



## PRESS RELEASE

### UNION WELCOME FOR RE-OPENING OF PLANT

The North East's biggest general trade union today sent out a welcome for the pending announcement that the former steel making plant in Redcar, Teesside is to re-open.

The GMB Trade Union said that the employment of between 600 to 800 jobs would be an important boost to the local economy on Teesside.

GMB Regional Organiser for Engineering on Teesside, Jimmy Skivington said:

"The Redcar and wider Teesside communities have endured a real hard time over the last few years. Many hard working people and their families have suffered unnecessarily from unemployment, reduced income and life chances".

The GMB said that the important thing to remember was that globalisation had caused the problem that led to the shutting of the iconic plant at Redcar in the first place and it was important that British engineering and manufacturing was safeguarded.

Mr Skivington said:

"The prospect of losing vital manufacturing skills built up over generations was a body blow to the area. It is vital that Redcar in particular and Teesside in general is not allowed to become a low wage low skill economy. We need a diverse range of skills indigenous to this area that are enabled, supported and invested in. That is why we welcome the prospect of over 600 skilled workers getting the chance once again to put their vital skills into practice.

**-ENDS-**

