



MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of redundancy support package for Linde Material Handling employees

14 October 2009

Today Government agencies and stakeholders held an Open Day for Linde MH employees facing redundancy. The Open Day marked the launch of a support package providing on-site support, information, advice and training to help employees plan for the future.

The support package brings together a wide range of services to help support those facing redundancy including re-training opportunities, help with CV writing and interview skills, guidance on starting a business or self-employment and advice on pensions and state benefits.

The support package has been developed by a task group led by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and includes Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The task group is actively seeking opportunities to help affected staff find work or further their careers through training or establishing new businesses.

Jay Hunt, SEEDA's Acting Area Director, said: "Today we are holding an event for Linde employees to help them with advice, support and training to secure new employment. Linde management, SEEDA and our partners are working to ensure the talent and skills of those facing redundancy are not lost from the workforce. Employees are facing tough decisions about their future and we are providing practical support".

George Batho, Human Resources Director at Linde said: "Following a lengthy consultation process with our employees, we have had to close our manufacturing facility due to a 50% downturn in global demand for our product. We are working closely with Government agencies to help those affected with retraining and finding alternative employment. The ongoing welfare of the employees and their families is a high priority for all of us and we are doing all we can to ensure they have a range of opportunities and support for the future."

ENDS...

Notes to Editors

- Jobcentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council and SEEDA are committed to working together as a single team to provide rapid, effective response to businesses and individuals affected by major closures and redundancies by providing tailored support before they leave their current employment.
- Support includes advice on alternative employment options, retraining, CV writing and interview advice, advice on pensions and state benefits and matching to companies locally that are hiring.
- **Task group members include:**
 - South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
 - Jobcentre Plus
 - Learning and Skills Council
 - Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
 - Basingstoke College of Technology
 - Nextstep
 - Business Link
- **Linde Material Handling**
Linde Material Handling employs 550 staff at its UK headquarters in Basingstoke. After 60 years, production is expected to come to an end at its Basingstoke plant next year, with manufacturing work transferring to the company's larger plants across Europe. Sales and marketing, after-sales and administration will stay in Basingstoke, safeguarding over 200 jobs.
- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.
- **SEEDA's support helped deliver the following** over the period 2005-2008:
 - 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
 - 32,500 people helped to get work
 - 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
 - 137,500 businesses assisted
 - £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
 - 200ha Brownfield land remediated
 - 148,500 people assisted in skills development
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