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News Release

BIMBO IS A BREEZE FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK

A Staffordshire-based international manufacturer of high-quality timber garden buildings is under new ownership following a BIMBO funded by The Co-operative Bank.

The multi-million pound deal sees Stephen Barker, a former Managing Director within Kingfisher Plc with a background in management of engineering companies and builders' merchants, takes the reigns at the Breeze House workshop in Leek.

Finance was provided by The Co-operative Bank's Leeds Corporate Banking Centre represented by Senior Corporate Manager Steve Clarke and Business Development Manager Richard Gandy, whilst Cameron Varley and Lee Wojtkiw represented Blue Sky Corporate Finance within the deal.

Inspired by the African continent, Breeze House designs and constructs unique timber and thatched open-sided structures for private and commercial use. The 'Breeze Houses' are sold as private garden and outdoor houses, or as dining areas, seating rooms and entertainment venues for the hospitality sector.

Formed in 1997, a team of 35 designers, craftsmen and installers are now employed by Breeze House. The company continues to trade with the third world and also sells thatch tile roofing for zoos and safari parks under the name of Africa Roofing.

Stephen said: "Breeze House manufactures fantastic products that are in great demand and there is huge potential to develop and expand the business. The buildings are hand-made, individual, of superb quality and use natural products – and the success of the company to date is testament to that.

“As a result of this deal, my aim is now to increase business through existing channels and products, as well as identifying where we can expand and build on our range of allied products.”

Steve Clarke said: “Although Breeze House has enjoyed considerable success over the last ten years, there is clear potential for growth and we are sure that Stephen and his team will develop the business well over the coming years. The Co-operative Bank is always looking to be involved with innovative and ethically minded projects, and the work that is being done at Breeze House with traditional skills and trading arrangements with the third world is fantastic.”

Operating nationwide, BlueSky Corporate Finance Limited is an independent corporate finance boutique established to assist quality managers and companies in the acquisition process.

Anyone interested in talking to The Co-operative Bank’s Leeds Corporate Banking Centre should contact the team on 0113 246 5432.

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