

EUROPEAN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

SPAIN

First phase of Zaragoza's novel logistics park venture is a sell-out

MADRID—Managers of the Plaza logistics park in Zaragoza, northeast Spain, have this month announced full occupation of the first stage of the novel joint venture between industry and academia.

The announcement was made during the launch of a special logistics research and education programme being made available to occupants of the business park in conjunction with the US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Centre for Transportation and Logistics.

Seventy companies are said to have signed up to occupy the park so far, including Volvo and DHL Express.

A novel feature of the venture is that the occupants are being offered on-the-spot access to the latest academic research and ideas at the Zaragoza Logistics Centre, which will be run jointly by the University of Zaragoza and the MIT.

Yossi Sheffi, the director of the MIT's transport and logistics centre, said the MIT-University of Zaragoza programme will use the park as a working laboratory for international logistics practice.

"Companies will work with researchers to experiment with new logistics practices, concepts and technologies developed at the centre," he said.

When completed, the park, which is being developed by the City of Zaragoza and the Aragón regional government, will measure over 12m sq m and be capable of handling more than five million tons of goods a year.