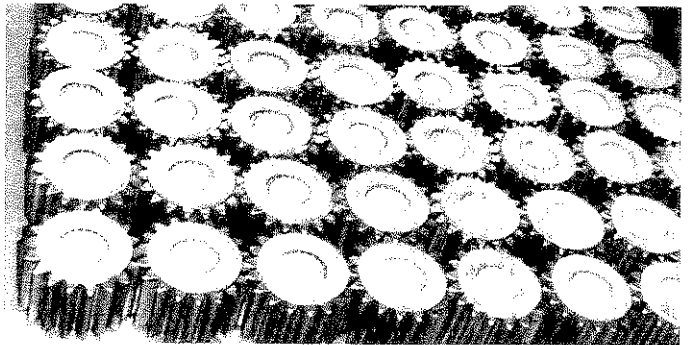


# Leax expands

On Feb. 7, driveline and engine part supplier Leax inaugurated its new factory in Falun some 200 km north of Stockholm. Leax took it over from Scania late last year for producing drive shafts in forged steel, mainly for Scania but also for heavy vehicle producers



Falun manager Hans Jansson.



Driving force Roger Berggren.

For this year, the Falun plant with 120 employees is expected to add a further 400 million SEK to Leax revenues, now about to approach the one billion SEK level. Formally a separate company within the Leax group, the Falun operation has plant manager Hans Jansson as its new managing director.

The production also comprises friction welding, multi-operation machining, balancing and painting on heavy vehicle driveline components.

From its founding in 1982, Leax grew from two to 18 employees by 1991, then turning

over 10 million SEK. Since then, it has further expanded to about 500 employees and close to one billion SEK turnover for the full coming year.

The group now has plants in its home town Köping, in nearby Västerås, Ludvika and Falun as well as Riga in Latvia for low-cost production and supplies to growing eastern markets.

Of Scania's operations in Falun, only assembly is left – and will be moved to Södertälje this year. Some production has also been taken over by Zakrisdalsverken, sharing the Falun site with Leax.

Zakrisdalsverken is also expanding, and has doubled its workforce from 60 to 120 since taking over from Scania. The company makes chassis and transmission components, mainly for Scania but also for ArvinMeritor, supplier to the Volvo group.

To meet growing demand, Zakrisdalsverken recently decided to invest 32 million SEK in new production equipment, a fully automated machine line, comprising three multioperational machines and a turning machine, served by a robot.

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