Ford to cut 1,300 jobs in UK

Ford has announced 1,300 jobs are being cut from its UK business as part of a Europe-wide overhaul of the carmaker.

The majority of the UK losses will be at the <u>Ford</u> site in Dunton, Essex — its UK headquarters and technical centre.

Up to 1,000 jobs are to be axed at the location with the remaining 300 to come from administrative roles spread across the remaining five sites.

Production staff at Dagenham, Halewood and Daventry are to be unaffected. Ford has two other sites in the UK: in Stratford, east London — where software is worked on — and Southampton, where Ford transport operations are situated.

The cuts are being made as part of a plan to cull 3,800 jobs across Europe over the next three years.

It comes as the carmaker focuses its attention on electric vehicles, after announcing last year that it will <u>no longer</u> <u>make the fiesta</u>, the UK's best-selling car.

Ford was explicit in saying the business restructuring is happening due to the transition to fully electric and the reduced vehicle complexity. It aims to have an <u>electric-only</u> <u>fleet</u> in Europe by 2035.

The job losses come as Ford prepares "to compete and win in a highly competitive region that is facing significant economic and geo-political headwinds", said the general manager of Ford model e in Europe, Martin Sander.

Cuts are to be made across various sections of the business: 2,800 engineering roles are to go by 2025 and 1,000 job cuts will be made in the administrative, marketing, sales and distribution departments across Europe.

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The company said it will engage with unions and workers' groups across the continent to reduce headcount via voluntary redundancies.

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Roughly 3,400 engineering jobs will remain, focused on vehicle design, development and technology.

Mr Sander pledged his support to workers and building a future for the business in Europe.

"These are difficult decisions, not taken lightly. We recognise the uncertainty it creates for our team, and I assure them we will be offering them our full support in the months ahead," he said.

"We will engage in consultations with our social partners so we can move forward together on building a thriving future for our business in Europe."

The Ford brand is being completely reinvented in Europe, he said. A portfolio of smaller, more focused, and increasingly electric vehicles are being produced.

Production of Ford's first European-built electric car is to start later this year.