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## AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY AT THE HEART OF CAMRY BRAKE PRODUCTION

The latest technology, mainly developed 'in house' by PBR International is employed in the manufacturing facility which began production of the all-new Toyota Camry's brake system on August 16.

Costing almost \$15 million, the new facility utilises the latest technology to machine and assemble front and rear brake calipers, front and rear disc rotors and PBR's unique patented Banksia single-shoe park brake.

The installation of this facility in PBR's East Bentleigh, Victoria plant, is significant in that it marks PBR's first disc rotor contract for supply as original equipment into the Australian market.

PBR's new disc rotor facility is unique in that the product is transformed from raw casting to finished rotor, packed and shipped off to Toyota, without human intervention.

All rotors are ground to a demanding 5 microns on DTV (disc thickness variation), which is the most stringent requirement of any rotor produced in the Australian market.

As an integral part of this highly automated process, every disc rotor is checked for casting integrity, DTV and dimensional accuracy before shipping to Toyota.

Front caliper machining takes place in ultra high speed CNC machining cells that are capable of tool changes in less than 2 seconds. The process developed by PBR incorporates a unique process philosophy that allows high quality machining.

These high-tech machining cells utilise a process known as "autonomation" (with a human touch). Here the central computer system is in constant dialogue with the cutting tool to closely monitor cutting forces and vibration. The end result is higher quality parts and improved tool life.

PBR's Vice President Global Operations, Ross O'Brien, says that the new cell was designed with employee safety and product quality as prime considerations.

"The average disc rotor weighs considerably more than products we are used to handling, so we needed to ensure that this facility was developed with a zero safety risk."



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For the new Camry brake system PBR has taken the assembly of calipers to a new level. Built from the ground up by PBR engineers, the new assembly cell incorporates infrared, electromagnetic and mechanical mistakeproofing techniques as part of PBR's "do-it, check-it" manufacturing philosophy.

Also contained within the caliper assembly cell is a final check on functional performance to check for brake drag, a level of quality assurance that ensures world class brake performance.

A new assembly facility also designed and built by PBR engineers for the unique single-shoe Banksia park brake completes the investment for the new Camry brake system.

Mr John MacKenzie, Managing Director PBR's parent company (Pacifica Group Limited), was justifiably proud of the company's engineers for producing such a high standard facility.

Mr Ross O'Brien stated that Toyota has set demanding expectations on the quality of products to be supplied for the new Camry system, as we would expect.

"We have invested a lot of time and money to establish the best facility for these products.

"But the best thing about it is that it has been designed and developed by involving our local team here in Victoria to produce the highest quality systems using world's best practice," he said.

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