

# ECCO NEWSPRINT

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## **Ecco Newsprint: building agreement and lease for recycled newsprint mill**

Ecco Newsprint has agreed with One NorthEast (“ONE”) the terms of a building agreement and 125 year lease over ONE’s 66 acre site at Wilton International, which is now formally under option to Ecco. ONE is the development agency for North East England and owner of the land on which Ecco's recycled newsprint mill will be constructed.

ONE also has an option to acquire from Wilton's owners, SembCorp Utilities, a further six acres of land, which it has offered to Ecco to facilitate further construction on the site when Ecco requires this for future expansion.

Ecco secured planning consent in 2006 and has now finalised the design for its mill buildings, equipment and utility connections.

John Holmes, Director of Regeneration at One, said:

*“We are delighted to have signed this deal with Ecco. The opportunity to bring a development of this size and magnitude to the Tees Valley will bring significant benefits to the area, and is great news for the region as a whole.*”

*“The project represents another major advance in the region's commitment to the recycling industry, which must be a priority if we're to ensure our future generations have a high quality of life.”*

Neil Kenley, Strategic Investment and Marketing Director, Tees Valley Regeneration (TVR) said:

*“This is great news. We have been working with Ecco for more than two years to ensure this paper mill - and the huge investment it represents - comes our way. The signing of an agreement with One Northeast for the 66 acre site at Wilton International is an indication of just how determined Ecco is to see this happen.”*

Ramsay Hampton, Ecco Chairman, commented:

*“We are delighted to have finalised this agreement with ONE. Wilton International has a number of strong attractions as a location for our state of the art recycling mill. It benefits from significant energy and water resources as well as excellent transport links to customers' northern press rooms and to the rest of the UK and overseas through Teesport.”*

## Enquiries

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## Notes to Editors

### Ecco Newsprint

Ecco Newsprint is building a new British recycled newsprint paper mill in the Tees Valley in North East England. It will produce over 400,000 tonnes of newsprint per annum using recovered waste materials as raw material. The mill will result in over half a million tonnes of recovered waste paper being diverted from landfill per year.

Ecco was founded by Chairman Ramsay Hampton, who has 20 years' experience in the UK newsprint industry and by Chief Executive Marcus Moir, an experienced corporate financier.

Ecco's mill is a response to market imbalance in the UK. The UK newspaper printing market is the largest newsprint market in Europe. Of the 2.65m tonnes of newsprint consumed in the UK, 66% of this is imported from North America, the Nordic region and Europe. Customers wish to see this imbalance corrected.

Ecco's mill is also a response to increasing environmental awareness. The UK produces 28 million tonnes of household waste, of which newspapers and magazines are a major element. The UK has historically achieved a low level of recycling for this waste, with most being sent to landfill. This project is in line with increased UK government and EU strategies to remove used newspapers and magazines from landfill, offering a sustainable, environmentally sensitive, and importantly local means of recycling newspapers and magazines collected in the north of England and Scotland.

For more information see [www.ecconewsprint.co.uk](http://www.ecconewsprint.co.uk)

### One NorthEast ("ONE")

ONE is the Regional Development Agency set up in April 1999 to help the people of the North East create and sustain jobs, prosperity and a higher quality of life. The Agency is responsible to the people of the North East and to the Government. ONE and all the other Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) across England share a common mission statement, 'to transform England's regions through sustainable economic development.'

ONE is harnessing the physical and human resources of the region, in both rural and urban communities, to:

- Accelerate economic development and regeneration
- Promote business growth and efficiency, boost investment and increase competitiveness
- Generate thousands of new jobs
- Develop the work skills of the people living here to meet the needs of a changing economy