

Fujitsu warned of pension strikes

A union has warned of strike action at Japanese electronics firm Fujitsu over plans to cut pension payments to its UK staff and impose a pay freeze.

Fujitsu, which employs 12,500 people in the UK, announced plans this week to cut up to 1,200 jobs and replace its final-salary pension.

The Unite union said 87% of its members taking part in a consultative ballot had voted in favour of strike action.

The firm declined to comment on the warning while consultations went on.

Unite said that if the pensions proposal went ahead, employees would be dismissed when the consultation period ends in September, and offered new contracts with the new pension arrangements.

It said some 4,000 pension scheme members would be hit by the company's plans, adding: "The union estimates that the proposed pension scheme change would reduce the total pay package of each employee by at least 15%."

Unite national officer Peter Skyte said: "Fujitsu Services is not struggling or failing. It is a highly profitable and successful company but one which is seeking to take advantage of the recession to attack jobs, pay, pensions and conditions.

"Our members are insisting that the company should pay fairly and provide decent pensions for all its employees.

"Following the announcement of 1,200 redundancies, they are now calling for the issue of job cuts to be included in any ballot for formal industrial action."

The company has 26 Information Technology (IT) services offices in England, Wales and Scotland.

Those in England are in Basingstoke, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bolton, Bracknell, Bristol, Crewe, Exeter, London, Lytham St Annes, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Slough, Solihull, Staines, Stevenage, Wakefield, Warrington, Warwick and Winnersh.

In Wales there are offices in Cardiff and Swansea and in Scotland in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

The company also has premises in Belfast and Londonderry, in Northern Ireland.



Fujitsu employs 12,500 people across the UK