

IN BRIEF

Health contract
GEFCO has partnered with **HPC Healthline** – one of the UK's leading suppliers of disposable personal protective workwear and infection control solutions – to provide 24 hour nationwide transport solutions for its medical products and equipment in the UK.

The contract sees **GEFCO** utilise its full UK network capabilities to collect freight from **HPC**

Healthline's collection points in **Bourne** and **Peterborough** and provide next-day delivery to distribution centres, retail and medical outlets throughout the UK.

GEFCO provides a 24-hour delivery schedule for **HPC Healthline**, five days a week, to accommodate the fast-changing demands of the healthcare industry, transporting an average of 300 pallets per week.



6.2 million online orders sent

UKWA member and online fulfilment specialist **iForce** has announced another highly successful year. It also provides encouraging news for the high street because of the 6.2 million orders despatched by **iForce** throughout 2011 (a 4 per cent increase on 2010), some 2 million were 'collect from store' orders – that's 38 per cent higher than last year, indicating that online retail can also increase footfall in the high street.

"This year saw increased emphasis and focus on stock availability and customer convenience as can be seen from the 38% increase in collect from store orders being handled," said **Mark Hewitt**, CEO of **iForce**.

During the Christmas peak's busiest week (the week beginning Monday 14 December 2011), **iForce** despatched 317,000 orders (a 4 per cent increase on 2010), which comprised 1.1 million items.

The busiest day of the entire Christmas peak period (1 October to 31 December) was actually **Boxing Day**, unlike 2010 when 7 December saw the most online shopping activity. "The fact that more orders were received on **Boxing Day** than any other day in the year shows that people are looking and waiting for what they see as a keen offer or real bargain," reports **Mark Hewitt**.

CONTRACT WIN

Asda boost for Clipper

Asda has awarded **Clipper** a ten year contract to provide logistics operations for the George clothing business from its new £40m distribution centre at **Wynyard** near **Teesport**.

Clipper has held the contract for the **George** business since 2009, handling some 55

million units per year from its current deconsolidation centre in **Darlington**.

Operations will transfer to the new premises when it opens in August 2012, and is expected to create hundreds of jobs.

The facility is being designed to suit the contract, with a three-

tier hanging garment mezzanine and hanging conveyors.

The contract will use over 600,000 sq ft of the warehouse space. The facility has a footprint of 350,000 sq ft, but operational space will be well over one million sq ft including mezzanines.