



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne, right, chaperones Poland's Lech Walesa through the Jefferson North Assembly Plant.

Wow – What a Week for Chrysler!

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

Is Chrysler on fire of late, or what?

That's meant in the positive sense, of course, as the No. 3 U.S. automaker turned in a week for the history books it seemed like, last week.

First and foremost, Chrysler reported record quarterly profits, its best showing in 13 years.

But also, it had an impressive display at the SAE Congress led by the 2013 Dodge Dart, its CEO announced a press conference where reportedly the automaker is going to rent office space downtown in the Dime Building, its Jefferson North Assembly Plant (JNAP) hosted a Nobel Prize winner and even the Walter P. Chrysler Museum will be hosting a reunion of the Ramchargers race team.

That's a pretty good week by any measure, starting with those quarterly profits.

Posts Record 13-Year Qtr. Profit; Leases Space in City of Detroit; Hosts Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

Earlier last week, Chrysler reported preliminary net income of \$473 million for the first quarter of 2012, up more than 300 percent from \$116 million a year ago, driven primarily by its 40 percent increase in U.S. retail sales.

"Another positive quarter – built on sales gains that have surpassed the industry average – is affirmation that the Chrysler team is maintaining its focus," said Sergio Marchionne, chairman and CEO of Chrysler Group LLC.

"We continue to deliver on the targets in our five-year plan and are now focused on successfully launching the Dodge Dart, a car that is a true melding of Chrysler's and Fiat's engineering and styling strengths."

Revenue for the quarter was \$16.4 billion, up 25 percent from \$13.1 billion in the first quarter of 2011, driven by a 25 percent period-over-

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Cruze Leads Chevy to Record Sales

DETROIT – Chevrolet sold 1.18 million vehicles worldwide in the first three months of 2012, a 6.5 percent increase over the first quarter of 2011.

It was the sixth consecutive quarter of record-breaking sales for the brand.

In the last two calendar years, Chevrolet has grown faster than other high-volume global brands, bringing its global market share to 6.3 percent.

"The strongest lineup of cars, trucks and crossovers in Chevrolet's history delivered record-breaking sales in 2011 and equally impressive results in the first quarter of 2012," said General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akeron in a statement.

"To keep our momentum

going, GM has more than 20 major vehicle launches in 2012, and some of the most important are Chevrolets, including the Sail in Asia, the Colorado in South America and the Spark in North America."

The Chevrolet Cruze led the brand with global sales of more than 180,000 in the first quarter, a nearly 20 percent increase over 2011, making it the best-selling Chevrolet nameplate around the world. Sales of the recently launched 2012 Aveo/Sonic small car and 2013 Malibu mid-size sedan are increasing as more vehicles become available in dealer showrooms.

Chevrolet posted significant sales increases over the same



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period last year in four of its top five markets.

Traditionally an American brand, Chevrolet today records more than 60 percent of its sales outside the U.S. market, an all-time high.

GM Clay Sculptor John Cundy Creates Hot-Selling Rack to Hold Trash Bags

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

John Cundy is a creative clay sculptor for GM Design in Warren – with an emphasis on creative, we must say.

In his spare time, away from work, Cundy creates popular consumer products and they've been selling like proverbial hotcakes of late on the Internet and in some local hardware stores.

Cundy has created Trash-ease, a device that securely fastens common trash bags to picnic tables or countertops, and the Binhanger, which secures those big red recycling bins to the garage wall.

And they've been selling well. Cundy creates them in his basement at his home in Macomb Township and his wife and four kids take care of order fulfillment from that point on.

The development of the Trash-ease product has an amusing back story:

"I was at a track meet last year, watching my son, they were doing the discus and the shotput. They all got up, there's bottles everywhere, they're all waiting for mom to pick up their stuff," Cundy recalled.

"There's an opportunity here: I also camp, so I'm thinking about it. I don't draw very much, but I woke up the next morning at 2:30 a.m., it was pretty clear what I wanted to do.

"I went out and bought



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

GM's John Cundy in his home basement workshop in Macomb Township, where he creates popular consumer products for sale.

some wire, I've got my wire-bender here, I created the shape I had the drawing of, I used the wire-bending machine, you bend it.

"We actually started out with a shape that fit the end of the picnic table. It fits a 13-gallon bag, the most common bag out there. I thought it would be really neat to make this fit on the end of a countertop where you eat."

And – voila! – the Trash-ease garbage bag holder (visit www.trash-ease.com) was born.

All in a day's work for Cundy, whose day job at GM Design is at least as interesting as his home enterprises.

"I'm a salaried sculptor, I used to work at Chrysler as a UAW sculptor and I worked there for 11 years. Then I had

the opportunity to go over to GM. Back in 1999, there was an opportunity to move over," Cundy recalled of the evolution of his professional career.

"I just worked through the 1990s when Chrysler was on top of the world.

"I'm a creative clay sculptor. I was fortunate enough to work on different show cars like the Sixteen Cadillac and C6 Corvette, all three models, primarily the base convertible, the Z06, I didn't work on the ZR1.

"I work on a one-third-scale model. There's a good 300 sculptors doing hands-on and Alias computer renderings (on behalf of GM Design).

"I went to CCS (in the 1980s)."

Creative guy, don't you think?

DTE Prepares for Plug-In Electric Cars

By Jennifer Knightstep
Special Writer

According to Haukur "Hawk" Asgeirsson, manager of DTE's Power Systems Technology, if the electric grid in metro Detroit is to survive the influx of plug-in electric vehicles, estimated to hold 10% of the new vehicle market share by 2030, one simple thing needs to happen.

"People have to charge their cars at night," Asgeirsson says.

He's right. DTE's electric grid, right now, can actually handle the increased demand of electric cars, but in the future, Asgeirsson says, the grid's distribution system is likely to feel the pinch of too much demand during peak hours. The solution, of course, is to either request or require that electric cars be charged during off-peak hours, overnight.

During his keynote speech at Macomb Community College's "Living in an Electric Vehicle World," Asgeirsson detailed DTE Energy's efforts to plan for the near future, including real-world testing of and investing in new technologies.

One such technology is wire-



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

Hawk Asgeirsson, Manager of DTE's Power Systems Technology, details the history of the electric vehicle during his presentation on "Living in an Electric Vehicle World" at Macomb Community College in Warren.

less "drive-over" charging, which allows drivers to recharge their electric vehicles without plugging in. Another involves re-using old lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles to store energy for use at a later time.

Still another, one that's currently in use and just needs a few "upgrades," is smart charging, programming your electric vehicle to charge itself during off-peak hours, regardless of

when it's actually plugged in.

This smart charging is already featured in the Chevrolet Volt, but owners have complained that it's cumbersome to program in times and rates, so Asgeirsson and his team are developing ways to make this process easier and more driver-friendly.

DTE also wants to make it easier for their customers to see the advantages of making the switch to greener driving.

Former GM Designer Tom Hale Creates 25th Anniversary EyesOn Design Poster

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

Tom Hale is such a talented car designer and artist that three automakers like to claim him as an "alumni."

Hale began his professional career at GM Design in the mid-1960s, spent one year at Chrysler before moving on to 17 years at American Motors.

Since then he's made a good living as a painter, a professional canvas artist.

This is all notable because it was Hale who was selected to create the 25th anniversary show poster for the EyesOn-Design function in June.

They had an unveiling of both the original acrylic-on-canvas painting as well as the poster itself at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn last week.

Hale's customer, the sponsoring Detroit Institute of

Ophthalmology, was very happy with the result.

"My wife looked at the painting and she said that's the only auto (image) that she'd ever allow to hang in our living room, so you can't get a higher compliment than that," beamed Dr. Philip Heshburg, CEO of the Institute.

The Institute has hosted the EyesOn Design car show, and related functions, for the past 25 years now.

The original painting by Hale showcases a classic 1941 Lincoln Continental in front of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, the site of this year's June 17 car show.

Hale said it took him six to seven weeks to create the original painting, from first brush stroke to last.

Purple is the thematic color of the painting and DIO officials expect it to become a collector's item.

Hale autographed the posters at the public unveiling last week and they moved like the proverbial hotcakes.

Since EyesOn Design was created in part by the late Chuck Jordan, vice president of Design at General Motors, talk turned to Jordan and his impact on not just the EyesOn show, but all of automotive design as well.

Designer and painter Hale credited Jordan with giving him his start in the auto design business.

Hale is a graduate of the Art Center School in Pasadena and he recalls when GM's Jordan, then a GM Design manager, visited his campus on a recruiting trip.

"He actually was a huge influence on my career because I graduated from the Art Center School in 1966," Hale recalled.

"Typically, the executives



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Former GM designer Tom Hale autographs the poster he created for the 25th annual EyesOn Design car show coming in June.

from the car companies would come out and they'd review your design portfolios and oftentimes you'd have a job even before you left school.

"I graduated with 9 people, I think, and Chuck Jordan of-

ferd me the only job (for Art Center grads that year).

"He reviewed my portfolio." Whatever Jordan saw in Hale's work back in 1966 sure has paid off with what is perhaps Hale's career-capping



25 EyesOn Design
A Celebration of Design
Father's Day June 17, 2012 | Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI
A poster for the 25th anniversary of EyesOn Design

Tom Hale's acrylic-on-canvas painting, to be made into the 2012 EyesOn Design car show poster. In the reproduction of the poster, above, is a 1941 Lincoln Continental and the Edsel Ford House, site of the show.

achievement in creating the 2012 EyesOn Design car show poster.

Hale had earlier also done the 2006 EyesOn Design show poster, so the DIO is very familiar with his work.