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## **New Managing Director for Unipart Consumer Logistics**

Unipart Logistics, one of Europe's leading providers of supply chain and third party logistics services, and a specialist in lean implementation, has announced the appointment of Sharon Thomas as Managing Director of Unipart Consumer Logistics (UCL). She joins UCL from Woolworths plc where she was Director of Supply Chain.

Unipart Consumer Logistics provides logistics and supply chain management services to the retail sector. Its clients include Homebase, Halfords, ASOS and a wide range of other High Street retailers.

Sharon Thomas has significant operational and start-up experience with retail supply chains. She began her career with Marks and Spencer before spells with Storehouse and Tibbett & Britten plc. She was also part of the start-up team at Ocado, where she was responsible for the set-up and initial operations.

Frank Burns, Managing Director of Unipart Logistics commented:

"We are absolutely delighted to have secured Sharon to head up this critical area of our business. When we commenced the search for this role we were clear that a supply chain expert who intimately understood the workings of the global retail supply chain and fitted perfectly with our approach to business was our ideal. After an intensive six-month search we are delighted to announce to our business and wider stakeholders that we have found that person."

Over recent years, UCL's current operations have grown significantly in core services as well as within multi-channel and e-fulfilment solutions. Based at Unipart's global headquarters in Oxford, Sharon will support the evolution of the business' strategy for growth. She will ensure that Unipart Logistics' market-leading propositions, based on operational excellence and outstanding customer service, continue to grow through the use of the Unipart Way – the company's proprietary application of Lean principles.

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Commenting on her new appointment, Sharon said:

“I can genuinely say that joining Unipart Logistics and the Unipart Group fulfils a long-standing ambition to be part of a truly market-leading and innovative business.

“I have used the Unipart Way to assist cultural change programmes and support SAP implementation programmes in the past and have always been impressed by the impact on people and sustained improvement it brings to supply chain operations.”

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**Notes to editors:**

**About Unipart Group**

The Unipart Group employs more than 8,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is one of Europe’s leading logistics companies and a widely-recognised pioneer in the field of Lean implementation.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, marine, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group’s proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

Unipart also offers expert consultancy in implementing Lean principles and in supply chain management across a variety of industry sectors.

The Group’s clients include Halfords, ASOS.com, Homebase, Vodafone, 3, BSkyB, Jaguar, Severn Trent Water and HMRC.