



Ladder firm's new £8m premises

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A LADDER manufacturer has unveiled plans for an £8m headquarters.

Lyte Industries (Wales) – which has been operating out of its Ystradgynlais headquarters for nearly 10 years – expects that the move to new premises at Baglan Moor in Port Talbot will not only secure more than 100 existing jobs, but provide a springboard for a phased expansion that could see it eventually employing 200 people.

Lyte's product range includes aluminium ladders, stepladders, towers, work platforms and other access equipment.

Despite a challenging marketplace the company is continuing to grow.

Lyte started business more than 60 years ago in 1947 and has grown to become one of the UK's largest manufacturers of access equipment, with an impressive portfolio of customers in the UK and internationally.

It is also the UK distributor for the Hailo brand of products, one of Europe's largest manufacturers of ladders, stepladders and waste bin solutions.

A key factor in the Lyte [management team's](#) strategy is for the new purpose-built facility to be situated closer to the M4, which it said would help boost competitiveness and bring Lyte closer to its aim of being the largest access equipment manufacturer in the UK.

John Greene, operations director, said: "Transport costs are increasingly a crucial element in our industry.

"We regard the Baglan site as a major factor in maintaining and hopefully improving our lead in the business."

The company's investment bucks a trend which has seen competitors downsize their business, transfer operations to Eastern Europe, or ceasing to trade.

The firm currently employs 102 workers at its Ystradgynlais site, although nearly two-thirds of the current workforce live in the Neath Port Talbot area.

Employees have been told about the plans and the consensus is that keeping jobs in the UK is the main priority.

And Lyte has revealed that it is at an advanced stage in preparing bids to the Assembly's single investment fund (SIF) for new manufacturing technology.



Plans include a research and product development centre plus a manufacturing and productivity centre of excellence. Swansea- based Liberty Properties, which is scheduled to build the new factory site, estimates that the plant could be ready for occupation within 12 months of planning permission being granted.

The move is also funded by a redevelopment scheme for the existing site which includes a retail food store (Tesco) and 10 adjacent small business units that will help deliver regeneration plans for the area.

Mr Greene said: “Lyte Industries have made it a policy that we are not going to leave a semi-derelict site behind us.

“We have been in Ystradgynlais for nearly 20 years and we want to see a good quality development that also provides jobs.”