



# PRESS RELEASE

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## UNION ATTACKS COMPANY OVER REPATRIATION PLANS

The Northern Region's biggest general trade union, the GMB, today hit out at Siemens of Germany over their proposals to close a plant in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear.

Siemens are the owners of Trench UK, which makes high-voltage electrical equipment and employs approximately 90 workers. Siemens have announced that they will close the plant in September 2012, with the Plant being run down from January 2012. Negotiations are on-going in relation to redundancy terms with Trade Union representatives.

The GMB is particularly aggrieved that Siemens are repatriating work back to Germany, as Siemens have a very large factory in Germany which is running well below capacity. The GMB believes that the real reason for the Trench UK Hebburn Plant closure, is down to poor decision making by Siemens Directors in Germany.

Chris Preston, GMB Regional Organiser for Trench UK said:

"This is a clear and blatant case of Siemens in Germany looking after their own. They are closing a Plant that has a full order book, healthy profits and is exporting a first-class product all over the world, to customers who only want to do business with Trench UK in Hebburn."

The GMB believes that the reason why customers have expressed a wish to buy Trench UK products is precisely because the Hebburn skill base is perfect for their needs, with the product provided at the right price and at the right time. The GMB also believes that if Siemens are successful in closing the Trench UK plant, then this could become a Trojan horse for other Siemens plants around the UK, as the German Company seeks to fill its huge plant in Germany.

Mr. Preston said:

"Last week the German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that immigration in Germany had not produced a multi cultural society, yet Germany was among the pioneers of closer European integration. What Siemens are doing is giving credence to such comments and pursuing a policy of naked protectionism, which we believe is in breach of European Union guidelines and a breach of the spirit of Pan European co-operation. The real culprits are the Directors of Siemens who sanctioned the building of a massive Plant in Germany that they can't fill and which about 90 workers in Hebburn and many more across the UK could be paying for with their jobs and livelihoods".

**-ENDS-**

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

The Trench UK employees have undertaken a lobby of government and the Prime Minister; on-going work is also being undertaken by Stephen Hepburn MP and Stephen Hughes MEP. The Business Media have taken up this issue and it is worth reviewing Robert Peston's Blog at the BBC by going to [http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/robertpeston/2010/10/british\\_jobs\\_for\\_german\\_work\\_er.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/robertpeston/2010/10/british_jobs_for_german_work_er.html). In addition the Trench UK workers at Hebburn have set up a Save Trench-UK website and this can be found at [www.siemens.uk.net](http://www.siemens.uk.net)



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