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SKF launches European centre for automobile spare parts

The new centre, at St-Cyr-sur-Loire in France, will take on spare part kit production activities and will also integrate a new flexible production line for wheel hub bearings.

Gothenburg, Sweden, 23 May 2017: SKF is investing in new production facilities at the St-Cyr-sur-Loire site in France in order to streamline its EMEA automotive aftermarket activities. The move is in response to changing market dynamics, seeing growing demand for flexible production capabilities that can cope with ever shorter lead times.

In addition to concentrating all of SKF's European automotive aftermarket activities at one site, St-Cyr-sur-Loire will also host a flexible new production facility dedicated to the production of wheel hub bearings for the spare parts market. This line will also be capable of responding very quickly to customer orders, especially smaller orders.

Commenting on the strategy, Bernd Stephan, President of SKF Automotive and Aerospace, says: "The creation of this European Centre will allow us to respond even faster to meet the expectations and needs of our customers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and ensure that we can respond quickly to developments within those markets. At Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire we have now concentrated unrivalled levels of expertise and competence in the automotive aftermarket segment."

Covering more than 30 hectares and employing 1,300 people, the Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire site is SKF's largest facility in France. It produces 60 million bearings a year for the industrial, automobile and railway sectors, and is home to a special laboratory and test centre, which carries out extensive research and development activities for the SKF Group.

Aktiebolaget SKF
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SKF is a leading global supplier of bearings, seals, mechatronics, lubrication systems, and services which include technical support, maintenance and reliability services, engineering consulting and training. SKF is represented in more than 130 countries and has around 17,000 distributor locations worldwide. Annual sales in 2016 were SEK 72 787 million and the number of employees was 44 868. www.skf.com

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