

MINI Plant Oxford – Associate Quotes

Mick Fisher

Longest standing employee at Plant Oxford (former Rover / Longbridge)

He helped set up the new equipment at Oxford when BMW purchased the brand.

“One of my lasting memories from the early days of Mini is the amount of support and lasting friendships I received from what was (then) our sister plant in Regensburg, The support we had helped us to build a new maintenance team in Mini assembly, Oxford, which continues to this day”.

Jason Field

IT Engineer

Jason has an excellent product knowledge and history/heritage of the plant. He met his wife Tanya on his apprenticeship with Rover and Tanya’s great grandfather lent William Morris the money he needed to start the factory. Together they run multiple MINI owners clubs across the country so are really passionate fans of the brand.

“Having been a Mini enthusiast my entire life, I was delighted to return to Plant Oxford to support the Start of Production of the new MINI. (I started at Oxford as an apprentice in 1988 and worked there until 1999, when I moved to the R&D site at Gaydon).

Working in IT, we had just completed a busy year for the “Millennium Bug” and was hoping for a quieter year. From June 2000 to start of production in April 2001, we ended up replacing the entire network infrastructure, telephony system and installed thousands of cables in the refurbished production halls.

An activity that usually takes 3 years, had to be completed in a little over 9 months! There were some (very) long days and weekends off were a luxury, but I am very proud of what the team achieved during that time.”

Tom Festa

Future Models Integration Engineer

He’s an expert on design and engineering and works hand in hand with BMW AG during the design process of new models to ensure they can be built at the Plant.

“In those early days when the car was still being developed I remember the target body stiffness we were aiming for - we knew then our new MINI was going to be ‘fun to drive’ even before we put an engine in it. When we started to drive those early production cars on the road the public reaction was amazing. People young and old were openly pointing and smiling at our new MINI”.

John Cowan

Assembly Group Leader (former Rover employee).

“I was lucky enough to be driving the new MINI in the local area before its launch and I couldn’t believe how many people stared at the car whilst we were on the roads. That’s when I knew it was going to be a success; two teenage girls asked me if it was the ‘new MINI’ and before I could reply they told me it was lush”.