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Top 100, 2008

Building for a bright future

7

Mears Group

Housing repairs

Established: 1988

Delivers: in excess of 3,000 repairs every day with a portfolio of more than 500,000 houses nationwide.

Turnover: £304.6 million

Order Book: £1billion

Employees: 6,000 plus

Contracts: include Sheffield Homes, Wakefield Homes, Your Homes Newcastle, Richmond Housing Partnership, Ealing Homes.

Mears Group has become one of the UK's leading social housing repairs and maintenance provider with a growing presence in the domiciliary care market.

Based at the Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Mears also has a subsidiary mechanical and engineering division.

The group employs more than 6,000 people nationally with some 50 based in Gloucestershire.

With a turnover of £304.6 million Mears now carries out more than 3,000 repairs each day to 500,000 houses nationwide.

The care section looks after some 13,000 people a year.

Mears Group started out as a small private building contractor in 1988 moving into the support services sector in 1992 with its first multi-disciplinary maintenance and repairs contract with a local authority.

In 1996 chairman and founder Bob Holt lead the flotation of the company on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

Last week Mears announced it had joined the official Stock Market list with the support of BPE's corporate team.

Last year Mears added Careforce to the group. And in 2007 Mears staff contributed more than 13,000 hours of voluntary community work supporting more than 220 different projects. Some 183 youngsters have been given work experience and/or taken part in apprenticeship schemes.

The group has also expanded its Future Champions project providing financial and practical support for ten young talented athletes.

Recently Mears won new contracts for its social housing division.

Watford Community Housing Trust appointed the group to replace bathrooms and kitchens and external upgrade works in a £33 million five-year deal.

And Castle Morpeth Housing appointed Mears to deliver a major works, improvement and repair programme to the recently transferred housing stock. The contract is worth £12 million.

Mr Holt said: "These new wins by our social housing division add additional important contracts to our order book which is at record levels and we believe that Mears is in a very strong position to benefit further from our current bid pipeline."

He added: "2007 has been a very good year for Mears and I am grateful to all Mears employees for their tremendous work."

"2008 and beyond looks even brighter."



THE TEAM: Bob Holt and the staff from Mears Group



IN CHARGE: chairman and founder Bob Holt



READY TO ROLL: Mears Group's fleet of vehicles