

NEWS RELEASE

GKN plc CHIEF EXECUTIVE 24 March 2011

GKN plc announces that Sir Kevin Smith has informed the Board that he wishes to retire from GKN at the end of 2011 after nine years as Chief Executive. Sir Kevin joined the Board of GKN in 1999 as head of its Aerospace division and became Chief Executive in January 2003.

Nigel Stein will succeed Sir Kevin as Chief Executive with effect from 1 January 2012. Nigel has been a member of the Board since 2001 and is currently Chief Executive Automotive, a position he has held since June 2007. Prior to that he was Group Finance Director.

Sir Kevin said: "GKN is a great company with a fantastic team of people. I am proud to have led them through a period during which we have transformed the Group into a premier global engineering company.

"After nine years as Chief Executive, I feel that the time is right for me to step down with the Company now entering a new phase and well positioned to deliver sustainable growth.

"I am absolutely delighted that Nigel Stein has been chosen to succeed me. He is an excellent choice to lead the Group forward. I wish Nigel and GKN all the best for the future."

Roy Brown, GKN's Chairman, said: "The Board recognises the very significant contribution that Kevin has made to GKN during his 12 years with the Company, and particularly during his nine years as Chief Executive.

"This has been one of the most challenging periods in the long history of GKN. Kevin has led the team through that period and laid the strongest foundations for growth now and into the future. He will leave GKN in tremendous shape and we wish him every success for the future.

"Nigel will bring great skill and extensive experience to GKN's continuing development. His contribution as head of Automotive and, prior to that, as Group Finance Director has been outstanding and I am sure he will be an excellent successor to Kevin."

Enquiries:

Guy Stainer

Director, Investor Relations and External Communications

T: +44 (0)207 463 2382

M: +44 (0)7739 778 187

E: guy.stainer@gkn.com

Andrew Lorenz

Financial Dynamics

T: +44 (0)20 7269 7113

M: +44 (0)7775 641 807

Notes to Editors

Sir Kevin Smith, CBE

Sir Kevin joined GKN in November 1999 when he was appointed to the Board as Managing Director – GKN Aerospace with responsibility for all the Group’s aerospace activities, and was appointed Chief Executive of the Group in January 2003.

Prior to GKN he worked for BAE Systems plc for over 20 years, latterly as Group Managing Director – New Business. He is a former non-executive director of Scottish and Southern Energy plc and former co-chairman of the Government’s Manufacturing Forum.

Sir Kevin is currently a member of the Government’s Asia Task Force and a UK Business Ambassador. He was awarded the CBE in the 1997 New Year Honours and was knighted in the 2007 New Year Honours.

Nigel Stein

Nigel joined GKN in 1994 and has held general management and finance roles in the OffHighway (now GKN Land Systems) and Sinter Metals Divisions and was appointed to the Board as Group Finance Director in August 2001. He also served on the board of AgustaWestland from 2001 to 2004. In June 2007 he became Chief Executive Automotive with responsibility for the Group’s Driveline Division and other automotive businesses.

Prior to GKN, he held senior financial positions with Laird Group plc and Hestair Duple Ltd.

Nigel has recently retired from the board of Wolseley plc where he has been a non-executive director since December 2003. He is a director, and currently President, of The Society of Motor Manufacturer and Traders Ltd and a member of the Automotive Council.

GKN plc is a global engineering business serving the automotive, aerospace and land systems markets. It has operations in more than 30 countries, around 40,000 employees in subsidiaries and joint ventures and had sales of £5.4 billion in the year ended 31 December 2010. GKN plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE: GKN).