

Cable firm plans move to purpose-built home

Saturday, August 28, 2010, 06:16

CABLE manufacturer HellermannTyton is to build a huge factory in the north of Plymouth.

The company will leave its Pennycross home and relocate to the International Medical and Technology Park at Derriford.

The move, which will see the firm switch to a 48,000sq ft modern base, is being seen as confirmation of its commitment to Plymouth.

The cost of building the two-storey plant has not been revealed but Steve Salmon, chief executive of the HellermannTyton Group, said: "This project has been well supported by Plymouth City Council and by the South West Regional Development Agency and will involve a very significant capital investment from our company.

"Our decision to progress with the building of our new site reflects our confidence in the capabilities of our people and our commitment to continuing with our strong presence in the South West region."

HellermannTyton is a leading supplier of products for fastening, fixing, identifying and protecting cables and their connecting components.

Its products are used in sectors including aerospace, shipbuilding, mass transit, electrical wholesale, automotive and telecommunications.

HellermannTyton has 34 sites worldwide including Germany, France, the US and Japan.

It has two British manufacturing plants in Manchester and Plymouth.

The company has been based at Pennycross since 1978 and about 100 people work there.

Three years ago it was forced to halve its workforce after facing tough competition from low-wage economies such as China and India.

Now it is investing again, and work will start on the new product development and production centre, opposite Rok's building on William Prance Road, at the start of next month.

A ground-breaking ceremony is due to take place at the new site on Thursday .

The purpose-built facility will be constructed to "an extremely high environmental standard" the firm said.

Plymouth's Architects Design Group was employed to draw plans for a two-storey plant which contains areas for research and development, plastic and rubber moulding, and warehousing.

The design also included offices and car parking for about 60 vehicles.

Mr Salmon said: "Over the past 32 years we have developed a highly skilled team of people in Plymouth.

"We have designed, developed and manufactured innovative solutions for customers all over the world."