

Designers complete high-tech job in SA

A project in South Africa has seen a design firm complete one of the world's most advanced production lines, writes
Bev Hawes

G LOUCESTER-BASED engineering design company CJS has just finished a contract for one of the world's most advanced car production lines for Toyota South Africa. The Docks-based company carried out the design work on the computer controlled 'M-Jigs' and main body transfer and inspection system for a new Toyota plant outside Durban for a new model – yet to be unveiled.

CJS were chosen by Toyota's 'turnkey' contractors, Daifuku Europe, because of their known expertise in this kind of work. CJS has also worked on car plants for Nissan, Rover, Jaguar, Toyota, Vauxhall and Peugeot.

CJS director Paul Price said: "We have worked with Daifuku before and they know that our track record with overhead car handling systems is second to none.

"It has been quite a long job. We have had six people working on the contract for eight months. It has all been installed now and everything ran smoothly.

"The M-Jig is part of what is probably the most advanced car production system in the world and can produce different styles of chassis in quick succession without the need to stop the plant. The jigs hold the



■ **EIGHT-MONTH PROJECT:** CJS directors, left to right, are Andrew Howarth, Matthew Sproston and Paul Price

various components in place while the robot spot-welder completes its work. "Such is the sophistication of the computers that each car going through can be produced to a different specification, whether it's steel or alloy wheels, the upholstery and even the body style.

"The customer can choose the specification he or she wants and Toyota can produce that model to order at the punch of a few buttons – it is quite incredible."

The South African job is part of Toyota's multi-million pound three-year expansion programme in the country with the objective of boosting production to 1,000 cars a day within two years.

Matthew Sproston, CJS commercial director

added: "We are pleased to have worked on such a prestigious project and are proud to take British engineering and design skills abroad."

The company, which is based close to Gloucester's historic docks, now employs 28 staff, including design engineers, draughtsmen and project leaders, working in all areas of engineering.

The company, which also has a large Gloucestershire client base, specialises in engineering consultancy, conceptual design, layout and detail engineering, working in a number of fields including automotive, materials handling, nuclear power stations and structural and mechanical engineering.

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