



The world's number one pre-press software provider to the packaging and print industry has agreed a ten-year deal to move to Blythe Valley Park.

Esko Artwork is moving from its base in Redditch to a 2,745 sq ft office in the Rhodium Building on the park, which is developed and managed by Liberty Property Trust UK in partnership with Doughty Hanson & Co Real Estate.

The company is a global supplier of integrated solutions for packaging, sign and display finishing, commercial printing and professional publishing.

Esko will have sales, customer service and administration operations running from its new base and is also establishing an on-site training facility.

The firm employs over 1,000 people worldwide and was bought by Danaher Corporation, a maker of microscopes and water treatment systems, for 350 million euros earlier this year.

As part of the relocation to Solihull, Danaher will also be moving an existing administration office it has in the Regus building at Blythe Valley Park into Esko's new home.

UK and Eire business manager Paul Bates said Esko will have around 32 staff based at the park and is experiencing one of the strongest periods in its 18 year history.

"We're delighted to be moving into a prestigious new base at Blythe Valley Park, he said.

"The company has experienced remarkable success over the last 18 months, and 2010 in fact was our strongest ever year, which shows confidence in the market continues to be on the rise following the difficult time many businesses experienced in 2009.

“Esko will be perfectly positioned to grow our UK operations from our new base, particularly with the new on-site software training centre we’ll have running on site for all our clients across the country to take advantage of.

“This will include courses on the use of a new software application we’ve recently launched, the Esko Artwork Store Visualizer, which allows companies to see how their designs look in a realistic 3D in-store setting.”

Kate Smith, of Liberty Property Trust, said the arrival of Esko was great news for the park.

“More than 90 per cent of the food packaging produced globally is done so using Esko’s software so the company is a major player in the packaging and printing industry,” she said.

“Its products and services help customers raise productivity, lower costs and expand business so we are pleased they have become the latest major firm to take space at the park and look forward to working closely with them over the next ten years.”