

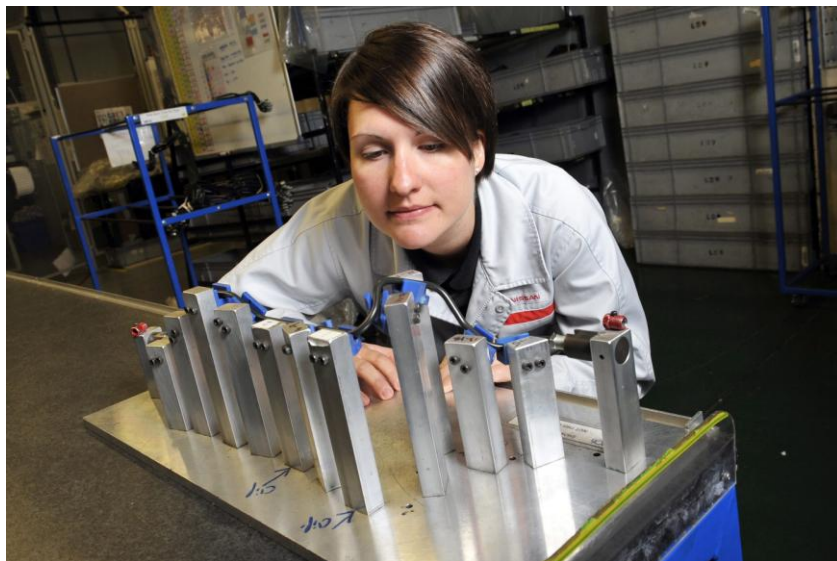
9 September 2011

## NISSAN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF MANUFACTURING IN THE UK

- UK's largest ever car plant was officially opened 25 years ago

*Sunderland, September, 2011:* Nissan Sunderland Plant has marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its official opening in September 1986.

In the 25 years since, Nissan Sunderland Plant has rewritten the record books for UK car production, with volumes increasing from 5,139 Bluebirds in that first year to 423,262 cars in 2010 – which was the first time ever that a UK car plant had made more than 400,000 vehicles in one year.



Nissan Sunderland plant Quality Assurance Engineer Rachel Williams checking brake pipes

Nissan Australia began imports of the K12 Micra from Sunderland in 2007 and now sources its success Dualis models from the plant.

Nissan has manufactured more than 6.2 million vehicles and 12 different models at Sunderland, including Bluebird, Primera, Micra, Almera, Note, Qashqai/Dualis and Juke.

“As the UK’s largest car plant, biggest car exporter, and soon battery plant - with battery production for the Nissan LEAF planned for next year - Sunderland is a beacon of Nissan’s leadership in manufacture and technology which define a global car company in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nissan Motor Co.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron said: "I welcome Nissan's continued investment and the important role Nissan is playing in helping to rebalance our economy.

"With the design, development and manufacture of their new generation Qashqai all taking place in the UK, Nissan has restated its confidence in the skills of its British workforce and in the UK's manufacturing sector."

Of the 430 people who were employed at the plant in September 1986, 133 remain employed at Sunderland. This 25th anniversary year has been a special one for Nissan in the UK. In June Nissan’s Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn visited the UK to announce that the next generation of the Nissan Qashqai would be designed, engineered and manufactured in the UK, just as the Qashqai became the fastest UK-made car to reach one million units.

Staff are now gearing up for production starting at the company’s new lithium-ion battery plant in the New Year, ahead of Nissan LEAF production beginning at Sunderland in 2013. Production of the new Qashqai/Dualis will take Nissan’s total investment in its UK manufacturing base to \$A5.1 billion.

## **Nissan in the UK**

- Nissan Sunderland Plant was established in 1984 and production began in 1986
- Total investment made and announced since then is \$A5.1 billion
- Total plant volume since 1986 stands at more than six million units
- In 2010, 81 per cent of production was exported to 97 markets worldwide
- Sunderland Plant currently employs around 5,000 staff
- Nissan’s European design centre is located in Paddington, London and employs around 40 people
- Nissan’s European Technical Centre is based in Cranfield, Bedfordshire and employs around 500 people

## **About Nissan Australia**

Nissan Australia sold more than 65,000 vehicles last financial year to gain a market share of 6.4 percent. A workforce of around 400 people is responsible for vehicle marketing, sales, distribution and logistics plus the manufacturing of high-grade aluminum components at its manufacturing facility in Dandenong.

## **About Nissan**

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., Japan's second-largest automotive company is part of the Renault-Nissan Alliance. With more than 248,000 employees globally, Nissan provided customers with more than 4.1 million vehicles in 2010, generating revenues of \$US102.37 billion.

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## **For further information:**

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