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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For release on the 29 February 2024

# **BAIRDS MALT ANNOUNCES FURTHER EXPANSION PLANS IN INVERNESS**

Inverness, Scotland 29 Feb 2024 - Bairds Malt is pleased to announce an additional expansion of production capacity at its Inverness malting site. This proposed new investment is in addition to Project Angel, completed last year, which added 79,000mt of capacity to support the demand for quality malt from Bairds customers, primarily in the Scottish distilling sector.



*Pictured: Bairds' Inverness Malting Site*

Following the landmark acquisition of Bairds' parent company United Malt Group by Malteries Soufflet in November 2023, Bairds has seized the opportunity to further bolster its global growth strategy. As the largest UK maltster with an expansive footprint in Scotland, Bairds Malt is expecting to add an additional 57,000mt of annual capacity by early 2027, given full planning consent is already in place and a significant proportion of the onsite infrastructure was installed during the initial phase of the development.

Malteries Soufflet Managing Director, Guillaume Couture said “We are delighted to announce this expansion of one of our UK malting facilities so quickly after the acquisition of United Malt Group and Bairds Malt. This project is our first in our growth plan for the combined global malting business and will be the flagship facility for our combined UK business going forward.”

With the burgeoning demand for high-quality distilling malt in tandem with the sustained growth of the Scottish distilling industry, Bairds Malt is steadfast in its commitment to meet this demand while

championing sustainability. This development also marks a significant stride towards enhancing carbon reduction efforts throughout the wider supply chain.

In line with Malteries Soufflet's sustainability agenda, Bairds Malt plans to integrate renewable energy from the onset of Phase 2 commissioning. Collaborating with local suppliers, Bairds Malt plans to harness renewable heat and power, furthering its commitment to carbon reduction. Additionally, Bairds Malt is poised to expand its onsite AMBR RO Plant, enabling comprehensive treatment of effluent adding to its water conservation efforts.

UK General Manager Richard Broadbent said, "Our customers have been very clear with their aspirations for any malting capacity expansion in Scotland, that it needs to be both quality and sustainability focused. We have always had a robust barley procurement strategy in Scotland and aim to incorporate additional renewable energy to align with Malteries Soufflet's carbon emission targets for 2030."

Integral to Bairds Malt's success over the past three years has been the robust growth of malting barley procurement in Scotland. With the launch of Phase 2 expansion in Inverness, Bairds Malt remains committed to grow its Scottish malting barley procurement, ensuring ample supply to meet the requirements of this further capacity expansion. "We recognise that at the heart of success for the Scottish distilling industry is the supply of quality UK malt, sown and grown from UK growers," said Richard. While we celebrate the success of Scotch being enjoyed around the world, we are particularly proud of our growers and malting team who play a key part in that story beginning right here in the Highlands, with UK barley a key character."

"This is another exciting leap forwards for Bairds Malt, as a little under a year ago we cut the ribbon on our new maltings in Inverness. Our customers continue to grow and with the backing of Malteries Soufflet and parent company InVivo, we are able to support that growth - ensuring that we remain a trusted partner to the Scotch Whisky industry," said Bairds Commercial Director Alan Williamson.

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## ABOUT BAIRDS MALT

Bairds Malt is a leading UK maltster, producing over 285,000mt of malt each year.

From its four UK malting locations, Bairds produces a range of over 25 different malts, destined for the distilling and brewing industry. Bairds UK maltings became a part of Malteries Soufflet, following the acquisition of United Malt by Malteries Soufflet in November 2023.

## ABOUT MALTERIES SOUFFLET

Malteries Soufflet, with the acquisition of United Malt Group, is now the world's largest malting company with an annual production capacity of 3.7 million tons of malt through 41 facilities in 20 countries, serving both industrial and craft brewers and distillers. Malteries Soufflet's majority stakeholder is InVivo, with minority shareholders KKR, Bpifrance and Crédit Agricole Group. Malteries Soufflet has one malting site in Burton upon Trent, England that from summer 2024 will produce 145,000t of malt per annum.

## ABOUT INVIVO GROUP

InVivo Group is one of Europe's leading agricultural groups with revenues of nearly €12 billion, with more than half generated in France, and a workforce of 15,000 employees, including more than 10,000 in France. With operations in 35 countries, it has more than 100 industrial sites, including 63 in France. The Group operates along the entire value chain, from farm to fork, as a leader in each of its four major strategic business lines: international grain trade, agriculture, agri-food (Malting, Milling/ingredients/bakery, Wine), gardening and food distribution. A global cross-functional centre for innovative and digital solutions completes the structure to accelerate the transformation of these activities towards the 3rd agricultural revolution.

For more information: [invivo-group.com](http://invivo-group.com) / Twitter @InVivo Group

## ABOUT THE INVERNESS MALTINGS

Bairds Inverness Maltings is located on Longman Road, having first been established as Moray Firth Maltings in the late 1960's. It became part of the Bairds Malt business in the late 1990's following the merger of Moray Firth Maltings with Hugh Bairds.

From its three malting plants on site, Bairds produces a range of malts, mainly destined for the distilling market. It's annual output of 99,000mt of malt makes it the largest of Bairds' four UK malting locations with barley sourced primarily from growers throughout the Highlands and Aberdeenshire.

For more information about Bairds' expansion plans, please contact Ben O'Gorman, Bairds Malt Sales and Marketing Manager: [ben.ogorman@bairds-malt.co.uk](mailto:ben.ogorman@bairds-malt.co.uk)