma Ellis-Yorke, working from a small city centre office, with just a typewriter and 2 cars. Now one of the leading courier specialists in the East Midlands, the company operates from modern warehouse facilities in the Barbky Road Industrial Park in Leicester and runs a large fleet of modern vehicles.

CONTACTS:

Orbital: Emma Ellis-Yorke can be contacted on 0116 276 2340, emma@orbital-despatches.co.uk

Amtrak Express Parcels: Jane Hart, Marketing Manager on tel. 0117 933 7725, jane.hart@amtrak.co.uk

For photo as a 300dpi jpeg - call Robert Peel (who can also answer editorial questions), tel. 01666 823306

Please fax any colour sep requests to Robert Peel on fax 01666 824 668