

OESAA welcomes a new member



NTN-SNR has become the latest company to join the campaign to promote the benefits of workshops fitting original equipment (OE) automotive parts. The manufacturer of automotive vehicle bearings is the 14th organisation to become a member of the Original Equipment Suppliers Aftermarket Association (OESAA). Keith Skinner, NTN-SNR Sales Manager, Automotive Aftermarket Division, UK and Ireland, said: "We have seen that the UK automotive aftermarket has become very price driven, resulting in more low quality parts being promoted with tenuous OE quality claims.

"NTN-SNR is a major supplier of bearings

for original fitment to vehicle manufacturers worldwide, and we offer the same product to our aftermarket customers in the UK and Ireland – all produced using the same materials, processes and quality standards.

"By joining OESAA we are able to highlight the benefits of using an OE part compared to that of a lower quality item. We believe in healthy competition and everyone has the right to choose, but we think it has to be an informed choice and that is the kind of message we wish to portray."

OESAA Chairman Nigel Morgan, said: "We are delighted that NTN-SNR has become the latest manufacturer to join OESAA. Its decision to become a member will only strengthen our campaign for workshops to recognise the risk of fitting inferior or sub-standard non-tested parts."

NTN-SNR has a strong presence in the OE market and the aftermarket, with its VM customer base including: Audi, Peugeot, Lotus, Land Rover, Jaguar, Toyota, Mini, Mercedes, Nissan, Honda, Renault, Citroen, Ford, Fiat, Kia, Opel, Porsche, Seat, Smart, Skoda, VW and Alfa Romeo.

Sounds like a plan

The consumer launch of the Independent Garage Association's (IGA) Car Repair Plan is imminent, with the number of members signing up to offer the plan to their customers exceeding all expectations.

The Car Repair Plan, tailored specifically for the independent sector and designed to help consumers 'shield themselves from unexpected repair costs', will be the first of its kind on this scale within the independent garage sector. All the garages will be members of the IGA and Trust My Garage (TMG) approved, with the consumer launch planned once 300 garages are on board.

IGA Director, Stuart James, commented: "The Car Repair Plan has the potential to be one of the largest of its kind and will offer consumers something unique.

"Members of the plan can use their funds



to pay for service and repair at any participating IGA member listed on the website. If they're away from home and need to find a garage, they're safe in the knowledge that there will be an independent garage somewhere close by and they have access to funds to pay for unexpected repairs."

...In brief...In brief...

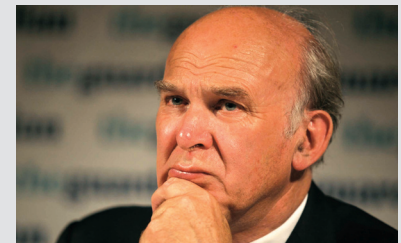


BEN tops the charts

The annual Sunday Times workplace survey has again placed BEN, the automotive industry charity, in the Top 100 Best not-for-profit organisations to work for and awarded the charity with a coveted star rating.

The in-depth, independently run survey uses direct feedback from employees to assess critical aspects of their employment such as personal development, wellbeing, leadership and value of the organisation in giving back, to gauge their satisfaction and engagement.

David Main, BEN's Chief Executive, commented: "This recognition doesn't just belong to BEN – it belongs to the whole industry. Our automotive community is built on the passion of its people and, it is this that sustains our team's commitment to serving those who are distressed, struggling or in need of care. Working so closely with an industry that views us as an essential service provides us with a unique insight."



Cable guy visits BHP

In a recent trip to the north, UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, Vince Cable met with the BHP UK team.

During Mr Cable's visit he said that the automotive industry was very important to the UK economy and that he was happy to see British firms excelling in the field of automotive development.

He also spent time talking to BHP UK Apprentice, Toni-Anne, and said that it was important for firms to provide their personnel with staff development programs and introduce newcomers into the company with apprenticeship programs.