

GOOD NEWS MATTERS DECEMBER 2022 EDITION

Rising energy costs, cost of living going up, war, Government wranglings...what is there to be positive about I hear you ask!

Scratch under the surface of main-stream media and there is a wealth of positive news, surrounding engineering and manufacturing.

Some are of the opinion that Great Britain doesn't make anything – that couldn't be farther from the truth. Look at some recent articles below which well and truly prove otherwise! Britishvolt, Siemens, Johnson Matthey, Moog, Ciner, Forterra, Knauf, Envision AESC, Ball Corporation, Crown, Swizzels Matlow, Pensana, SeAH Wind, Stannah, ITM Power and Rolls-Royce are just some of the manufacturers building new factories in the UK.

Please feel free to share these stories and news articles from recent months and keep pushing to get the message out there loud and clear – UK Manufacturing is Great, Britain is Great!

Efficiency, Resilience & Environmental Sustainability



The £147 million investment, matched by a minimum of £147 million from industry, aims to deliver a resilient, flexible, more productive, and environmentally sustainable UK manufacturing sector. The challenge will support collaborations between UK manufacturing sectors to create innovative digital solutions.

Businesses with creative ideas to boost the UK's manufacturing capabilities, including using robotics, AI and augmented reality, are set to receive £300m of joint government and industry funding.

New that bolsters the fact that the UK is looking toward the future.

Sheffield Forgemasters investment programme begins



The first phase of a wider £400m investment at Sheffield Forgemasters has been announced, with VINCI Building being appointed on an early works contract and pre-construction services agreement, worth more than £70m.

VINCI will construct a new service road, undertake demolition works and services diversions at the Sheffield Forgemasters site on Brightside Lane to accommodate a new forging line. The wider investment over the next 10 years will underpin critical defence assets at the site, with the construction of the UK's largest open-die forging operation to install a 13,000 tonne forge-line.

Gareth Barker, chief operating officer at Sheffield Forgemasters, said: "This contract is a key milestone in our recapitalisation project, which will see up to £400 million invested across the site to first establish a new heavy forging-line and to then install 16 new machining centres to increase our capabilities as a world-leading engineering facility. VINCI Building will input into the current phase of the RIBA 3 design works which should promote buildability and development of the subsequent main-works contract to install a new, circa 140,000 sq ft building, to house the new forge-line. Further to this, we are looking invest locally through our contracting partners as we launch the first phase of construction works."

Digger giant JCB is taking on 200 new North Staffordshire workers to help 'fuel record growth'



The Rocester-based company - which employs 8,000 staff - is looking for assembly line workers, fork lift truck drivers, machine operators, and welders. They will work at JCB sites in Cheadle, Uttoxeter, and at the firm's headquarters in Rocester.

The new recruits will be agency workers but, in the recent past, the company has converted 850 agency roles into permanent staff. It comes as JCB admits that it has been challenging to find workers during a period of record employment in the UK.

Group HR Director Max Jeffrey said: "JCB has enjoyed another record year. Achieving that record growth means that we have to find a record number of people to fuel this growth not only in the UK but all over the world."

Mercedes-Benz manufacturer opens new facility in Welshpool



Automotive manufacturer YASA, a subsidiary of Mercedes-Benz, is set to significantly expand its operations and create 40 jobs with the opening of a new research and development centre in Welshpool, Powys.

YASA, a leading manufacturer of advanced electric motors and motor controllers for hybrid and electric vehicles, anticipates it will almost treble its workforce at its new base.

The building, which has been constructed by mid-Wales building contractors Pave Aways, will include rooms designed for high velocity impacts which will stress test motors. YASA, which will lease the new building, is already an important employer in Welshpool, employing 15 highly qualified engineers.

Chris Harris, the CEO of YASA, said:

“We have been operating in Welshpool since 2016 and it continues to be a hub of engineering talent for us. We’re excited to be accelerating YASA’s recruitment efforts in the area by growing our power electronics team and proud to be moving into this flagship research and development centre to support local growth and retain specialist talent.

£6 million Tata Steel Trostre plant investment leads to record-breaking performance



A £6million investment to upgrade Tata Steel’s Trostre plant in Llanelli with the very latest cutting-edge technology, is already paying dividends with record-breaking performances.

The investment has been made in the site’s Continuous Annealing Process Line (CAPL), which softens the strip steels before they go on to be made into cans for food, pet food, aerosols and paint.

Works Manager, Joe Gallacher, said: “This is one of the biggest single investments in Trostre in recent years and allows us to run the line faster and for longer, removing a key bottleneck at the plant.

“With 70% of the plant’s output going through this processing line, that’s good for our customers, good for our employees and good for our performance.”

The investment has seen the complete replacement of all the drives – which are basically the brains that control the line – with a state-of-the-art new system.

The six-week project involved more than 200 people working alongside key contractor, Danielli, which included training for the teams on the new system

AMTE Power’s new £190m ‘megafactory’ to create more than 1,000 jobs

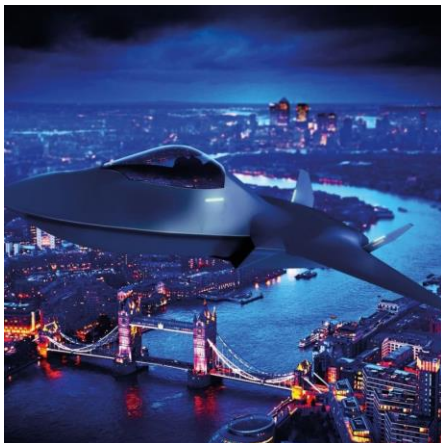


AMTE Power, a leading battery cell manufacturer, has selected Dundee as the preferred site for its first MegaFactory in a boost to the UK’s ambitions to produce homegrown battery cells for a net zero society.

The new factory will directly create up to 215 high skilled on-site jobs and 800 more across the supply chain by producing the high-performance battery cells needed to help electrify vehicles, homes, and industries for the UK’s energy transition.

AMTE Power remains one of the only companies in the UK currently producing battery cells and the proposed new site at Dundee’s Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP) would ensure the business can rapidly scale up to mass manufacturing volumes.

BAE Systems to hire 1,000 engineers to help develop new fighter jet



BAE Systems has announced plans to recruit 1,000 engineers to help develop the new Tempest fighter jet.

The majority of the roles will be based in Samlesbury and Warton in Lancashire, while others will be hired in Brough, East Yorkshire, and Prestwick, South Ayrshire, over the next 12 months.

The new staff will also help upgrade the Typhoon and work on future plans.

BAE said it was looking for "diverse recruits" including people from the software and gaming industries.

"There has never been a more exciting and rewarding time to be involved in this industry because what we are doing is redesigning the way the world's air forces will operate for generations," said BAE technology director Dave Holmes.

UK commercial vehicle production jumps 64%



UK commercial vehicle production grew 64% in June, with 9,549 units leaving British factory lines.

This is according to the latest figures by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

June production volumes were the highest since 2015 and 33% above the pre-pandemic five-year average, resulting in the sector's sixth consecutive month of increased output.

Growth has largely been driven by overseas demand, with exports of British-built commercial vehicles jumping 133% year on year in June – now representing nearly six in 10 (58%) units – with some 93% of exports destined for the EU.

Domestic demand, which remained more robust during the pandemic last year, increased by 17%, with year-on-year growth in four out of six months in 2022.

The strong performance means total output in the year to date reached 50,596 units, up 47% on 2021 and 17% above the pre-pandemic five-year average.

New Aston Martin F1 factory starts build in Northamptonshire



Aston Martin Cognizant Formula One team's new factory in Northamptonshire has started construction in a ceremonial breaking-ground event.

Aston Martin executive chairman Lawrence Stroll and JCB chairman Lord Bamford both attended the ceremony, which marks the official start of an 18-month construction and installation phase for a new headquarters for race team.

The 37,000m2 buildings will become the new home of the Aston Martin Cognizant Formula One team, which has outgrown its existing facilities and will rapidly grow its current headcount by the expected completion date of late 2022 or early 2023.

New plasterboard production facility in Bristol is Etex's largest investment ever



Building materials group Etex plans to build a new plasterboard plant in Portbury close to the port of Bristol, in South West England. The capital expenditure will reach more than GBP 140 million, the largest investment of its kind in Etex history. This will be the fifth new plant since 2015. With the new Bristol facility, Etex will be ideally positioned to support the

ongoing growth of the UK construction market and its customers. The plant is scheduled to be commissioned in 2022.

Etex is not new to the UK. The company's plasterboard business has operated in the UK for over 30 years and supplies the UK and Irish markets from its two plasterboard plants in Bristol and Ferrybridge. The new facility will be adjacent to the existing Bristol plant.

Etex is a leading plasterboard player in the UK, selling its products and solutions under the Siniat brand. "Our new Bristol factory will be a key driver to further strengthen our position in the UK, which is the largest plasterboard market in Europe", affirms Paul Van Oyen, CEO of Etex.

BAE Systems in 'final phase' of talks over multi-billion-pound deal



BAE Systems is reportedly in the 'final phase' of talks with the Government over a multi-billion pound contract for five new warships. BAE is currently building three Type 26 frigates at its Govan shipyard (including HMS Glasgow - image) under a £3.7 billion deal signed in 2017. The Type 26 programme supports more than 4,000 jobs across the UK.

As reported last month, BAE is set to build a new £100 million-plus assembly hall at the Govan site. The facility will enable the British engineering giant to build at least two ships simultaneously under cover and in single hull format for the first time.

Sometimes figures speak for themselves.

Here is a great infographic illustrating the Typhoon programme's huge contribution to the UK's economy:



Airbus is investing in the next generation of British engineers and manufacturers



recruiting more than 400 apprentices, interns, and graduates to work at its Broughton and Filton sites.

Earlier this summer, the aerospace manufacturer announced plans to invest £100 million and create 550 jobs at the Broughton wing manufacturing plant.

Custom Interconnect Ltd (CIL) invests £9M and expands with a new Semiconductor packaging, power device and volume PCBA manufacturing facility in Andover, UK



CIL is excited to announce that it is creating an advanced semiconductor packaging, power device and volume PCB Assembly (PCBA) manufacturing facility in the UK. Supported by £9M in capital investment the 46,000sq ft is in addition to its existing 34,000sq ft, giving CIL over 80,000sq ft in Andover, UK. Following the stage 1 six-month fit out of the ISO7 (Class 10,000) cleanroom totalling 15,000sq ft, all of CIL's micro-electronics production and power device development will relocate to the new facility in March 2023.

During stage 2 fit-out, commencing in Spring 2023, CIL will expand the new facility further, providing an additional 15,000sq ft of manufacturing space dedicated to both GaN/SiC module/device and volume PCBA production required by existing and new customer demand combined with the production readiness of a number of the InnovateUK R&D projects. The new facility will eventually house 120 engineers, production technicians and related support staff.

Green Lithium to build UK's first large-scale lithium refinery



Green Lithium has announced that it will build the UK's first large-scale lithium refinery at PD Ports, in Teesside, UK. The creation of this substantial facility will begin to meet the urgent needs of the battery manufacturing and automotive sectors within the UK and the EU, as the global transition to electric vehicles (EVs) drives an increasing necessity for lithium processing capabilities on the continent.

The construction of the refinery will help drive the UK's levelling up agenda as well as supporting local and regional development. Development and construction of the facility will drive significant growth and investment into the local area, creating over 1000 jobs during the construction phase and 250 full-time local and highly skilled green jobs once in operation. Construction is expected to take three years and the plant will be commissioned during 2025.

Commercial vehicle production charge continues



UK commercial vehicle production grew yet again in September, up 53.6% with 11,979 vans, buses, trucks, coaches and taxis rolling off British factory lines, according to the latest figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). September output levels reached their highest since 2011, marking nine months of consecutive growth in reaction to robust demand for UK-made vans at home and in key export markets.

September's output is the highest of any month so far this year, driven by strong orders from overseas markets, rising significantly by 70.4% to 7,333 units, with 95% of these destined for the EU. Production for the UK also grew, up 32.9% on the same month last year, to 4,646 units.

Year-to-date, overall production volumes are up 50.8% establishing the best first nine months performance since 2012, with 76,807 units manufactured in Britain since January. This is 21.5% higher than the pre-pandemic five-year average and 44.6% above performance in 2019, a testament to British commercial vehicle manufacturers who have worked hard in the face of multiple challenges, including semiconductor supply shortages and economic headwinds, to deliver across markets.

UK commercial vehicle production grew for the tenth consecutive month in October



With 8,740 new vans, buses, trucks, coaches and taxis leaving British factories - a 10.7% increase.

Exports continued their double-digit rise, increasing by 50.2% to 5,905 units. (Source: SMMT)

UK CAR PRODUCTION RETURNS TO GROWTH



UK car production output returned to growth in October, according to new figures.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said that 69,524 units cars were manufactured during the month, an increase of 7.4 per cent.

The rise followed September's fall, which came after four consecutive months of growth, illustrating the volatility in the market.

Although production for both home and overseas markets rose by 12.5 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively, October's performance was still -48.4 per cent off 2019's total of 134,669 units and -52.8 per cent off the five-year pre-pandemic average for the month.

Exports of the latest volume, luxury and specialist models drove output, with more than eight in 10 cars made heading overseas, equivalent to 56,469 units, while 13,055 cars were turned out for the domestic market.

Mike Hawes, SMMT chief executive, said: "Getting the sector back on track in 2023 is a priority, given the jobs, exports and economic contribution the automotive industry sustains. UK car makers are doing all they can to ramp up production of the latest electrified vehicles, and help deliver Net Zero, but more favourable conditions for investment are needed and needed urgently – especially in affordable and sustainable energy and availability of talent – as part of a supportive framework for automotive manufacturing."

Rimac Automobili is set to more than double its UK engineering workforce



And establish a larger, permanent base in Britain next year after opening a temporary hub in early 2021.

Founded in 2009, the Croatian manufacturer builds electric sports cars under its own brand and also develops and produces battery packs, drivetrain systems and vehicles for other companies.

Ford Motor Company has announced plans to invest a further £125 million at its Halewood factory, securing more than 500 jobs.



The extra funding will be put towards increasing the plant's annual production of electric power units by 70% to 420,000.

The units will power Ford E-Transit Custom, E-Tourneo Custom, Transit Courier, Tourneo Courier, Puma and further future vehicles. Halewood's electric power units will be in 70% of Ford EVs sold in

Europe by 2026.

Ford also intends to invest £24 million supporting its new E:PRIME (Electrified Powertrain in Manufacturing Engineering) development centre in Dunton, Essex.

This extra funding is in addition to the previously announced £230 million investment programme at the Merseyside plant.

Jaguar Land Rover has submitted plans to build a new 350,000 sq ft facility at its Halewood plant.



The proposed two-storey building would enable Britain's biggest carmaker to expand production capacity for its Body-in-White operations.

As recently reported, Jaguar Land Rover is set to invest millions of pounds converting its Merseyside plant to build electric vehicles, securing the site's future and thousands of jobs.

JBS Products invests £120,000 into Warwickshire factory



Taking advantage of new reshoring opportunities has seen a Warwick-based manufacturer invest more than £120,000 in its first high-speed press line.

JBS Products, known for its patented hook-on plaster bead, has installed the line with Bruderer UK at its Park Farm factory.

The firm said the machine would deliver greater accuracy and increased capacity for its work with clients such as Selco, Travis Perkins and RJ Builders Hardware.

This new addition is set to be utilised on several new projects that are meeting the increasing demand for UK-manufactured products and will help deliver greater security of supply following significant global disruption.

Bud Dhinjan, founder and chief executive of JBS Products, said: "Having worked with Bruderer technology before, there was only one machine I wanted to have in our press shop when the opportunity came to expand.