UNITI SWEDEN’S ELECTRIC CAR TO BE BUILT AT SILVERSTONE PARK

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Swedish electric car company Uniti has sensationally announced it is to build a digitalised production plant for its new ‘One’ vehicle at Silverstone Park.

The facility will serve as a blueprint for globally licensed ‘digital’ assembly plants for Uniti around the world.

Uniti anticipates the Industry 4.0 pilot facility to be operational by 2020, leading the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies.

The news was confirmed at a conference inside Silverstone Park’s Innovation Centre that drew a 100-strong audience from industry, government and media.

Uniti CEO Lewis Horne said: “It’s no secret that some of the world’s best vehicle engineers are clustered around Silverstone. When coupled with a government receptive to our ambition and goals, we couldn’t find a better home to establish our pilot production facility.”

Among those collaborating with the Swedish car maker is Park based Danecca (EV powertrain).

MEPC’s Roz Bird, Commercial Director at Silverstone Park added: “Uniti’s vision for a vehicle production plant here is very exciting for skills, jobs and the local economy as well as the region’s supply chain.”
Silverstone Tech Cluster confirms Annual Conference & SIG dates for 2019

The Silverstone Technology Cluster, supported by founding members Silverstone Park, has confirmed dates for its second Annual Conference and special interest groups (SIGs) in 2019. Its Conference will be held on Tuesday 21 May. The venue and line-up of speakers will be announced soon.

The event will follow on from a successful inaugural Conference held in January 2018 at Silverstone Park’s University Technology College where STC members were presented with potential business opportunities from the likes of Heathrow Airport, Dow DuPont, the Scale-up Institute and the Transport Systems and Satellite Applications catapult organisations.

STC CEO Pim van Baarsen commented: “We were delighted by our first Conference in 2018 and the opportunities that it presented for our audience – a number of whom have since become involved in projects that were highlighted by our speakers, including some at Heathrow.

“We want to build on that by giving Cluster companies an informative and powerful event that again enables them to engage with peers as well as leading global businesses and organisations.”

Those interested in attending 2019’s STC Annual Conference should email joanne@silverstonetechnologycluster.com

Meanwhile all four of the STC’s SIGs will have three events in 2019, the first is on 22 January for its Computer Aided Engineering group. The other SIGs are: Metrology; Autonomous; Connected, Electrified & Shared (ACES); Digital & Additive Manufacturing (DAM).

Furthermore the STC has confirmed its membership has now reached 90 companies since its launch in January 2017.

Location ideal for track car specialist Valluga

New business Valluga Racing has taken advantage of recently constructed 8,000 sq ft premises at Silverstone Park to launch its competition and track day car preparation and logistics service.

“The logistics of being at Silverstone Park ticked a huge box for us,” commented owner Benji Hetherington, himself a successful factory-contracted race driver for Porsche and Mercedes.

He added: “Being so close to the Silverstone circuit significantly reduces any transportation costs. It gives us quite a niche offering on the track day side…”

Valluga’s premises are part of 125,000 sq ft of new industrial units built by Silverstone Park developer MEPC within the estate’s Enterprise Zone.

At capacity, up to 50 cars from a diverse range of racing categories including historic saloons to modern day sportscar and GT competition can be housed. These include Porsches, BMWs, Lotus and Ferraris.

Dialogue has already begun with the Park’s National College for Motorsport and Silverstone Technology University to take on students in the summer.

“Our technicians would be good role models. Their stories are inspirational…” continued Benji.

Looking to his business’s future, he added: “The aim is to continue building our reputation as the leading competition car management service in the UK.”

Senior figures hail Park as top industry event venue

The Motorsport Industry Association and Niche Vehicle Network have both praised Silverstone Park as a host for top class industry events after recent visits. MIA delegates toured occupier businesses David Brown Automotive, Delta Motorsport and Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence during a networking morning supported by estate based legal firm Blaser Mills.

MIA Chief Executive Chris Aylott said: “The event presented an excellent insight into the development plans of this iconic business park. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Roz Bird and the team at Silverstone Park for a superb hospitality.”

Meanwhile NVN held its members forum for a fourth consecutive year inside the Silverstone University Technology College.

In addition to networking sessions the event included start-up and SME businesses pitching their products and services to a sizeable audience inside three minutes.

In addition to the MIA and NVN, other senior organisations to use Silverstone Park – a premier event venue – included: Bucks Business First/BTVLEP; Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders (SMMT); Silverstone Technology Cluster; Motor Industry Public Affairs Association (MIPAA); Department for International Trade; EMC Tech Labs Association; Franklin LLP and Madrivite Hudson.

Organisations interested in holding their event at Silverstone Park should contact Marketing & Occupier Liaison Officer Ruth Williams: Tel 01327 856002 / Email rwilliams@silverstone-park.com

Tech movie General Magic gets private screening at Silverstone

Invited guests from Silverstone Park and the Silverstone Technology Cluster business community were treated to a sneak Christmas preview of forthcoming movie General Magic ahead of its theatrical release in 2019.

The movie, a feature documentary, tells the fascinating story of General Magic – a secret start-up launched in Silicon Valley by members of the original 1984 Macintosh Team at Apple.

From 1983 to 1995 it achieved numerous technological breakthroughs which influenced the current digital age including ideas such as the first smartphones, social media and E-commerce.

In attendance was the film’s Director and Producer Matt Mauje who discussed his motivations behind the film during a Q&A session hosted by Dr Shalendra Pujanam, a world class business growth expert.

Matt called Silverstone “a capital of tech innovation and high performance engineering” and commented: “Bringing the film here is an incredible honour and it’s our hope that the film has left a lasting impact on the entrepreneurs, innovators and designers that make up such an important part of our country’s identity and economy.”

Sponsoring the screening were Silverstone Park developer MEPC, Aylesbury Vale District and South Northamptonshire councils and Silverstone Circuit.
Fibonacci software shortlisted for major award

Software developer Fibonacci’s work from its Silverstone Park Innovation Centre office has come close to toppling several tech giants at a major national awards ceremony.

David Curran’s and Keith William’s business was shortlisted for the Technology & Data in Nursing award at the high profile Nursing Times Awards ceremony which celebrates achievement in the UK’s medical profession.

Chiefly, its fSeries product has been adopted by the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group to provide staff with a much more efficient way of accessing and presenting patient data.

However its versatility means it is helping other customers to:

- Paint a clearer picture of youth offending patterns for a city in the Midlands
- Achieve swifter access to files for the manufacture of industrial transformers on oil rigs

“It can be used across many different sectors, including engineering,” said David.

“Ultimately it’s a solution for data sharing and presentation – we’re talking tens of thousands of records alone with Wolverhampton.

“Everyone has various systems in place but it’s about getting the information together in a clear and coherent way.”

He added: “Just to be there up against some major players on neighbouring tables at the NTA awards was a real achievement in itself.”

Drag2Zero becomes Sports Engineering Hub’s first ‘incubator’ business

Expert cycling aerodynamics business Drag2Zero has relocated its HQ to TotalSim’s new Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub at Silverstone Park.

The Hub offers cutting edge R&D facilities including two state-of-the-art wind tunnels and has been positioned by TotalSim as an ‘innovation incubator’ for companies in sports engineering and services.

The facilities will enable Drag2Zero to continue developing some of the most aerodynamically optimised cycling equipment available. Its work has benefited both amateurs and professionals including Alex Dowsett and Vittoria Bussi with their successful hour record attempts.

Founder Simon Smart said: “We will be offering our studio bike fits from our new HQ… we hope to be conducting our first test there in late February 2019.”

The Hub has been created inside a new 26,000 sq ft building by TotalSim – a world leader in computational fluid dynamics. The premises are among 125,000 sq ft of industrial units constructed by Silverstone Park developer MEPC within the estate’s Enterprise Zone.

TotalSim MD Rob Lewis said: “Drag2Zero is exactly the type of business that we are looking to attract to be part of the engineering community we are establishing here.”

Bucks Business First (BBF) and the Motor Industry Public Affairs Association (MIPAA) were among the latest government and industry organisations to hold key events at Silverstone Park in late 2018.

BBF, accompanied by Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, visited with a Chinese business delegation which received a presentation from Park Commercial Director and Silverstone Technology Cluster Chair Roz Bird.

They were also shown Silverstone Park’s state-of-the-art Metrology Facility.

BBF’s Managing Director Philippa Batting said: “The delegation were interested in the delivery and management of large infrastructure. We shared our approaches to major developments planned and under way in Buckinghamshire, and heard how these differed to the approach taken in China.”

MIPAA then held its 50th anniversary Annual Conference at the Silverstone University Technology College.

MIPAA Director Dr Heather Yaxley commented: “Our theme for the conference – The Technology of Communications | The Communication of Technology – was a perfect fit with all the work going on at Silverstone Park.”
Property options giving battery specialist Danecca confidence for future

Danson has become the latest vehicle electrification company to locate to Silverstone Park and, although still at the ‘start-up’ stage, it already has grand ambitions…

The business is run by South African couple Danson and Rebecca Joseph – Danson was previously responsible for electric vehicle batteries at Jaguar Land Rover. This included design, development, manufacture and implementation for JLR’s flagship I-PACE model…

Within six months Danecca is now responsible for battery development and powertrain integration of Swedish electric car company Uniti’s new One model (see pages 2-3) and is hopeful of a contract on a new ‘hypercar’ project. But commented Danson: “While my background is predominantly automotive I want our offering to be more than automotive – to include motorsport, trucks and stationary applications as well.”

A key reason for locating at Silverstone Park was estate developer MEPC’s flexible approach when it comes to property solutions.

Danson continued: “A really big thing for us was the option to expand on site. Having the ability to flex the property to meet our needs is phenomenally important.

“We look at other potential sites but no-one else is thinking like this. Now we’re even in a position where we can think about taking one unit specifically for one area of development or one client’s project.”

NPL’s Dr Claire Elliott guest speaker at January Networking event

Dr Claire Elliott of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) will be guest speaker at the first Silverstone Park Networking event of 2019 (Mon 28 January).

Claire will use the event to emphasise the importance – particularly for high-tech start-up and SME businesses – of calibration and traceability to the standard international (SI) units.

She commented: “Measurement validation is becoming increasingly important, particularly when defending product specifications and playing a part in complex international supply chains.”

“Incredible success” at Advanced Engineering Show

More than 1,050 unique visitors visited the Advanced Engineering Show’s VIP Lounge in November – hosted for a second consecutive year by Silverstone Technology Cluster.

The VIP Lounge enabled STC board members, including the Silverstone Park team, to network with existing and prospective new businesses.

STC members Voxeljet, Illuminis, OBP Group and Total Control Pro were also able to address the AES audience.

STC CEO Pim van Baarsen commented: “The AES Show has again been an incredible success for us… It’s important that we offer our members a platform to present their latest technology and network with national representatives from the advanced engineering community.

Silverstone Park Commercial Director and STC Chair Roz Bird said: “Companies that join the STC are winning business as a result and they feel more confident about the future because of the level of information now available through networking and support of the STC.”

Festive feast for Park’s companies

An estimated 140 mouths belonging to staff at Silverstone Park’s 70-plus companies were fed when the estate served up a Christmas pizza treat for them.

Some 35 pre-ordered pizzas (12 different toppings in all with good old pepperoni proving a firm favourite) plus sundries were munchied.

But that didn’t stop the chatter as the event doubled up as one of the popular informal networking events organised during the year for occupier businesses by estate developer MEPC.

MEPC wishes all occupiers at Silverstone Park and their customers the very best for 2019.

Meanwhile Silverstone Park’s flexible approach to accommodation caters for businesses of all shapes and sizes operating in high-tech engineering, electronics and software development to those in the professional services sector – to discuss a broad range of topics that might affect them.

Email rwilliams@silverstone-park.com to reserve places at this event.

To read the full versions of each article please visit silverstone-park.com/media/latest-news
Vibrant Economy accolade for Delta Motorsport founders

Simon Dowson and Nick Carpenter, founders of Silverstone Park based business Delta Motorsport, have been announced as two of Grant Thornton UK’s prestigious 100 Faces of a Vibrant Community for 2018/19.

The Faces programme celebrates individuals for their innovation, growth and purpose within diverse sectors and industries across the UK.

Grant Thornton is one of the world’s largest professional services networks of independent accounting and consulting member firms.

Since launching as a start-up at Silverstone Park in 2005, Simon and Nick have turned Delta into a leading name in hybrid and electrification vehicle technologies.

It now occupies 18,500 sq ft of premises, employs 40 people and has also recently diversified into autonomous vehicle design.

Simon commented: “Nick and I are very proud to have been inducted into Grant Thornton’s 100 Faces of a Vibrant Community programme which highlights the need for business thought leadership.”

And added Nick: “This is a wonderful accolade for Delta Motorsport and reward for perseverance in business! “If we can use examples of pursuing dreams to make a positive impact on communities and inspiring future generations then that can only be a good thing.”

Grant Thornton’s Mike Hughes said: “Nick’s and Simon’s unique approach has put them at the forefront of a very exciting sector and they continue to push the boundaries of what can be achieved. Their recognition as Faces of a Vibrant Economy is well deserved.”

“Significant positive impact” for ‘Inspiration for Innovation’ students

Latest feedback from Silverstone Park’s pilot schools project ‘Inspiration for Innovation’ suggests some three in four Year 10 students are now interested in careers linked to companies at the high-tech business estate.

Close to 200 ‘positive interactions’ were achieved when more than 40 Year 10 students from Silverstone University Technology College met with companies on site including the Force India Formula Technology College.

“The event has truly been a successful element of the Inspiration for Innovation programme and could help build a future skills pipeline for Silverstone Park.”

Three partner schools – Silverstone UTC, Kingsthorpe College in Northampton and The Buckingham School – are involved in Inspiration for Innovation in its first year.

feedback from students proved that the visit to these businesses had a significant positive impact, with 100% of them reporting that they now knew much more about the jobs in existence at Silverstone Park and a whopping 74% stating that they would like to do a job linked to the activities they experienced on the day.

“The 2019 calendar of events is starting to take shape; we’ll be announcing details soon (see back page for the first up-coming events starting to take shape; we’ll be announcing details soon (see back page for the first up-coming events of the year).”

In addition, during December the Park also contributed selection boxes, advent calendars and socks to the Chocolate Elf group which makes deliveries to children, the elderly and the homeless in the Northampton region during the Christmas period.

Christmas market gets occupiers in festive spirit

December 2018: Silverstone Park held its first Christmas market for its business community with one stall holder – GJ Catering – donating all £230 of proceeds from its sales of pork and turkey rolls to mental health charity MIND.

The market was the latest event for occupier businesses at Silverstone Park organised by the estate’s Marketing and Occupier Liaison Officer Ruth Williams.

Ruth said: “We have hosted over 50 business networking events and social activities for our occupiers in 2018. “The 2019 calendar of events is starting to take shape; we’ll be announcing details soon (see back page for the first up-coming events of the year).”

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Silverstone Park has been shortlisted for two prestigious UK Science Park Association awards this Spring.

The estate’s work with the Silverstone Technology Cluster, plus its new pilot project with schools ‘Inspiration for Innovation’ have earned it a place among the finalists in UKSPA’s ‘Project’ category.

Furthermore MEPC’s development of the estate – including much improved facilities and connections with industry/ government to make it a global businesses destination – means it also has a chance of the ‘Location’ category at the awards ceremony in April.

MEPC’s Roz Bird, Commercial Director for Silverstone Park, said: “To be shortlisted for not just one but two awards is an achievement in itself and, crucially, reflects five years of hard work on all fronts to make Silverstone Park what it is today.”
MEET THE TEAM: Sarah Cleaver, PA to Commercial Director

She once turned down a job offer from Richard Branson and has also fettled Frank Bruno’s feet – meet Sarah Cleaver, new PA to Silverstone Park’s Commercial Director Roz Bird!

An art enthusiast and keen ‘iron run’ competitor, Sarah joined the Park’s team in November 2018. “Everyone’s made me feel part of the team straight away,” she says.

She is also a trained chiropodist – clients have included British boxing legend Frank Bruno and the MK Dons football team during its successful promotion to The Championship in 2015.

Previous employers have included gym group Virgin Active where she successfully applied to become Virgin Group boss Richard Branson’s PA.

She adds: “He called me direct to offer me the job – on Necker Island in the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean!

“Family, though, was very important to me and I turned it down. Had I taken it I’d never have had my two lovely children and I wouldn’t change that for the world.”

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CONTACTS

CURRENT OCCUPIERS:
Michael Peck
Estate Facilities Manager
Tel: 01327 856000

MEPC Silverstone Park
Innovation Centre, Silverstone Park, Towcester NN12 8GX

AVAILABILITY ENQUIRIES:
Jamie Catherall DTRE
Tel: 020 3328 9097

Jon Silversides Carter Jonas
Tel: 01865 404458

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:
Carl McKellar Silverstone Park Press Officer
Mob: 07786 138 905

Visit silverstone-park.com/media/latest-news for further information or see contacts below.

Social committee

Please contact Ruth Williams for further information: 01327 856002 or rwilliams@silverstone-park.com