

*19th September, 2012*

## Vantec raising its profile



Wednesday 29th August was a significant day for Vantec Europe Ltd as we hosted a visit from Mr Suzuki (CEO of our parent company, Hitachi Transport System), Mr Nakatani (Senior Vice President and Executive Officer at Hitachi Transport), Mr Seki (Managing Director Europe at Hitachi Transport), Mr Enoda (Senior Manager at Hitachi Transport) and Mr Hannya (Senior Managing Executive Officer of Vantec Corporation) to view the progress of the new warehouse build at Turbine Way as well as visiting VEU's existing warehouse at Cherry Blossom Way and the Nissan Plant.

The event at Turbine Way attracted various reporters from TV and newspapers as well as dignitaries from Sunderland Council; an announcement of a 40 hectare expansion of the

Enterprise zone and a further 81 jobs on top of the 230 initially proposed, was also made on the day by Mr George Osborne, the Chancellor.

During the event Mr Suzuki CEO took part in the Daruma doll ceremony, painting in the first eye (See image). This is a traditional Japanese culture in which the Daruma doll is given as a gift to a new business or venture as a symbol of good luck and prosperity; when the project is set underway the first eye is painted, and when the project is deemed successful then the other eye is also filled in.

VEU Managing Director Martin Kendall commented on the day's events: *'Hosting a visit for our guests from Japan, the UK government and Sunderland Council, and being able to show and talk about the progress of the new logistics centre, which will be the largest overseas investment by Vantec, is testament to the progress VEU have made over the last few years. It is through the hard work and commitment of the workforce that has enabled VEU to be in the position we are in today as the largest onsite logistics supplier to NMUK. We look forward now to the next part of the ceremony which will signify the success of the project.'*

First image:

Martin Kendall (left) exhibiting the new warehouse to Mr George Osborne (right) and the senior members of Vantec and Hitachi Transport System.

Second image:

Mr Suzuki after proudly painting in the first eye of the Daruma doll.