

SMMT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

SMMT announces new Chief Executive

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the organisation representing the UK automotive industry, is today announcing that Michael Hawes will be joining as its new Chief Executive in the early Autumn.

Mike will lead the executive team that will promote the interests and successes of the UK motor industry and help address the challenges of the current climate. He will also ensure the SMMT delivers stronger representation and engagement with all its stakeholders and help accelerate growth of the two key subsidiary companies: SMMT Industry Forum Limited and Motor Codes Limited.

“I am very proud to be joining the SMMT as its new Chief Executive”, said Mike Hawes. “The SMMT is a highly respected and influential trade association, valued by all stakeholders. My role will be to build on this reputation and grow the value and range of services provided to our members. There is a strong organisation in place and I look forward to working with SMMT employees, as well as our partners and European colleagues, as the industry continues to develop.”

Tim Abbott, SMMT President, said, “I couldn’t be more pleased to welcome Mike Hawes as SMMT’s new Chief Executive. Mike brings a tremendous amount of expertise, both in terms of automotive industry experience and the skills necessary for the job. He has built a strong personal reputation and is credited with establishing a number of strategic relationships which have benefited the automotive companies for which he has worked. He is also very familiar with SMMT and will maintain the momentum that has been established.

“I would also like to thank Mike Baunton for his support as Interim Chief Executive of SMMT since the end of January,” continued Tim. “He has provided the leadership the organisation needed during this time and will continue his engagement with SMMT as Chairman and Non-Executive Director of SMMT Industry Forum.”

Mike Hawes has more than 20 years’ experience in policy and public affairs, the majority of which has been spent in the motor industry. He joins SMMT from Bentley Motors where he held a number of PR, corporate and public affairs roles. Having also worked for both Toyota and, more recently, Bentley’s parent company, Volkswagen AG, he has the European and global knowledge needed for this challenging role.

Note to editors

Mike Hawes will not be available for media comment related to SMMT activities until he starts the role in the Autumn.

About SMMT and UK the automotive industry:

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK. It supports the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad, promoting a united position to government, stakeholders and the media.

The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy accounting for **£55 billion turnover** and **£12 billion value added**. With more than **700,000 jobs** dependent on the industry, it accounts for **10% of total UK exports** and invests **£1.3 billion** each year in automotive R&D. Since 2000, huge strides have been made to reduce the environmental impact of its products throughout the life cycle. Improvements in manufacturing processes mean that in the last decade, energy used to produce each vehicle is down 43%, water use has been cut by 48% and 83% less waste enters landfill sites. Average new car tailpipe CO₂ emissions have also been slashed and are down 23% versus 10 years ago to 133g/km CO₂. For more details, see SMMT's Sustainability Report 2012 and Motor Industry Facts 2013 at www.smmt.co.uk/publications.

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