

UAW members start strike vs. nine International Truck plants

CHICAGO — About 4,000 United Auto Workers union members at nine International Truck & Engine Corp. plants have gone on strike, citing unfair labor practices.

The walkout followed what the company, a unit of Navistar International Corp., Warrenville, Ill., had described as more than two years of off-and-on talks on improving International Truck's competitive position leading up to the Oct. 1 expiration of the labor contract. The union broke off bargaining four days later, but reportedly returned to talks over the weekend.

The strike was called after it became clear that International Truck wasn't willing to work with the union to negotiate a "fair and equitable" contract, UAW officials said in a statement, and the union has filed unfair labor practice com-

plaints with the National Labor Relations Board.

"International Truck & Engine has shredded our agreement, shipped our work out of the country and trampled our nation's labor laws," Ron Gettelfinger, UAW's president, said.

General Holiefield, the UAW vice president who directs the union's heavy truck department, said International Truck had made unilateral changes in terms and conditions of employment, ordered an illegal lock-out at the company's assembly plant in Springfield, Ohio, and refused to provide information necessary for negotiations.

The company said it was activating production continuation measures that would use management and non-union employees to continue deliveries to customers.

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ThyssenKrupp opens Ill. logistics center

CHICAGO — ThyssenKrupp Industrial Services NA, a unit of Southfield, Mich.-based ThyssenKrupp Materials NA Inc. and Düsseldorf, Germany-based ThyssenKrupp AG, has opened a 92,000-square-foot logistics facility in Danville, Ill.

The facility is adjacent to automotive parts manufacturing operations of ThyssenKrupp Presta Danville LLC and Systrand Presta Engine Systems LLC. ThyssenKrupp Crankshaft Co. LLC also has production and distribution operations in Danville, executives said.

ThyssenKrupp Industrial Services is expected to provide supply chain management services to the three auto component makers, including the coordination of raw material flow from sup-

pliers, tube cutting, sequencing, just-in-time delivery, dunnage management, storage and packaging services.

The logistics center is creating 20 new jobs along with 15 transferred from ThyssenKrupp Presta and Systrand Presta.

ThyssenKrupp Industrial Services was formed last year following Thyssen-

Krupp's acquisition of Windsor, Ontario-based Hearn Group. It operates a network of industrial park, warehousing, material handling, distribution, logistics, light manufacturing, assembly, welding, testing, inspection and production machining operations.

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