



EVORA – Manufacturing – Diary

January 2009

This month we have achieved several milestones of bringing Evora to our production lines. We are in the final stages of finishing the car's VP build (reported on last month) and we have now seen the very first 'production' car enter our production system.

We were very proud to produce the first complete set of 'Right – First Time' Evora body panels from our Body Shop earlier in the month. These achieved the full engineering specification without any further need for engineering support input. Our principal manufacturing engineer **Paul Allen** said: *"It is a great achievement to have got to this stage of quality so quickly. It shows a high level of commitment and effective teamwork between all concerned. We now have full confidence that we can produce exacting standards for our customers."*

Paul's comments reflect the approach that we have insisted on to ensure that all the parties involved in producing the Evora work very closely together.

Our Station Readiness programme has also gathered momentum. Its main objective is to confirm that we can build quality repeatedly on every workstation throughout our production system. This means that all process documentation must reflect capable processes in sufficient detail that describes how each operation must be performed. A 'Process Sheet' will include a specific standardised work sequence and relevant care points for each operation. Part numbers and tool listings, together with visuals, are also included. These documents are used as the sole reference point for training and for problem solving. Quality Standards are also documented and made explicit for the team member.

Now that we are 'up and running', we have also had the pleasure during recent weeks of meeting many of the 'individualistic true sports car enthusiasts' who are determined to be amongst the very first to buy our new Lotus Evora (many have already placed their deposits). This came about as a result of Lotus CEO **Mike Kimberley** personally inviting a number of Evora customers to come and enjoy a 'Lotus Experience' day out at our Hethel plant here in Norfolk. Mike's invitation provided a rare opportunity for customers to meet some of the key Lotus personnel behind the car's design, engineering

and development. Our guests were also treated to view some of our most secret and secure facilities where new Lotus projects are born. This was followed by a tour of our production facilities where they were able to see the final development and first pre-production Evora cars being progressed through the production lines. This gave them a close-up view of our unique manufacturing process and to also meet some of the people actively engaged in building the cars.

After a private lunch with members of the Evora team, customers were treated to a true Lotus driving experience (with the help of a Lotus Elise and one of our most experienced test drivers). This gave each of them a 'close-up' feel for the sublime driving characteristics and performance that only owning a Lotus can bring.

END (Written by John Vigar)