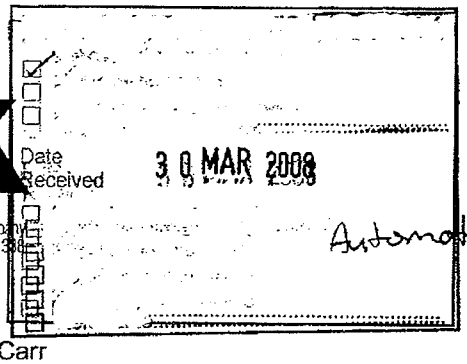
RMAX
Rigid Cellular Plastics

A division of Huntsman Chemical Company Australia Pty. Limited ABN 48 004 146 330



JB
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25 March 2008

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr
Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
62 Lygon Street
Carlton South Vic 3053

For the Attention of Mr. Steve Bracks

Dear Mr. Bracks

Government Review of Australian Automotive Industry

RMAX is a division of Huntsman Chemical Company Australia Pty. Limited. It specialises in manufacturing polymer foams in each State with a Head Office in Melbourne.

For approximately 15 years, RMAX has been a Tier 1 and 2 component supplier into the Australian Automotive sector with significant investment undertaken in our Melbourne and Adelaide plants specifically to support the automotive industry.

In recent years, the extremely competitive nature within the industry has placed significant financial strain throughout the sector and placed innovation, development and efficiency at the very top of the critical list of the agenda.

RMAX has participated in the ACIS scheme to great effect; the development of novel moulding techniques and efficiencies linked with gains in logistics efficiencies has enabled RMAX to maintain and enhance its position within the foams automotive market. Some of the gains have positively influenced manufacturing efficiencies in non automotive markets further supporting our position to minimise imported automotive components.

It is clear from our dealings with overseas Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers that the infrastructure they enjoy (versus Australia) is strongly geared to support a critical mass of component suppliers who are focused on innovation and development. It is also clear that this infrastructure has its foundation in governments who see the manufacturing sector growth generally and the automotive sector, specifically, as being a fundamental industrial platform from which to maintain and enhance overall business and community wealth and employment generation.

As a small business (we employ 170 people nationally), we would urge the Government Review currently underway to retain and improve the appropriate financial support mechanisms (through ACIS) and strongly consider the long term merits of providing balanced government support for the automotive industry and the component supplier sector.

Yours sincerely
On behalf of RMAX

Graham Attwood
General Manager

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