



“They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself”

Andy Warhol



Hachette Distribution Announcement

We have announced our plans to consolidate our distribution operations into a new, world-class distribution centre, to be built in Didcot, Oxfordshire, near the site of the existing Bookpoint distribution centre.

The existing Bookpoint warehouse will be retained for bulk storage.

As a consequence, and with great regret, we propose to close our Littlehampton warehouse and office in 2019.

This substantial investment programme includes the replacement of our Vista warehouse management and sales order processing systems, with modern, market-leading software solutions.

The new warehouse will be one of the most technically advanced in the UK, including sophisticated automation of processes. It will enable our distribution team to deliver significant improvements to the already high standard of service that we provide to our publishers and third-party clients, in a world where next day and same day delivery are expected.

It is planned that building work will begin on the new distribution centre towards the end of 2016 for completion in the second half of 2017.

It is intended that Hachette Distribution and our client publishers will begin a carefully phased transition to the new site in 2018.

Project Eden

The programme to consolidate our warehouse operations as well as our distribution systems has been titled ‘Project Eden’.

We have taken the decision to replace Vista as it is an old system that has become increasingly difficult to develop and maintain. This is being managed in two main areas.

Warehouse Management – we are designing improved warehouse procedures ranging from picking stock to dispatching goods to customers.

The JDA Warehouse Management system will be used to support this.

We are employing the services of REPL, a company who have vast experience with integrating JDA into businesses.

Order to Cash – this will deliver process improvements for receiving orders through to managing payments.

SAP has been selected as the system for this purpose. It is the established market leader in this area and it will provide an intuitive user experience as well as a more straightforward integration with our current SAP financial systems.

We are working with Keytree as our integration partner for the SAP roll-out.

Latest FAQs

Which other retailers use JDA and do any publishers use it?

JDA is used by 78 of the top 100 retailers in the UK, including John Lewis and M&S. It is also used by other book retailers and publishers, including The Book People and Oxford University Press.

How big will the new warehouse be?

The warehouse needs to be at least 230,000 square feet in size, the equivalent of three football pitches!

Meet the Project Team

Andy Davies



Programme Director

Andy is responsible for the overall delivery of the project and reports to Matt Wright, the MD of HUK Distribution and Lesley Morgan, the group’s CIO. He has extensive experience in major distribution projects and has previously worked for Tesco, TNT, and Wincanton.

Ian Duffy



Senior Project Manager (Order to Cash)

Ian has worked for Hachette for 16 years including management roles in a variety of departments at LBS.

Mark Jones



Senior Project Manager (Warehouse Management & New Site Build)

Mark has a huge wealth of experience in this area and has previously worked in senior project management roles for TGW, Arla Foods, Wipro, and M&S.

Andy, Ian and Mark are based at the project office at Bookpoint but are regular visitors to LBS and Carmelite House.

Coming Next

This is the first of a series of monthly newsletters and there’s plenty more to communicate.

Information on the new warehouse and further introductions to the project team will follow in future issues.

In addition to the newsletter, staff will be kept informed of progress through presentations to key stakeholder groups and updates that will be put up on Novel and noticeboards in staff breakout areas.