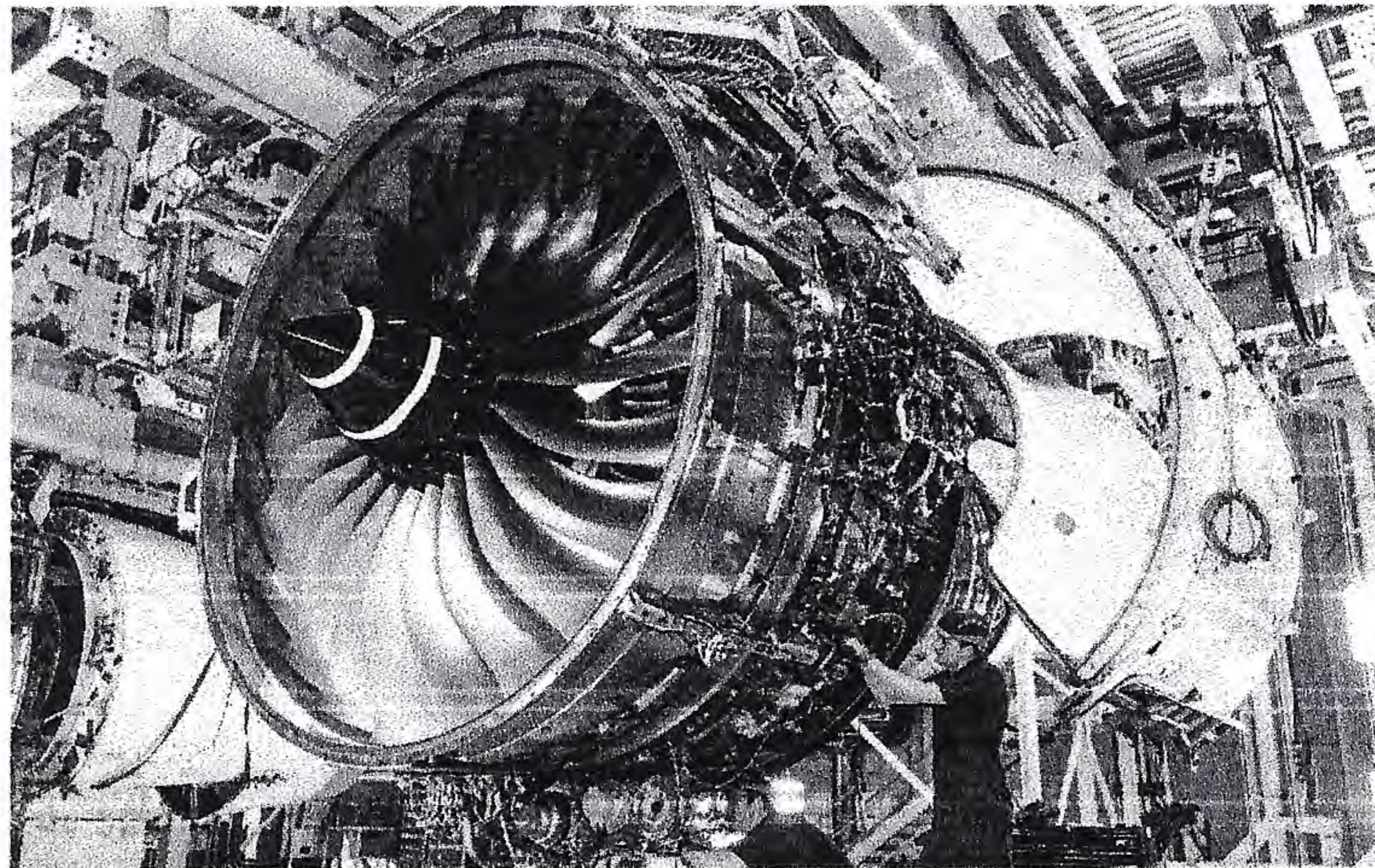


Rolls-Royce mulls European move as Brexit deal worries grow



Workers build a Rolls-Royce airliner engine CREDIT: PA

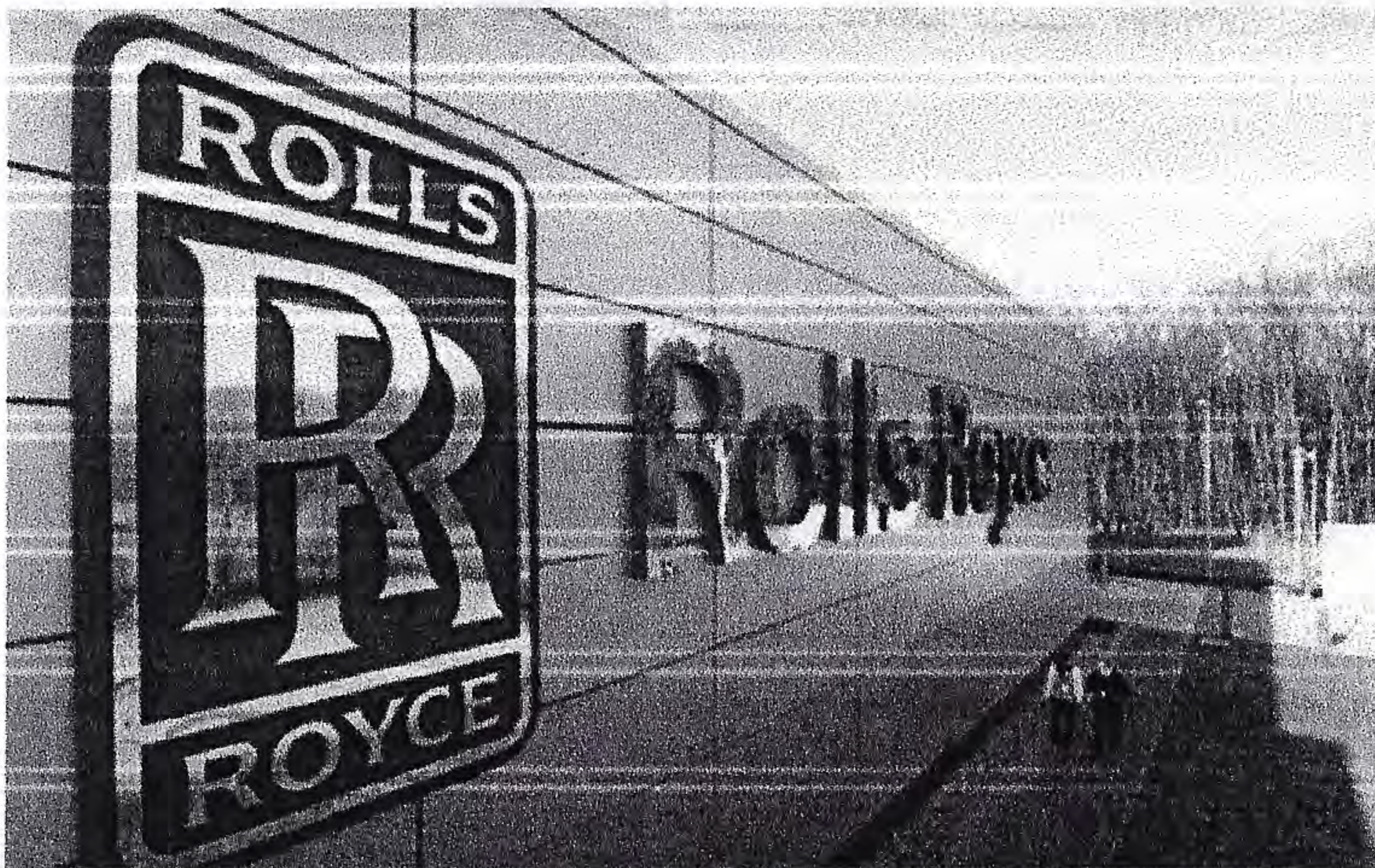
By Alan Tovey
23 APRIL 2018 • 12:26PM

Rolls-Royce is preparing to relocate the “signing off” of British-made airliner engines to Europe, as the EU aviation authority will hold the right to certify they are safe to fly in the event of a hard Brexit.

The iconic British brand - and leading member of the country’s £31.8bn-a-year aerospace sector - is preparing the contingency plan to protect itself from huge disruption if negotiations stall over Britain leaving the EU.

Without such an arrangement, sources inside the company say that design, manufacturing and maintenance of Rolls-Royce engines built at its Derby base could grind to a halt if Britain suffers a “cliff-edge” departure from the EU.

The UK was a founder member of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and Rolls-Royce’s engines and designs are certified under its authority on a daily basis as the company modifies its designs.



Rolls-Royce has the ability to certify engines thanks to the UK’s membership of the European Aviation Safety Agency

But if Britain leaves the EU without agreeing a deal that includes associate membership of EASA, Rolls-Royce’s products will not be able to be signed off in the UK and will, therefore, be unable to take to the air.

“It’s a theoretical but real risk that either a deal or EASA membership will not happen,” said a senior Rolls-Royce source. “We would have to stop making engines until it was sorted out without a plan in place.”

The concerns ramp up the pressure on ministers to achieve a Brexit deal to ensure continuity for Britain’s aerospace sector, the largest in Europe and second only to the US.

Theresa May’s Mansion House speech last month identified as “critical” the UK remaining part of EASA. The Prime Minister said she accepted this meant “abiding by [its] rules and making an appropriate financial contribution”.

How a botched Brexit could ground Rolls Royce Aero Engines.

The Company takes avoiding action from possible failure of British government.

Prepares to move its regulatory compliance operations to EU

The British Civil Aviation Authority said it would take “ 5 to 10 years” to get their operation up to the scale required for global certification of regulatory compliance.