

Leyland Trucks

Driving Innovation in Truck Manufacturing



First established as 'The Lancashire Steam Motor Company' in 1896, Leyland Trucks has been one of the most recognisable and successful businesses in South Ribble for almost 120 years.

The company has grown with evolving vehicle technology, from its first 1.5 tonne capacity steam van model back in the 1890s to the full range of advanced DAF trucks it manufactures at its Leyland plant today, varying in size from 7.5 tonnes gross weight to 44 tonnes.

Acquired in 1998 by US-based PACCAR, one of the world's largest manufacturers of medium and heavy trucks, Leyland Trucks continues to be globally recognised and a significant local employer with more than 1,000 employees.

Today, the trucks assembled by Leyland Trucks at the company's South Ribble plant are sold under the DAF brand. DAF is the market leading truck brand in the UK, currently accounting for nearly 30% of the market, almost double the sales of its next largest competitor. Almost all DAF trucks sold in the UK are manufactured by Leyland Trucks, which means that more than one in four of all new trucks on Britain's roads are produced in South Ribble.

What's more, PACCAR also exports to more than 40 countries worldwide with DAF, Peterbilt and Kenworth branded products, making this historic Lancashire company a manufacturer of truly global significance.

"Leyland Trucks is proud of its rich heritage grounded in our location in South Ribble, our global export capabilities, and our manufacturing excellence," explains Ron Augustyn, Managing Director at Leyland Trucks.

"Our location is fundamental to our business because our success relies on the skilled workforce and transport infrastructure we can access here in South Ribble."

Think Global, Act Local

Leyland Trucks is now the only volume truck manufacturer in the UK and the company has been manufacturing continuously since 1896. Its economic significance for South Ribble goes beyond the 1,000 local jobs provided by the company's assembly plant, engineering facility and parts distribution centre, however, to the wider local business community.

Peter Jukes, Operations Director at Leyland Trucks adds: *"From its earliest days, Leyland Trucks has played an important role in bringing jobs to the*

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area and supporting the local economy. That's a tradition that remains today and, while we are now part of a global organisation, our philosophy is very much 'think global, act local' when it comes to being actively involved in making a contribution to the local economy and community.”

That local contribution is not confined to Leyland Trucks' commercial activities but also involves a long tradition of engaging with local schools and colleges. In 2013 alone, more than 500 students from the area were given the opportunity to visit the assembly plant and, thanks to the company's involvement with a variety of technology projects at various local schools and colleges, there is an ongoing programme of activity.

Indeed, Leyland Trucks was recognised for its engagement with local education providers in 2013 when the company was awarded the Community Outreach Award at the North West Automotive Alliance annual awards, gaining a commendation for its work with local schools and colleges and its charity and community support projects.

“As a major employer in South Ribble we believe we have a responsibility to provide opportunities for local schools and colleges to benefit from the high level of expertise within the company,” Augustyn comments. “These students will be Leyland Trucks' potential employees of the future so helping them to see the range of opportunities within the company is also part of a community engagement programme that will help secure our long-term future in South Ribble.”

Innovation in Engineering

That long-term view and local focus is integral to the operational management of Leyland Trucks, and environmental responsibility is another area in which the company excels. The South Ribble plant was the first truck plant in Europe to achieve 'zero waste to landfill' because all materials are re-used, recycled or repurposed for 'second life' requirements, such as the waste material from the paint plant, which is used to fire cement production kilns.

It's an innovative, progressive approach that encapsulates every aspect of

Leyland Trucks' business and has seen the company achieve many industry firsts over the years. It was the first commercial vehicle plant in Europe to introduce a robotic paint plant using a patented system developed at Leyland.

And the company was the first truck manufacturer in Europe to introduce fully bodied vehicles into production, rather than the normal practice of building a chassis then sending it to an external bodybuilder for a body to be fitted. As a result, Leyland Trucks can complete a truck ready for the road from scratch within just 24 hours!

Augustyn continues: *“The company is clearly focused on maintaining world-class, industry leading standards and has adopted the internationally recognised 'Six Sigma' methodology for advanced process improvement.*

“The approach is one of the most demanding management standards in the world, which, combined with the investment from PACCAR that has benefited the business since the acquisition in 1998, will ensure that we continue to drive innovation and remain competitive now and in the future.”

Thanks to that focus on continuous improvement and innovation, Leyland Trucks has won numerous accolades over the years, including being named “Britain's Best Engineering Factory” in 2000, being the only winner in two successive years 2009 and 2010 - of the prestigious Manufacturing Excellence Awards, being granted a Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade in 2009, and gaining the globally recognised Shingo Bronze Medallion for Operational Excellence in May 2012.

“From engineering design to truck assembly, our aim is to be the best,” adds Denis Culloty, Chief Engineer at Leyland Trucks, “and our market share, continued growth here in South Ribble and long list of awards demonstrates that we are delivering on that commitment.

“Continuous improvement sits at the heart of our company and that philosophy will continue to drive development of every aspect of our business.”

