

BOOM-TIME AT BUSINESS PARK

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MORE than 20 firms are eyeing up a move to Scarborough's £100 million business park as another company sets up home on the site.

The Firth Firmac Group, a local firm made up of four engineering companies, is officially opening its new premises at the park on Friday.

A second local company, which cannot be named at this stage of negotiations, is also looking to expand on to the site after buying five acres of land.

Caddick Developments, the firm behind the 83-acre business park at Eastfield, has reported a "high level of interest" and is currently in talks with more than 20 businesses.

The news comes just days after Scarborough was named the most enterprising place in Europe by the European Commission.

The Firth Firmac Group, currently based in Barry's Lane, will be the fourth occupant of the business park. The company bought 2.5 acres of land off Caddick, on which they have built a 9,120sq ft industrial factory and 1,968sq ft of office space.

Simon Morrell, general manager of Firmac Ltd, which is part of the group, said: "The reason we are moving is all four companies have outgrown our existing premises.

"Business expansion means we now need a bigger manufacturing area, and we feel that by moving to the business park we are moving

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Business park boom-time as firms move in

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to the industrial heart of the town."

When completed, the business park will cover around one million sq ft of office and industrial accommodation, and create up to 1,000 local jobs.

Peter Holley, Director of Caddick Developments, said: "We have potential occupiers showing interest in the business park, having identified the cost-saving benefits of locating to Scarborough and the skilled workforce available as key drivers in their decision making process.

He added: "Despite the current market conditions, we are still progressing a number of deals and, following the first signs of economic recovery, we expect a flurry of new occupiers as various organisations make their final commitments to the scheme."

Major infrastructure works, including an entire new road network and the upgrading of off-site utilities and state of the art broadband connections, have now been completed on the business park in preparation for new occupiers to move in.

The three businesses currently on the business park are haulage firm TEF Transport, HSBC's commercial banking branch and Swedish bank Handelsbanken.

The business park has also had planning permission granted for a 20,000 sq ft hotel; 9,325 sq ft of restaurant space; 11,000 sq ft of retail space and 39,500 sq ft of car showrooms.

Iain Simpson & Company and the Leeds office of King Sturge are jointly marketing the Scarborough Business Park scheme.

Iain Simpson said: "There is a real pent-up demand for commercial space at the business park and we have received a considerable amount of enquiries.

"Despite the current market conditions, we are still in negotiations with a number of companies who are interested in relocating to new and efficient commercial accommodation with access to the latest telecommunications technology.

"Once the credit market begins to recover, deals can be finalised and the scheme will continue to move forward at pace."