



Press Release: For Immediate Release

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UNIPART OPENS NEW MANUFACTURING SITE IN COVENTRY

Unipart has opened a new manufacturing facility in Coventry to meet the demand for increasing volumes of its automotive fuel systems. It is the second new manufacturing facility to be opened by Unipart Manufacturing Group in the Coventry area.

Kautex Unipart Ltd (KUL), the joint venture between Unipart and its German partner Kautex Textron GmbH, currently produces around 640,000 fuel tanks annually for leading automotive manufacturers such as Jaguar Land Rover, BMW and Honda.

A recent investment in new technology, which offers customers greater levels of emission control, has enabled the company to increase production. As a result, KUL has opened a new 7,500 sq. m. facility called KUL2 to carry out assembly and sequencing operations. Around 45 of KUL's 300 employees will be moving to new leased premises, which are located nearby to the current site in Canley.

KUL Plant General Manager Dave Pound said that the expansion at KUL has been driven by growth. "Our customer base has grown and the volumes of our major customers have grown," he said. "We've been able to increase our manufacturing capability to meet the needs of our customers today and to be ready for future growth, which could be as much as a million units by 2018."

"To achieve that, we've invested some £6m. to integrate new blow mould technology called a Next Generation Fuel System blow moulding machine. This will enable components such as valves and fuel lines to be placed inside fuel tanks more effectively, ultimately providing reduced vehicle static fuel emissions."

KUL is part of Unipart Manufacturing Group which includes several manufacturing companies across the Midlands. Unipart has developed from a strong engineering heritage, much of which has been based on its manufacturing operations.

In 1997, Unipart adapted the techniques of operational excellence and continuous improvement from its manufacturing sites into its distribution centres, offices and even its restaurant. The result has been the development of The Unipart Way, a proprietary business system that engages people at every level of the organisation in continuous improvement.

According to Dave Pound, The Unipart Way has been at the heart of KUL's strategy for a smooth expansion into the new site. "When we began planning to develop KUL2, we put together a focused team of people that are deeply knowledgeable and skilled in The Unipart Way," he said.

"The result has been a successful project that was delivered against very high standards for safety, delivery, quality and cost and which now gives us a strong opportunity for future growth."

Kautex Unipart was among ten projects approved by the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) to receive grants from round two of the Growing Places initiative.

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Editors' Notes:

About The Unipart Group

The Unipart Group employs more than 10,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading UK manufacturer, full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group's proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

The company, which is based in Oxford in the UK, has a growing number of international sites supporting a wide range of blue chip clients. For more information visit: www.unipart.com.