

## **Landau Group targets growth with new marine hub at historic Supermarine Quay**

Landau Group is investing in the future of the South Coast's marine and defence sector with a new headquarters at Supermarine Quay in Woolston, Southampton.

The site, formerly the Marine Skills Centre, sits on the banks of the River Itchen and occupies the historic grounds where the Supermarine Spitfire was once built. Now, it is being brought back into use as a working base for marine businesses, with a clear focus on collaboration and practical industry activity.

### **A long-term move driven by opportunity**

For Landau, the decision to acquire the site followed several years of searching for the right location.

Roger Cerrato, Sales Director at Landau Marine, said: "Landau have been looking for a waterside facility for a number of years but it's been tricky to find somewhere suitable that was in any way affordable. We wanted a site that would allow for future growth and when we first heard that the College were planning on moving out, we immediately told them we'd be keen to purchase the site from them."

The move brings the company's core operations together in one place, with Landau Marine, Landau Haulage and Landau Properties now based at the 9,000 sq ft site. At the same time, a significant proportion of the space has been set aside for other businesses, including workshops and offices that can be adapted to different operational needs.

### **A working environment for marine businesses**

Rather than a conventional office development, Supermarine Quay has been set up as a practical, shared working environment for marine SMEs and start-ups.

The intention is straightforward: to bring businesses together in one location where they can work alongside each other and develop relationships more naturally. Early signs suggest that approach is already starting to deliver results.

"Now that our first external tenants 'Proteum' have moved in we're already seeing the benefits of on site collaboration," said Roger. "Our vision is to build a thriving community of like minded businesses all working together to the benefit of each other and more importantly our customers."

This kind of day-to-day interaction is expected to play an important role in strengthening local supply chains, particularly across marine and defence-related activity in the region. The site also presents a practical opportunity for marine and

defence businesses looking for flexible workspace, access to the water and the benefits of working within a growing industry cluster.

### **Supporting local jobs and regeneration**

The redevelopment also ties into wider changes taking place in Woolston, where new housing and regeneration projects are bringing more people into the area.

Roger highlighted the importance of balancing this with local employment opportunities: “With plenty of regeneration happening locally in Woolston, especially new flats, we think it’s important to also have the opportunity for residents to work locally.”

By creating space for businesses to operate and grow, the site is intended to keep more economic activity within the local area, while offering practical workspace for companies that need access to the water.

### **A site shaped by its history**

While the focus is firmly on current and future use, the history of the site has become an important part of the project.

“Like most people we weren’t fully aware of the historic significance of the Woolston site until we started the process of acquiring Supermarine Quay,” Roger said. “To be able to work in such a historic site is absolutely fantastic and we’ve done our best to reflect the heritage of the site in our renovations.”

That connection was particularly evident at the site’s opening.

“Having the family members of so many people who worked here during World War II join us for our Opening Day was very special.”

### **Looking ahead**

Landau’s plans for Supermarine Quay extend beyond the current site. A second phase is already being considered, focused on expanding into neighbouring land.

“Phase 2 of our plans for Supermarine Quay involves expanding into the adjacent site which has been derelict for a number of years,” Roger explained. “This will allow us to offer our own lift and launch facility as well as boat storage.”

If delivered, these additions would increase the site’s capability and make it more attractive to a wider range of marine businesses.

## **Contributing to the regional cluster**

As part of the wider South Central Regional Defence and Security Cluster (SCRDSC), developments like Supermarine Quay play a practical role in strengthening the region's industrial base.

“Being part of the South Central Regional Defence and Security Cluster gives us a chance to connect with like-minded businesses and better understand the opportunities across the sector,” said Roger. “ It’s an important way for us to support our own growth while contributing to the wider marine and defence community in the region.”

By creating space for businesses to operate side by side and by investing in facilities that support marine activity, Landau Group is helping to build a more connected and resilient sector.

To find out more about Landau visit [www.landauuk.com](http://www.landauuk.com)