



nationalshop stewardsnetwork

NO! to the jobs massacre in Derby

The jobs massacre at Bombardier will devastate Derby and Britain's manufacturing capacity if it is allowed to go ahead. The Derby Evening Telegraph reported "that Bombardier's Derby factory could be the epicentre of an economic earthquake that could level many other smaller firms".

A few months ago, Cameron and the ConDem cabinet came to Derby to pledge support for manufacturing jobs. And didn't George Osborne claim the private sector would 'take up the slack' of 750,000 public sector job cuts?

The loss of the 'Thameslink' train-building contract threatens up to 20,000 jobs in the region. For every worker employed by Bombardier, at least 4 more jobs are supported further down the supply chain. And these are skilled, well-paid, unionised jobs with proper apprenticeships and pensions. The loss of both direct and indirect jobs throughout the supply and support industries, as well as legal, technical, training, research and development services, even down to local shops and restaurants will devastate the East Midlands. As Bob Crow, RMT general secretary says: "This act of political vandalism will impact on every single person in the area".

More unemployment, more poverty, more desperation – these will be the immediate results of this decision unless we fight back.

It is nonsense for the government to suggest that awarding the contract to Siemens represents "best value for money". The huge long-term cost of a jobs massacre is loss of taxes and increased reliance on state benefits. Both the current ConDem and previous Labour governments – despite hand-wringing about job losses – have slavishly allowed big business in Europe to dictate the economic agenda. The EU rules "allowing" the ConDems



to hang Bombardier workers out to dry are the same ones used by the last Labour government to start stealthily privatising the postal service.

And these are the same EU rules used to pitch us into "a race to the bottom". In fact, Bombardier bid cheaper than Siemens on train design/build costs! However, on maintenance Bombardier were marginally more expensive over the 30-year lifetime of the contract because Siemens don't recognise trade unions in its British train maintenance workshops.

Bombardier's train technology is fully proven and compliant and their B5000 bogies are tried and tested. Siemens are trying to develop their own bogies and want to lure Bombardier procurement and compliance teams and engineers to work for them (in Germany).

In the last five years Germany has built 97% of its trains domestically, France 100% and Spain 90%. British train building has almost been destroyed by nearly two decades of rail privatisation.

www.shopstewards.net www.stopcuts.net

So what can we do? We need to unite around clear demands to support Bombardier workers and their communities:

- The government must immediately review and reverse its decision to award "preferred bidder" status to Siemens over Bombardier for the 'Thameslink' contract. Trains paid for by our taxes should provide a future of skilled employment in Derby for our children.
- To protect the future of train building in Derby and the UK, Bombardier's Litchfield Lane plant should be re-nationalised with the democratic involvement of Bombardier's workforce and shop stewards' committee, not cut adrift in the global market place. Rolls Royce was nationalised by a Tory government in 1971 when it faced a financial crisis.
- Bombardier say they are reviewing their whole UK operation and have not ruled out closing it down completely. The books must be opened up to public scrutiny so we can see where all the profits we made for them have gone.
- Our trade unions and the TUC must lead industrial and political action to save the future of train building in Derby. We support the call for a massive demonstration and rally in support of Bombardier workers at the TUC Conference in London this September. We support the call of UNITE General Secretary, Len McCluskey at the Durham Miners' Gala for direct action to save these jobs if necessary by occupation as carried out by Upper Clyde Shipbuilders in 1973.
- The people of Derby and surrounding areas are marching with Bombardier workers today. This must be the start of a massive campaign to protect jobs, stop bosses riding roughshod over us and, to quote Bob Crow again, "to save train building in the nation that gave the railways to the world."

Meeting after today's rally

THE FLOWER POT

23-25 King St, Derby DE1 3DZ

1.00pm

Speakers include

ALEX GORDON

(RMT President)

Lobby the TUC!

Sunday 11th September, Congress House, London

The huge demo in London on 26th March showed what could be achieved by the TUC when it does just the minimum. But we need more than demonstrations. We've marched together, now we must strike together. Join the NSSN lobby of TUC Conference to demand a one-day strike across Britain as the start of a fightback against cuts in services and job massacres like Bombardier. More details at the meeting and from the NSSN (see below).



RMT general secretary Bob Crow addressing the NSSN lobby of the 2010 TUC Congress demanding a national march against the cuts.

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