

Media Information

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Subject

BMW Group UK engine plant marks 20-year milestone.

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Embargo: 00:00 GMT 8 February, 2021.**BMW Group UK engine plant marks 20-year milestone.**

- Twenty successful years manufacturing highly efficient, award-winning engines.
- Loyal and committed workforce mark plant and personal milestones.
- 20th birthday comes as plant kicks off the search for new future talent.
- Plant continues to play pivotal role in BMW Group's international production network.

Hams Hall. BMW Group's UK engine manufacturing plant, located in North Warwickshire, has reached a major milestone. Officially opening and starting production in 2001, the plant is this week marking 20 successful years manufacturing highly efficient and award-winning three and four-cylinder petrol engines.

A committed workforce of more than 1,000 people support the day-to-day operations of the site, which opened on 8 February, 2001. Around a third of the team are also celebrating their own 20-year or more contribution to the plant, with some of the original project team members who were involved in the development of the site still a part of today's workforce.

Plant director, Dirk Dreher said: "Twenty years of manufacturing our award-winning engines and precision components is a fantastic achievement, and testament to the very loyal and committed workforce we have at Plant Hams Hall.

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“Thanks to a series of investments and a diverse workforce who take pride in striving for continuous improvement, our plant remains efficient, at the cutting edge of technology and able to make a very positive contribution to the wider BMW Group.”

As well as continually improving to ensure the plant remains pristine, state-of-the-art and able to produce the latest generation of engines and components, developing people has also been high on the agenda. The plant currently has 53 apprentices participating in four-year training programmes - the highest number to be training at any one time in the 20-year history of the plant – and the search is already underway to find the next apprentices who will drive forward another decade of success. Apprenticeships with the company have proven to be a great foundation from which to progress to become specialists, be part of the leadership team or go further afield to take up roles elsewhere in BMW Group worldwide.

Throughout its 20-year history, Plant Hams Hall has been making a strong contribution to BMW Group’s commitment to produce efficient engines.

Michael Nikolaides, Senior Vice President Production Engines and E-Drives said: “BMW Group has always prided itself as an absolute leader in engine technology. The Hams Hall plant is a high-performing and reliable pillar in our drivetrain production network, consistently delivering the latest generation of three and four-cylinder petrol engines to vehicle plants across the world.

“With sales in multiple and diverse markets, BMW Group offers its customers a combustion engine, a plug-in hybrid or a fully-electric motor and the Hams Hall plant is making a valuable contribution to this overall company strategy.”

The very first four-cylinder BMW engines produced at the plant represented a revolutionary step forward in technology that brought a significant decrease in fuel consumption combined with much lower exhaust emissions.

An additional new engine family introduced in 2006 broadened the plant’s supply and introduced a raft of updates to the MINI brand, improving the iconic

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British car's fuel consumption and emissions. The plant was also the sole provider of the award-winning three-cylinder engine that contributed to the overall drivetrain of the trailblazing BMW i8 plug-in hybrid sports car.

Today the plant produces the latest generation of BMW Group engines and supports the company's 'power of choice' offer to customers across a number of diverse global markets. Facilities at the plant are also enabled to build three and four-cylinder engines for plug-in hybrid models contributing to BMW Group's electrification strategy. In addition, the plant is preparing to take over production of the company's most prestigious V engines which will be moving from the engine production plant in Munich.

Engines roll off the Hams Hall production line at more than one per minute and are currently supplied to nine different BMW Group vehicle plants globally, with the majority going to Plant Oxford in the UK for MINI and to Plant Spartanburg, USA for the BMW 'X' model range. More than five million engines have been produced since the plant opened, with annual production in recent years exceeding 375,000 engines.

As well as engine assembly, a high-tech machining hall is a core part of the Hams Hall site, producing key engine components – crankshafts, cylinder blocks and cylinder heads. A large investment in the last decade has meant the plant is able to produce these parts for other BMW Group engine plants too, with annual production exceeding more than one million components.

As National Apprenticeship Week kicks off, anyone with a passion for an exciting career in the automotive industry is encouraged to apply for an apprenticeship at the plant. A virtual apprenticeship information event will be taking place on Thursday 11 February. For further information and to join the event see <https://bit.ly/39kGLw9>. For more information and to apply for an apprenticeship, please see the BMW Group careers website at www.bmwgroup.jobs/uk

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Images:

Main image: Plant Director, Dirk Dreher, pictured with Shuk Ali (left) who has a 20-year history with the plant, and apprentice, Annabel Chivers, who will celebrate her own 20th birthday this year.

Assembly production, Machining production and site images included.

The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 15 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2020, the BMW Group sold over 2.3 million passenger vehicles and more than 169,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2019 was € 7.118 billion on revenues amounting to € 104.210 billion. As of 31 December 2019, the BMW Group had a workforce of 126,016 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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