

TWO MILLION SQ FEET AND COUNTING...

Priority Sites' celebrations to mark the completion of two million square feet of commercial space certainly went with a bang!



Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott stood well back as he triggered a firework display to mark the historic achievement.

The milestone was reached as work began on phase two of Priority Sites' development at West Moor Park in Doncaster.

Since Priority Sites was set up in 1997 as a joint venture company of the national regeneration agency, English Partnerships, and The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, it has also helped to create 5,000 jobs in areas of economic need in England.

Mr Prescott said: "Priority Sites is a great example of how the public and private sectors can work together - helping to create sustainable communities by allowing businesses to grow and expand in areas affected by economic decline.

'...the public and private sectors can work together'

"Congratulations on meeting your two million square feet target and for giving new hope to thousands of hard-working people."

Priority Sites celebrated its one million square feet milestone in 2002 and then pledged to create 4,000 jobs by the end of 2003. Just six months into 2004 it reached 5,000.

Priority Sites pledged to create jobs

Priority Sites has turned itself into one of the country's most active commercial developers, with a new scheme starting on average every four weeks. Building is carried out speculatively and companies then buy or rent space.

English Partnerships' Chairman Margaret Ford said "Priority Sites is making a very real contribution helping to create sustainable communities - communities where people want to live and work. We are very proud to be a partner with the Royal Bank of Scotland in this very successful joint venture."

Derek Sach, Managing Director of Specialised Lending Services at The Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "This is a day of celebration for all involved with Priority Sites - an outstanding example of what a successful public-private partnership can achieve."



L-R: Margaret Ford, Derek Sach, John Prescott, Paul Barber, Keith Howell (Chairman of Priority Sites) and Martin Winter (Mayor of Doncaster)