



24 July 2018

## **New Seconique headquarters takes off with the backing of Allied Irish Bank (GB)**

West Midlands-based Seconique, one of the UK's largest independent importers and wholesalers of flat pack furniture, is moving to new purpose-designed headquarters in a £10m investment backed by Allied Irish Bank (GB) (AIB (GB))\*.

Formed in 1986 and with an annual turnover in the region of £27m, Seconique is moving from Woden Road, Wednesbury to a newly renovated 390,000 sq. ft. warehouse and offices in Pendeford, Wolverhampton. The 17.5 acre site, once home to the Boulton Paul aircraft plant, will provide Seconique with both the flexibility to extend its product range and an opportunity to develop the site in the future. Helen Barker, Managing Director, Philip Jones Chief Financial Officer, the rest of the management team and their 92 staff members will transfer to the new site towards the end of July.

Bartley Finnegan, Senior Relationship Manager at Allied Irish Bank (GB) in Birmingham, who led the deal with colleague Brian Hammond, said: "AIB (GB) has worked with the owners and management team at Seconique for many years and this move to their own premises is an exciting stage in the company's development. We look forward to seeing how the business grows and to continuing our relationship with Helen, Philip and the rest of the management team as they take those growth plans forward."

Philip Jones, Chief Financial Officer at Seconique, said: “Bartley and Brian at AIB (GB) have been very supportive throughout this whole process. Finding the right premises took quite some time but the bank had listened to what we wanted to do and were fully behind us, which meant we could focus completely on the property search. They always kept us informed as to how the financial aspects of the deal were progressing, which was enormously helpful to me.”

Seconique’s Managing Director Helen Barker added: “One of the most critical factors in the moving process was the relocation of our huge levels of stock without disruption to our customers. Without exception all of our staff have been fantastic throughout. Seconique has been something of a sleeping giant for a while, but owning our own HQ gives us a great platform to move the business forward and we believe there’s huge scope for us in the years ahead.”

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