

Final release: 31 May 2007

**BOOTS DRIVES GREENER DISTRIBUTION IN SCOTLAND**  
**- Collaboration set to save over 300,000 miles a year -**

Boots is spearheading an innovative pilot project in the north of Scotland aimed at cutting carbon emissions and reducing delivery costs.

A unique collaboration with JBT, a leading local road haulage services company based in the North of Scotland, will cut 6000 miles a week – resulting in almost 150,000 litres of fuel being saved annually and reducing carbon emissions by 12% in Scotland for delivering our products to Boots stores.

The collaboration, which was announced in Inverness today, is a first for Scotland and is set to improve delivery efficiency in the supply chain across the Highlands and Islands region.

Boots is also investigating possible synergies with a number of other blue-chip companies to identify further ways in which distribution can be made greener and more efficient.

Gavin Chappell is the supply chain director of Boots and co-chair of a collaborative green distribution workgroup under ECR UK (Efficient Consumer Response), an IGD\* initiative led by the directors of leading retailers and manufacturers. Commenting on the partnership, Gavin said: “Over the last year, we have been working with a number of retailers through the IGD to improve the ‘green’ credentials of the UK food and grocery retail industry focusing on rural delivery. We have agreed a two year pilot with JBT, which will provide a more effective delivery system to remote areas, improving Boots’ supply frequency whilst substantially reducing transport and energy costs.

“If successful in Scotland, we anticipate rolling the pilot out to other geographical areas such as Wales and the South West.

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We are currently investigating possible synergies with a number of other blue chip companies to identify further possible collaborations with a view to making a sustained reduction in carbon emissions across the sector, whilst increasing frequency in supply to rural populations.

Gavin concluded: “The challenge is not to find solutions in the short-term but bring about a long-term change in distribution strategy that embeds carbon management across the industry.”

Murray Prentice, managing director of JBT, added: “This is an exciting project for JBT to participate in. JBT’s operational bases in Inverness and Aberdeen are ideally situated to efficiently administer the volumes concerned and allow us to continue the high level of service to the marketplace whilst reducing the overall environmental impact.”

**Notes to editors:**

About ECR UK

ECR UK (Efficient Consumer Response), an initiative led by the directors of leading retailers and manufacturers and managed by IGD, is focused on driving collaboration between retailers and suppliers for the ultimate benefit of consumers. Over the past ten years, it has provided a framework for a variety of projects with a key benefit being the use of a common language between retailers and manufacturers.

ECR UK provides industry leadership, education and guidance on key issues. In many cases, the most contentious issues can affect the whole industry and cannot be resolved independently by either supplier or retailer. ECR UK provides a forum where both parties can work together to deliver more value to the consumer. Visit [www.igd.com/ecr](http://www.igd.com/ecr) for more information.

About IGD:

IGD is an international food and grocery expert providing research and training for the retail and manufacturing sector.