

GM China Developing Next Generation of Car Batteries

SHANGHAI – General Motors China is fabricating and testing prototype battery cells and complete systems at its advanced technical center in Shanghai, enabling GM researchers and engineers to gain critical knowledge in the development of next-generation vehicle battery systems.

These systems are expected to be more affordable for GM customers around the world and help GM expand vehicle electrification. The expanded capability will also pave the way for GM to build strategic partnerships with battery cell and cell material suppliers, and make purchasing decisions as a "smart cell buyer."

GM's goal is to accelerate the development of batteries with improved energy density, allowing smaller overall system sizes and reducing costs. This, in turn, will help improve the affordability of plug-in vehicles for consumers.

Researchers will be able to complete a series of processes, including battery material preparation, battery material coating, battery cell fabrication and battery cell performance testing.

GM's advanced technical center in Shanghai recently produced its first batch of battery cells using state-of-the-art fabrication methods.

The battery cell is a fundamental technology in determining the performance of plug-in vehicles.

The battery system includes the components needed to control cell temperature, manage battery charge and discharge, and package cells in vehicles. The materials of which battery cells are made are decisive in determining the cost, durability and reliability of the entire battery system.

With its battery material assessment capability, GM will be able to independently test and validate advanced materials provided by suppliers, apply innova-



The first batch of battery cells was recently produced at the GM China Advanced Technical Center.

tive technologies to battery cell design and fabrication through collaboration with cell suppliers, and ultimately integrate battery cells into a system for integration in GM's production lines.

"Producing the first prototype battery cells is a big step forward for the GM China advanced technical center. It is critical for enabling GM to develop smaller, lighter and lower-cost new-generation batteries," said John Du, director of GM China's China Science Lab. "Leveraging this success, the independent assessment system for battery materials will help speed up technical progress."

Plug-in electric vehicles will play a critical role for the global auto industry to cope with issues related to fuel supply and environmental sustainability.

China, the largest auto production and consumption market, has explicitly made alternative energy vehicle development a state strategy. China plans to sig-

nificantly increase production of plug-in vehicles – including pure battery electric vehicles, extended-range electric vehicles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles – by 2020.

GM's independent assessment system for electric vehicle battery material will accelerate this trend and advance development at GM and the Chinese auto industry.

Ally Financial Names Two New Directors

DETROIT – Ally Financial, Inc. (formerly GMAC) announced last week that Gerald Greenwald and Henry S. Miller have been elected to its board of directors. The appointments, as well as the re-election of the current members of the Ally board, occurred last week at a meeting of Ally's common stockholders.

"Gerald and Henry are valued additions to the Ally board," said Ally Chairman Franklin (Fritz) Hobbs. "They bring extensive experience from both the financial and auto sectors and will add key perspectives as Ally continues its transformation. We are

pleased to have these two seasoned leaders join the board."

Greenwald is a founder of Greenbriar Equity Group, a private equity firm focused on the global transportation sector. Prior to this, Greenwald was the chairman and CEO of United Airlines from 1994 to 1999.

During his time at the airline, he helped to return the company to profitability and build its leadership position globally. Greenwald began his career in the automotive industry at Ford Motor Co., where he worked in several positions including controller, director of operations of Europe

'Katech V4' Slated By SAE Mid-Mich.

Mid-Michigan Section of SAE will be hosting powertrain performance firm Katech at the Monday, Sept. 10 dinner meeting in Flint.

Due to rising demand, Katech designed and manufactured an innovative, highly efficient, high power density, compact and configurable V4 engine to power your auto-sport, aviation, marine, ATV and industrial applications.

The V4 draws on the legendary architecture of the Corvette LS series V8 engine. Katech engineers will speak on the ongoing development of the V4.

Katech says that because the engine is very light and because of its compact design can be retro-fitted into almost any app.

The function will begin with a 6 p.m. sign-in, 7 p.m. dinner and 8 p.m. formal program. It will be held in the Technology Center Building, Room S128 of Baker College in Flint.

The location is 1050 W. Bristol Road at Fenton Road. For tickets, contact Bernard Santavy at (810) 635-7948.

'Shimmer on the River' Slated Sept. 5 at The Roostertail

DETROIT – The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy is staging the largest fundraising celebration of the year, "Shimmer on the River," at the Roostertail restaurant from 5 p.m. to midnight Sept. 5.

The event will showcase nature's elements through entertainment and eats as those attending overlook the Detroit River.

The night is expected to attract hundreds of guests with proceeds benefiting the nonprofit Conservancy, which raises 100 percent of the funds needed for the continued development of the Detroit Riverfront.

The Roostertail – situated along the riverfront with views of the Detroit River – will be transformed into an intimate party setting with a strolling dinner inspired by the four elements – water, earth, fire and air.

Detroit rhythm and blues singer Thornetta Davis will provide the entertainment.

In addition, the Conservancy will honor Peter Karmanos, Jr., executive chairman of the Board, Compuware, during a brief ceremony for his strong commitment to the transformation of the Detroit Riverfront.

"Our beautiful Detroit Riverfront is a remarkable asset to our city and region and its transformation is a stunning example of what the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and its partners have made possible," said Sandy Pierce, honorary co-chair of Shimmer on the River along with her husband, Tom Pierce.

"Tom and I are honored to be a part of Shimmer on the River to benefit the Conservancy and thank all of the generous supporters of this event."

A VIP ticket allows guests admission to an intimate pre-event cocktail reception and the chance to mingle with the hon-

ored guests and sponsors prior to the party.

A range of tickets are now on sale for this spectacular evening including: VIP tickets, \$250 each, includes admission at 5 p.m. to the pre-event cocktail reception; general admission, \$150 each, includes admission at 6 p.m.; and late night, \$75 each, includes admission at 9 p.m.

All guests receive complimentary valet parking. Tickets for Shimmer on the River may be purchased at www.ShimmerOnTheRiver.com or 313-566-8206.

The event is presented by Strategic Staffing Solutions, with additional sponsor support from Tooles Contracting Group, LLC, Penske Corporation, Charter One, Honigman, DTE Energy, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, DEGC, DMC, Greektown Casino Hotel, Securitas Security Services, USA, Inc., Meritor, Mary Sue & Kenneth Coleman, Conway MacKenzie, PVS Chemicals, Inc., Compuware Corporation, Dakota Integrated Systems, Detroit International Bridge Company, General Motors Foundation, Quicken Loans, Diamond Jack's River Tours, Harrington Communications, lovio george | communications + design, the Roostertail, MOOD Events and Diamond Hospitality, LLC.

The nonprofit Detroit RiverFront Conservancy was formed as a public-private partnership in early 2003 with the mission of developing public access on the Detroit Riverfront and serving as an anchor for economic development.

The completed project will span 5.5 miles of riverfront property, from the Ambassador Bridge to Gabriel Richard Park.

Ever since GM acquired the Renaissance Center back in 1996, the development of the east riverfront has continued apace.

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