



Group Lotus plc

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NEWS RELEASE

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Kimberley confirmed at helm of Lotus

Mike Kimberley has been confirmed as the Chief Executive Officer of Group Lotus.

The announcement was made by the Lotus Group International Limited (LGIL) holding company board on 20 September at the same time as Mr Kimberley was outlining the sports car maker's new high-level strategic five-year business plan.

A highlight of the plan, which has the holding company board's full support, is the introduction of a new mid-range Lotus set for launch in December 2008 and a Lotus/Proton high-performance model, due in May 2008.

Mike Kimberley was the managing director of Lotus in the Colin Chapman era and took over as CEO after Chapman's tragic death in 1982. The holding company invited him to return to Lotus in May this year in an acting role to review the Group business and operations.

Mike Kimberley, CEO, Group Lotus plc said: "I'm honoured that the main Proton holding board has put their faith in me. Lotus has always shown great innovation and vision; as a team at Lotus, we are all determined to realise the company's full potential and justify Proton's confidence in us."

Ends

Notes:

Mike Kimberley's background:

Mike Kimberley has been associated with the Lotus brand for over 22 years, since joining its founder, the late Colin Chapman in 1969. He worked his way up the Company, was appointed as the Managing Director of Lotus Cars Ltd. between 1976 and 1983 and became the CEO of Group Lotus Plc from 1983 until the end of 1991.

Mike is a well-respected veteran of the international automotive industry, having spent over 30 years with various world-renowned automotive companies including General Motors, Jaguar and Automobili Lamborghini SPA.

Two of his major achievements were the rejuvenation of Group Lotus Plc (following the death of its founder, Colin Chapman) in 1983 and the revival of the Italian supercar maker, Automobili Lamborghini SPA, in 1994.

More recently, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of Group Lotus plc as well as Lotus Group International in August 2005.

About Group Lotus plc:

The main operating subsidiary of Group Lotus plc is Lotus Cars Ltd, which has two operating divisions - Lotus Cars and Lotus Engineering.

Lotus Engineering provides comprehensive and versatile consultancy services to many of the world's OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers, offering a full engineering service from initial concept and project design through development to full production prototype build. This includes 3rd party "niche vehicle" engineering and manufacture worldwide.

Lotus Cars builds and commercialises Lotus sports cars, Elise, Exige and Europa; and manufactures the advanced composite front and rear crash structures for the Aston Martin V12 Vanquish.

For further details please contact:

PR Department, Group Lotus plc, Potash Lane, Hethel, Norfolk, UK, NR14 8EZ

Tel: +44(0)1953 608264; Fax: +44(0)1953 608111; Email: pr@lotuscars.co.uk

