



UK: Co-op continues to expand, opens 110th store

While other British retailers are exiting the convenience market, Co-operative Food continues to expand with the opening of its 110th store in Shepherds Bush in West London, according to a company release.

The convenience store chain has opened more than 100 stores in 12 months and a further 120 stores are set to open in 2016 as part of its ambitious store development program.

"The Co-operative Food has a clear and exciting vision which is to establish itself as the number one convenience store operator, providing a strong customer offer in communities across the UK. As part of this strategy our acquisitions and refit programme is fundamental to its success," said David Roberts, Director of Estates Services.

Roberts further said that Co-op is keenly interested in London and South East as these areas offer opportunities for expansion.

Co-op is likewise aware of and responds to changing consumer shopping behaviour—more people shopping little, often, and spontaneously and decide which meals to eat only a few hours in advance.

The United Kingdom convenience sector is currently valued at £37.7bn and is projected to grow by 17% to be worth £44.1bn in 2020.