

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 6 April

Deputy Prime Minister visits Bentley to announce Regional Growth Fund success

Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, visited Bentley Motors in Crewe to see how the government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is helping the company meet increasing demand for its cars by training around 500 new employees. Bentley made two successful applications to the RGF and received just under £5 million for investment in training and up-skilling and new engine development at its Crewe plant. The investment will aid the company's expansion into new and existing markets.

The Deputy Prime Minister said, "It is fantastic to be announcing 500 new and 200 protected jobs here in Crewe. Creating jobs and growth is my number one priority for Britain. The Regional Growth Fund is helping companies across the country to grow their businesses and create jobs." Wolfgang Dürheimer, Chairman and Chief Executive, Bentley, said, "We are delighted to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister to Crewe. We are greatly encouraged by his comments that the manufacturing sector and companies like Bentley have a key role to play in developing a stronger and more balanced economy". (Source: BIS)

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=424011&NewsAreaID=2>

Business Secretary visits Morgan as Ed Miliband tours Toyota

Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has visited Morgan's car plant in Worcestershire. The Secretary of State was briefed on the latest tools and techniques used by Morgan to ensure that the company continues to be able to produce lightweight sports cars. From bonded aluminium chassis technology to super form body construction, staff explained how light-weighting can improve both fuel economy and chassis dynamics. Vince Cable said, "Manufacturing makes a significant contribution to the UK economy. It generates half our exports and is responsible for much of our business

research and development activity". Labour Leader Ed Miliband MP visited Toyota's plant at Burnaston in Derbyshire. During his visit Mr Miliband toured the factory floor and met Toyota apprentices. He said: "Toyota is showing that there is a future for British manufacturing – but it could be doing even better with more government support. When we were in power we gave that support in the form of the car scrappage scheme, which was a huge success."

(Source: BIS)

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=423995&NewsAreaID=2>



New car registrations show encouraging growth in March

SMMT has published new vehicle registration figures for March 2012. March is typically the largest month for new car registrations, averaging 18% of the full year's volume. New car volumes rose 1.8% in March to 372,835. Quarter one volumes rose 0.9%, to 563,556 units on the back of better than expected March. Private registrations showed one of the best monthly increases in the past two years, up 7.4% in March. For commercial vehicle registrations, the van market was down 11.1% but the truck market was up 25.6%. Paul Everitt, SMMT Chief Executive said: "The important March new car market performed above expectations rising 1.8% to 372,835 units, boosted by the third consecutive month of retail growth. Domestic demand for new cars is showing signs of recovery with private buyers increasingly returning to take advantage of a wide range of excellent products and, this month, the new 12-plate". (Source: SMMT)



Week ahead

The House of Commons is on Easter recess and will return on Monday April 16.

The House of Lords is on Easter recess and will return on Monday April 23.