



Ford offer VR to Bridgend workers as JLR contract expires

Published: 4th February 2019

Author:

Online version: <http://www.wheelswithinwales.uk/ford-offer-vr-to-bridgend-workers-as-jlr-contract-expires/>

Ford has announced its first voluntary redundancy programme at Bridgend plant since the impending loss of its contract to build petrol engines for Jaguar Land Rover.

Nearly 400 positions will be cut among hourly and salaried staff who apply this month with reductions taking place at the end of this year when the JLR lines shut.



Unions said earlier this year that about 1,000 jobs could go inside two years due to shrinking demand for petrol cars and the rise in hybrids and electric cars.

The latest Dragon petrol engine line has seen its original capacity halved to 125,000 units annually as well and the unions predict the plant may eventually need only about 700 employees to make them in the foreseeable future unless it secures more contracts.

A possible venture is supporting production of a new 4×4 in the style of the famous Defender and being planned by petrol-chemical company Ineos, which has been to meet Ford management and Welsh Government officials at Bridgend.

A huge area of Welsh Government owned land behind the plant and bordering the A48 has been cleared in recent weeks.

Nissan and Honda plan changes

The next generation Nissan X-Trail SUV will not be built in Britain, it has been confirmed, but it will continue making the Qashqai and Juke in the North East plant.

The collapse of diesel sales and introduction of new powertrain technologies, a change in the demand for larger SUVs and a dramatic slow down in Nissan's UK sales have combined with the likely trade issues following Brexit to make the company consolidate the new models in Kyushu, Japan. Honda Swindon is increasing production of its Civic model to stockpile models in case of Brexit disruptions. It is concerned about the issues of parts coming into the plant and completed models being exported so it will build more to hold onto or ship abroad.