

Statement to Press:

Ref: Ogihara Europe Business Re-Structure

Ogihara Europe Limited is an independent supplier of major body pressings, assemblies and tooling to a number of vehicle manufacturers in the UK.

Ogihara Corporation together with its owners Thai Summit will implement a major restructure to our business activities in Europe, and will concentrate on it's tooling and engineering services only to its European customer base, with the result that our production activity will cease in the near future.

Despite massive investment and determined efforts to retain our Production facilities in the UK, Ogihara find it is not financially viable to continue with our Production facility due to the extremely low demand for heavy stampings - it is now clear this demand is not going to increase to an economic level anytime soon.

A number of positions that are directly linked to our production activity are proposed to be at risk of redundancy, and it is anticipated that a number of positions may be removed from the current structure, however the consultation process remains on going for the time being. Those who may be affected by the redundancy situation are being consulted with at present.

As a company we are endeavouring to arrange assistance in obtaining alternative employment for all our employees that may be affected by the redundancy programme wherever possible. This involves working closely with other organisations and employers within the local area.

These redundancies do not impact on Ogihara Europe Limited's ability to continue to supply our customers. The Tools and Die side of our business continues to be strong going forward and the Ogihara management team have group financial support and a plan for an orderly restructure without interruption to our Tools and Dies Business. Under the circumstances, this will ensure a positive outcome for our customers, suppliers, creditors and employees as well maintaining the reputation of Ogihara Corporation.

Louise Alexander
Senior Manager, Human Resources