

IMPERIAL acquires 49% of Nigerian logistics provider

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The JSE-listed Imperial Group had acquired 49% of Nigerian logistics provider MDS in a \$26-million deal, the group announced on Monday.

The transaction provided the Imperial group entry into the logistics sector of the rapidly expanding Nigerian fast-moving consumer goods, telecommunications and pharmaceutical industries, the company noted.

MDS, a wholly-owned subsidiary of UAC of Nigeria Plc, a company listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange, offered warehousing and distribution solutions through a network of 50 distribution centres, by linking companies with their customers in more than 600 cities and villages across Nigeria.

“Our newest acquisition strengthens Imperial Logistics’ footprint in our continent and is consistent with our strategy of focusing on these consumer opportunities and following our customer base on the continent,” said Imperial Logistics CEO Marius Swanepoel.

“MDS has a quality customer base with a strong new business pipeline. Through the transaction, Imperial has also secured a specialist management team which strengthens and complements the group’s existing skills set in the logistics business.”

Imperial Logistics is a member of the Imperial Group.

“Imperial is a trusted logistics partner to Tiger Brands in South Africa,” added Peter Matlare, CEO of Tiger Brands, which owns 49% of UAC Foods. “It is wonderful that they are entering Nigeria in this way. It means that we can rely on their logistics support for our ever-growing business there.”

The MDS announcement followed Imperial’s January acquisition of Imperial Health Sciences, formerly RTT Health Sciences.

Imperial Health Sciences specialised in multichannel solutions for delivering medicines and consumer health products in South Africa, as well as Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire and Nigeria.

Source: [Engineering News](#)