# Administrators appointed as Jans Group faces uncertain future for 200 Antrim jobs



The appointment of administrators to Jans Composites, Etrux Limited, and Jans Offsite Solutions has raised significant concerns regarding the future of approximately 200 jobs in Antrim. These firms are part of the Jans Group, which was founded by entrepreneur Peter Drayne in 2019. Since its inception, the Jans Group has ambitiously expanded into various sectors, including electric trucks, modular homes, camper vans, and waste recycling machinery, and has made substantial investments in its manufacturing facilities.

Administrators arrived at the Jans Group’s Caulside Drive manufacturing site last Wednesday, leading to staff being sent home as the group’s social media accounts were deactivated. The situation has unfolded against a backdrop of earlier success; just months prior, the group had reported a remarkable 53% increase in turnover for 2023, reaching £20.5 million. Despite these figures, the company found itself in a precarious position, recording a pre-tax loss of £5 million due to heavy investments in its infrastructure and workforce development.

Interestingly, the turmoil surrounding Jans Group follows an expansion spree, including the acquisition of a 100-acre site in Dumfries and Galloway and another strategic site at Barnsoul, where the company previously supplied luxury modular holiday homes. This aggressive expansion has not been without its challenges, as the pressure associated with rapid growth can sometimes strain operational capabilities. Administrators Ian Davison and Scott Murray, from the Belfast-based corporate restructuring firm Keenan CF, were appointed to oversee the insolvent companies, and they are now responsible for navigating the tumultuous waters ahead.

The uncertainties surrounding the future of these companies have heightened given that many of the staff involved are former employees of the Wright Group, a bus manufacturer that faced a similar fate six years ago. The cyclical nature of business within the manufacturing sector is evidenced here, as many industries grapple with the dual pressures of market volatility and the continuing demand for innovation.

Etrux Limited, for instance, had recently achieved a prestigious Ford Pro Convertor status, highlighting its capabilities in the design and conversion of lightweight commercial vehicles. This was seen as a step forward not just for Etrux, but also for the whole group, linking it to a wider network of commercial vehicle supply.

Despite the current fears, the Jans Group has ambitious plans that remain on the table. Following substantial investments, including a new £10 million factory aimed at boosting local employment, there was hope for continued growth. The proposed development of an additional 240,000 sq ft manufacturing facility adjacent to Lidl’s Nutts Corner headquarters would represent a further commitment to enhancing its production capabilities, potentially leading to a significant revitalisation of the workforce.

However, with administrators now taking charge, the future of these plans remains uncertain. The community is undoubtedly hopeful that solutions can be found to preserve jobs and rebuild the confidence that has been shaken in recent weeks. As the story develops, the outlook for the local economy and its manufacturing sector hangs in the balance, heavily dependent on the direction taken by the administrators and the strategic decisions made regarding the revitalisation of the Jans Group.

In conclusion, while the future of the Jans Group and its subsidiaries is currently clouded in uncertainty, analysing the trajectory of the company's growth and its capacities may offer a flicker of hope for both the employees and the wider local economy.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraph 1, 2
3. Paragraph 3
4. Paragraph 3
5. Paragraph 2, 4
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/fears-for-200-jobs-at-antrim-manufacturer-after-administrators-appointed-P4EAJJH3B5F7PG6N52M65BOTHU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/fears-for-200-jobs-at-antrim-manufacturer-after-administrators-appointed-P4EAJJH3B5F7PG6N52M65BOTHU/> - Administrators have been appointed to Antrim manufacturing firms Jans Composites, Etrux Limited, and Jans Offsite Solutions, raising concerns about the future of up to 200 jobs in the town. The companies are part of the Jans Group, established by entrepreneur Peter Drayne in 2019. The group has expanded into various sectors, including electric trucks, modular homes, camper vans, and waste recycling machinery. Administrators arrived at the group's Caulside Drive manufacturing facility in Antrim, sending staff home and deactivating all social media accounts. The company has not responded to inquiries about its future plans.
3. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/expanding-composites-group-jans-report-53-increase-in-turnover-for-2023-JFDV76GHERAHXN5VCDNA6A45BA/> - Jans Group, an Antrim-based manufacturer, reported a 53% increase in turnover for 2023, reaching £20.5 million. Despite this growth, the company recorded a pre-tax loss of £5 million due to significant investments in infrastructure, human resources, and research and development. Established in 2019 by Peter Drayne, the group has diversified into sectors such as electric trucks, modular homes, camper vans, and waste recycling machinery. The main manufacturing facility is located at Caulside Drive in Antrim, where a new 120,000 sq ft factory has been built.
4. <https://etrux.co.uk/etrux-awarded-prestigious-ford-pro-convertor-status-ahead-of-commercial-vehicle-show/> - ETRUX, a company under the Jans Group, has been awarded the prestigious Ford Pro Convertor status ahead of the Commercial Vehicle Show. Specializing in the design and conversion of lightweight commercial vehicles, ETRUX is one of only two companies in Ireland to hold this accolade. The company achieved a 95.6% pass rate, exceeding the required 85%, after a rigorous assessment of their processes, stock control, and design. ETRUX plans to showcase their new Ford E-Transit Welfare vehicle at the upcoming Commercial Vehicle Show.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/business/2023/08/01/news/jans_group_signs_off_on_key_acquisition_in_waste_sector-3486778/> - Jans Group has completed the acquisition of a majority stake in BlueMAC, a Co Tyrone-based company specializing in the design, planning, and manufacture of material processing systems and waste recycling facilities. This acquisition aligns with Jans Group's £50 million growth plan announced in 2021 and marks its entry into the waste management and resource sector. CEO Ronan Hamill expressed enthusiasm about delivering waste and resource infrastructure solutions, emphasizing the importance of innovation and technology in the sector.
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/business/2023/11/09/news/composites_manufacturer_jans_reveals_plans_for_major_industrial_development_at_nutts_corner-3758418/> - Jans Group has revealed plans to develop a 240,000 sq ft manufacturing facility on a 25-acre site adjacent to Lidl’s Nutts Corner headquarters in Co Antrim. The proposed facility aims to enhance the group's manufacturing capabilities and is estimated to be worth around £30 million. This development follows the group's previous expansion efforts, including the construction of a new £10 million factory at its Antrim site, which created 150 jobs.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/business/2022/05/12/news/jans_group_to_exceed_jobs_target_by_hiring_200_staff-2708201/> - Jans Group, an Antrim-based composites specialist, announced plans to exceed its initial target by hiring over 200 staff by the end of the following month. The company, established in 2019, had initially aimed to recruit 150 people as part of a £50 million growth plan. Positions available include project managers, engineers, joiners, CNC programmers, production and assembly operators, auto electricians, and rental coordinators. CEO Ronan Hamill emphasized the company's commitment to providing career opportunities within the local community.