

PRESS RELEASE

AUTOMOTIVE: GEICOTAIKISHA, THE WORLD'S NO. 1 AUTOMOTIVE BODY PAINTING PLANT, HAS RECEIVED THE STELLANTIS "BEST SUPPLIER" AWARD. SHORT DELIVERY TIMES AND HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS CONSTITUTE THE MOTIVATION FOR THE AWARD

Already a long-standing partner and supplier to PSA and FCA, GeicoTaikisha was chosen to build Stellantis' most important European paint shop in recent years: the new Paint shop for VAN bodies produced at the Gliwice plant in Poland.

Milan, 16 June 2022 – GeicoTaikisha, the world's leading manufacturer of turnkey systems for painting car body shells, won the **Best Supplier award in the INDIRECT CAPEX category** from Stellantis. The award was given in recognition of the most important European paint shop built in recent years, commissioned by the Group led by Carlo Tavares, namely the new paint shop at the Gliwice plant in Poland. **The short delivery times and high quality standards** are the reasons why this prestigious award has been given.

The award ceremony was held virtually yesterday, with GeicoTaikisha CEO and President Daryush Arabnia being presented with the award by Maxime Picat, Chief Purchasing & Supply Chain Officer and Arnaud Deboeuf, Chief Manufacturing Officer of Stellantis.

GeicoTaikisha has, on the other hand, been a historical partner and supplier of PSA and FCA since before the establishment of Stellantis.

*"We are particularly proud and delighted", said **Daryush Arabnia**, CEO and President of GeicoTaikisha, "to receive the Best Supplier award from such a prestigious company like Stellantis, which demands high standards of workmanship that are difficult to achieve. GeicoTaikisha, thanks to its know-how and the team that supports and accompanies it, has responded to this need, thus consolidating a relationship that dates back to 2003. I would like to emphasise", added Daryush Arabnia, "that the objectives and results achieved were made possible by the combination of technological innovation and the spirit of sharing shown by all Geico employees, without exception, whom I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely. Without the complementary nature of these two factors, it would not have been possible to deliver a product capable of acting as a new benchmark in the procurement and planning phase of new Stellantis projects. We therefore hope to continue along the path charted during the production of the Smart Paintshop in Gliwice, considering it not only an achieved goal, but also the beginning of a new collaborative formula with Stellantis. Also, with this award, I would like to dedicate special thanks to those who have preceded me. Since way back in 2005, under the leadership of my father, Mr. Reza Arabnia, GeicoTaikisha has been constantly investing in technological innovation and training. In 2005, he declared that by 16 June 2020 (for his 65th birthday) he would develop a series of solutions for an energy self-sufficient zero-impact plant (Energy Independence Day). I am proud that on his 67th birthday the market has openly recognised the efforts of almost 20 years of work.*

When explaining the reasons for the award of best Stellantis supplier it was also mentioned that ***"GeicoTaikisha teams are truly involved, dedicated and customer-oriented with each project phase and really care about long-term relationships with their customers.***

GeicoTaikisha, Stellantis continues in its award statement, ***“excellently handled the extraordinary turbulence that occurred during the construction of the Paintshop in Gliwice. Despite all the difficulties, the best timing ever was achieved from initial order to first approved car, creating a new benchmark for Stellantis and also for the entire automotive world. Congratulations to GeicoTaikisha for the work done”***.

In spite of the particularly critical economic situation, the PSA order acquired by GeicoTaikisha **was, in fact, completed in 13 months**, an extremely short timeframe if we calculate that the design and construction of a turnkey plant normally takes around 24 months. This was achieved by imposing very high productivity levels while having to manage three months of delays caused by the shipping crisis.

Underlying such shortened production times is what is known as **smart design**, i.e. the combination of innovative tools and practices that allow the **delivery time** of a paint shop to be **drastically reduced while maintaining high quality standards**. **The smart design process is implemented within the Pardis Innovation Centre**, the ultimate expression of GeicoTaikisha's innovative approach, opened in 2009 in the midst of the global crisis with a total investment of more than 60 million euros and housing more than 40 working prototypes, many of them with a 4.0 focus.

In particular, by working on digital prototypes rather than physical ones, which involve high production times and costs, Geico shortens the time to implement individual parts of the plant. The creation of 3D models, true digital twins of “real/physical” plants, is the basis of production dynamics that allow for a reduction of design time by up to 60% and a higher level of sustainability of processes, given the lower amount of waste generated.

A physical room and the use of **immersive reality** software (IEL Interactive Engineering Laboratory) also make it possible to “navigate” the plant in 3D on a 1:1 scale, in order to verify the overall dimensions and layout at the design stage. The result is a **drastic reduction in design errors**.

“This award”, concludes Daryush Arabnia, “will give us further impetus and motivation for our next strategic goal: the Sustainable Paintshop, with which we want to radically change the rules of the game”.

For further information:



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