

### **Local interest in Rotherham United stadium rockets at Magna**

**2 June 2011**

Local businesses from across the Yorkshire region turned up in their hundreds to 'Meet the Contractor' at Magna in Rotherham on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. The successful event is part of an initiative by main contractor GMI Construction and Rotherham United Football Club to open up local opportunities to the local community in the construction of the new 12,000 seater stadium.

The event was organised in conjunction with partners Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce and Construction Sector Network/Construction Target; all with the aim of providing additional support and opening up new opportunities to businesses in the region.

With an audience of approximately 300 people, a brief introduction presentation took place in the morning with speakers Tony Stewart, Chairman of Rotherham United; and Mark Gowdrige from S&P Architects, who ran through the detailed design of the new stadium.

Tony expressed his delight with the overwhelming interest shown by the local community; "We have nominated the main contractor, and we now wanted to give local contractors a slice of the action. It's fantastic to see such a wide range of businesses taking the time to find out more about how they can get involved in the community stadium."

An open forum followed the presentation session where potential sub-contractors and suppliers were able to speak to key members of the delivery team individually, as well as submitting their details to be considered for elements of the works.

Andrew Kemp, Construction Director at GMI who was on hand to answer questions at the event commented: "The team are committed to working collaboratively with local supply chains where ever possible and are so pleased with the response we've had so far. It's all about engaging with people and getting the best of what's on offer to benefit all parties involved."

## PRESS RELEASE



Additional support for the event was also provided in the form of exhibitors which included representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Construction Sector Network, Business Link, Construction Skills, Construction Line and CO2 Sense.

"Construction Target is positioned to increase the flow of opportunities for regional businesses in the construction sector & build environment sector & this event is a perfect example of how we are proactively working with clients & prime contractors to achieve this. The new Rotherham stadium brings commercial opportunities and we are pleased to have supported GMI in bringing this to the attention of businesses in the Yorkshire & Humber region," said Karl Redmond, CEO of the Construction Sector Network

Positive feedback on the success of the event has already been received, with one attendee commenting: "Just wanted to thank GMI for the excellent presentation and informative information that was given at the event to local sub-contractors; how very refreshing, I wish all main contractors would adopt this approach."

