Worcestershire Mettis Aerospace Workers To Strike Over Pay Next Week

Thursday 12 December, 2013

About 300 workers at the Mettis Aerospace plant in Redditch, Worcestershire are due to go on strike for 24 hours next Wednesday (18 December) over a 'completely inadequate' pay offer.

Staff at the company, which has £100 million worth of orders on its books, have voted by 80 per cent for strike action, after last ditch talks on pay for 2014 with the management broke down today (Thursday 12 December).

The strike will run from 06.00 on Wednesday to 06.00 on Thursday (19 December).

Unite, the country's largest union which represent the employees, had asked for a five per cent pay increase.

The company, owned by San Francisco-based venture capitalist Saints Capital Group Chamonix Lp, had already imposed a pay freeze for 2013, with two per cent on the table for the following three years, 2014 -16.

Unite regional officer Bob Shaw said: "What the firm is offering is six per cent over four years. This will mean the incomes of the workforce falling dramatically behind the soaring cost of living and is completely inadequate.

"It is an insult to a dedicated, hard-working and skilled workforce - and it's the employees that are an organisation's greatest asset.

"This has to be seen in the context of the company's full order book of £100 million in an industry where growth is expected to be five per cent year-on-year.

"We call on the management to enter into meaningful and constructive talks so that an equitable settlement can be reached. Unite's door is open for talks at any time."

The Windsor Road company manufactures engine and airframe components for all the major aerospace and aircraft builders, such as Boeing and Rolls Royce.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors:

Unite is Britain and Ireland's largest trade union with over 1.4 million members working across all sectors of the economy. The general secretary is Len McCluskey.
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