AIRNITE

ZERO DAY

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Weeks without assembly lines: what the cyberattack on Jaguar Land Rover cost

At the end of August 2025, Jaguar Land Rover had to shut down its IT after a cyberattack, and production stood still for weeks. British experts put the cost to the economy at £1.9 billion. What manufacturers can learn from it.

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// THE SITUATION IN NUMBERS

£1.9bn
estimated cost to the UK
range £1.6–2.1bn, Cyber Monitoring Centre model

Category 3
"systemic event"
on the CMC's five-point scale

2,700+
organisations with material impact
according to the CMC; elsewhere it cites over 5,000 affected

8 Oct 2025
limited restart announced
according to the CMC

At the end of August 2025, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Britain's largest carmaker, shut down its IT after a cyberattack. The consequences reached far beyond the company: production stood still for weeks, suppliers came under pressure and the British government backed JLR with a loan guarantee.

// What happened?

According to the assessment by the independent UK **Cyber Monitoring Centre (CMC)** of 22 October 2025, the incident at the end of August led to an IT shutdown and a long production halt. According to the CMC, a return to limited production was announced on **8 October 2025**. The government, according to the CMC, underwrote a **£1.5 billion loan guarantee** to provide liquidity to JLR.

The CMC classifies the incident as a **category 3 systemic event** on its five-point scale and estimates the cost to the UK economy at **around £1.9 billion**, within a range of £1.6 to £2.1 billion. The CMC considers it possible that this is the most economically damaging cyber event in UK history. For the company itself, BleepingComputer, citing JLR figures, reported costs of around £196 million in the July to September quarter alone – excluding lost sales.

// How does the attack work?

To our knowledge, JLR has not published details of how the attackers got in. The CMC refers to an apparent data breach linked to the incident without giving details. What is certain is the pattern of consequences: a manufacturer shuts down its IT to stop the spread, and because modern manufacturing does not run without IT – parts ordering, planning, control, logistics – the lines stop too.

The CMC model explicitly accounts for losses at JLR, suppliers and other companies in the chain. Costs for the data breach or a possible ransom are not included. The model assumes a gradual recovery from 8 October to early January 2026.

// Who is affected?

JLR was not the only one affected. According to the CMC, **more than 2,700 UK organisations** suffered material financial impact; elsewhere in the assessment it refers to over 5,000 affected organisations. Suppliers who could no longer deliver parts, logistics firms and dealers felt the standstill directly.

That makes the case relevant for every manufacturer: the more closely production, supply chain and IT are intertwined, the bigger the impact of a cyberattack. And even a well-protected company can be left without orders for weeks as the supplier of an attacked customer.

// What should you do now?

The key question is: how long can you produce without IT, and how quickly can you recover? This includes a clean separation of office and production IT, backups that survive an attack, rehearsed recovery plans and emergency communication with suppliers and customers. The checklist below sums up the steps.

// How does Airnite help?

In **consulting**, Airnite assesses the dependencies between IT and production with you and draws up a recovery plan. With **penetration tests**, we check whether an attacker could get from the office network into production. In **training** and exercises, your teams rehearse the emergency.

> Note: the CMC's impact figures are modelled estimates. JLR's company figure comes from press reports; we were unable to view JLR's and the UK government's original announcements directly. Research status: 21 November 2026.

Checklist: what to do now

[+] Separate office IT and production IT (OT) at network level and strictly control the crossings.

[+] Write recovery plans for production and rehearse them regularly – including the order in which systems come back.

[+] Set up backups so that attackers cannot encrypt them too (offline or immutable), and test restoring them.

[+] Involve suppliers and customers in emergency planning: who is informed when, and what happens to open orders?

[+] Calculate the financial impact of a standstill lasting several weeks and review your insurance cover.

[+] Protect access with multi-factor authentication, especially remote access, help desk processes and admin accounts.

How Airnite helps

- Consulting – An outside view of your plans and projects.
- Penetration Testing & Security – Controlled attacks with a clear report and action plan.
- Training – Your team learns our tools and processes.

How long would your production stand still?

Airnite checks with you how closely office IT and production are connected, where an attacker could move from one to the other and how quickly you would be back up after an incident. You get concrete measures for segmentation, backups and recovery.

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Questions about this article? Message us on WhatsApp: +49 174 6834842

Read online: https://airnite.de/en/magazine/jaguar-land-rover-cyberattack-production-halt/

Sources

Every fact in this article is based on the sources below. Primary sources are marked.

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