

# Kuka Open House Paves Way for Customer Training

By Jim Stickford

The folks at Kuka Robotics Corporation wanted to meet the neighbors, so to speak, so they held an open house.

At its brand new headquarters in Shelby Township, the Kuka folks introduced themselves to their neighbors Aug. 14-15 and showed their customers just what they can do.

Stuart Shepherd, CEO and area manager – Kuka North America, said the company is one of four operation groups in North America belonging to the German company. The other three:

- Kuka Toledo Production Operations, which helps in the construction of Jeeps for Chrysler.

- Kuka Systems in Sterling Heights

- Kuka Assembly and Test in Fenton, Mich.

Shepherd said the Shelby Township facility makes robot products for all kinds of industries, including aerospace, medical and consumer products, not just automotive businesses.

“Part of the reason we’re holding this event is to introduce us to the neighborhood,” Shepherd said. “People aren’t that familiar with our market and we’d like to tell them that Kuka is more diverse than they might think.”

“During the recent economic downturn, we grew because we are not dependent on the auto industry, or for that matter just one or two industries.”

The second reason the company held the open house, Shepherd said, is to show the customers they already have just

what new products and services they are now able to offer.

A check of the parking lot revealed cars from other states, including Georgia, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Indiana and Illinois.

The new facility in Shelby Township, which first opened its doors last November, will ultimately employ more than 100 people and will be the North American hub for both Mexico and Canada.

“We do customer and employee training,” Shepherd said. “We have students here every week from our customers’ businesses to learn how to use our products. We also do product demonstrations and retraining. Basically, we do anything to help our customers use our products.”

Kuka components are made elsewhere in Germany and Europe, Shepherd said.

“What we do here is convert robots from general products to products designed for specific customer uses,” Shepherd said.

“In addition to training customers how to use our equipment, we share ideas with them and develop new applications. We call it applications engineering.”

What most people don’t realize, Shepherd said, is that robots and robotic technology has changed and advanced greatly over the years. Even compared with five years ago, the technology

has vastly improved. He likens it to smart phone technology.

That’s part of the reason the Kuka folks held the open house. It gave them the chance to show what they can do without having to wait for a trade show, Shepherd said.

He added that the auto companies and parts manufacturers are good customers, but only about 10 percent of Kuka’s business is based in Michigan.

So, why did they base their headquarters in the southeast part of the state?

“About two-thirds of Kuka Robotics Corp’s jobs are right here in Shelby Township,” Shepherd said. “The rest are based close to where our customers are located to provide service as needed.”

“But being located here, we are able to take advantage of the international border between the U.S. and Canada. Southeast Michigan is also a major transport hub, connected to the St. Lawrence Seaway and major railroad points.

“We are near four airports – Detroit Metro, Flint Bishop, Willow Run and Windsor, which is a good regional airport. When it comes to transportation, you name it and this region has it.”

Shepherd, who is from Indiana originally and moved to the area before living near Toronto and eventually returning to metro De-

troit, said they looked at a lot of states before deciding to settle in Shelby Township.

“We really like the region,” Shepherd said. “A lot of people in other parts of the country don’t realize just what the region has to offer. We get engineers from California or near Boston who come here and are surprised just

how nice the region is.

“They also like how their dollars go farther when it comes to buying a home in areas with great schools.”

Having the open house allowed the company to show off the region, Shepherd said, and to show off the company’s “really cool stuff.”

## WANTED ANY RUNNING REPAIRABLE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN!

VEHICLES MUST RUN AND DRIVE



**\$600-\$6,000 PAID!**

**WE ARE NOT A SALVAGE YARD WE COME TO YOU!!!**

Call **KELLY** 7 Days A Week Macomb Township

**248-338-0852**

## AIAG Likes SEC’s ‘Minerals’ Ruling

SOUTHFIELD – The Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) said that it thanks the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), for issuing the final rule for implementing Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act on Conflict Minerals as it promotes compliance in the auto industry.

**KRG PERFORMANCE** OPEN Mon thru Sat 9am-7:30pm

**FULL MOTORCYCLE MACHINE SHOP**

“OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE”

**ALL MOTORCYCLE & ATV TUNE-UPS & REPAIRS**

- Suspension Service & Engine Mods
- Full Discounts on OEM & Aftermarket Parts

**FREE ESTIMATES**

6293 14 MILE RD. • EAST OF MOUND RD.

**586.795.0144**

## WARREN URGENT CARE

**8am-10pm • 7 Days a week • 365 Days a Year**

“Bringing Quality Urgent Care To Your Neighborhood”

*“We Care”*

**URGENT CARE FOR ACCIDENTS AND INJURY**

**ADULT & PEDIATRIC ILLNESS**

Digital X-Rays, EKG and Lab Work, On-Site Lab Service, Strep, Mono, Pregnancy & Urine Testing, Vaccinations, Sports & School Physicals, Occupational Medicine, Work-Related Injuries, Pre-Hire Physicals (BAT & Urine Screening)

**SPECIAL ON SPORTS PHYSICAL \$25.00 State-of-the-Art Facility**

**586-276-8200**

31700 Van Dyke • Warren, MI 48093

On Van Dyke Rd., between 13 & 14 Mile in St. John’s Windemere Park

OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

Woodland Urgent Care 22341 W. 8 Mile Road Detroit 313-387-8700

N. East Macomb Urgent Care 43900 Garfield, Suite 121 Clinton Township 586-868-2600

**FLU SHOTS**

**ATTENTION** Chrysler, GM, Ford Employees, we’re within 2 miles of your plants

**HAP & BCN** NO Referrals Needed! www.warrenurgentcare.com

## INDEPENDENCE AUTO REPAIR

**Full Service American Owned & Operated**

★ We Have Tires ★ *We do all factory scheduled maintenance!*

OPEN: Mon-Fri 7:30 am-6pm Sat 8am-3pm

**FREE Shuttle Service** within a 10 mile radius

**FREE Courtesy Check** on any vehicle

**FREE Coffee** to everyone

**2 Locations:**

28775 Van Dyke • Warren 12 & Van Dyke 586-751-4440

15075 32 Mile Rd. • Romeo Corner of 32 Mile & Powell Rd. 586-336-4440

<b>Trans. Flush</b> w/ cleaner & additive. Includes 17 qts. transmission fluid. <b>\$99.99</b> w/ cleaner & additive. Includ. 3 gal. of Coolant	<b>Full Service Oil, Lube &amp; Filter Change</b> <b>\$17.99</b> w/ Tire Rotation <b>\$26.99</b>	<b>Front End Alignment</b> <b>\$39.99</b>	<b>Ceramic Brake Special</b> <b>\$99.99</b>	<b>10% OFF Parts</b> to All GM Employees w/ Badge
<small>In-store offer good through 8-31-12</small>	<small>In-store offer good through 8-31-12</small>	<small>In-store offer good through 8-31-12</small>	<small>In-store offer good through 8-31-12</small>	<small>In-store offer good through 8-31-12</small>

## GALEANA’S

**WHERE DODGE IS ALL WE DO!**

**SUMMER CLEARANCE EVENT**

### THE ALL NEW 2013 DODGE DART

**IN STOCK NOW STARTING AT \$15,995\***

<p>STK. #2-9426</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4x4 EXPRESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY</li> <li>• SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO</li> <li>• 20" CHROME WHEELS</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PRICING</b></p> <p>24 MO. LEASE <b>\$99.95*</b></p> <p><b>1-PAY LEASE \$1,995.00*</b></p>	<p>STK. #2-6256</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 GRAND CARAVAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.6L PENTASTAR V6</li> <li>• STOW 'N GO SEATING</li> <li>• STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED AUDIO CONTROLS</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PRICING</b></p> <p>36 MO. LEASE <b>\$199.95*</b></p> <p>PURCHASE <b>\$16,397*</b></p> <p><b>EVERYONE QUALIFIES PRICING</b></p> <p>36 MO. LEASE <b>\$229.95*</b></p> <p>PURCHASE <b>\$18,597*</b></p>	<p>STK. #2-3366</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 JOURNEY SXT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POWER WINDOWS</li> <li>• POWER LOCKS</li> <li>• POWER MIRROR</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PRICING</b></p> <p>24 MO. LEASE <b>\$129.99*</b></p> <p>PURCHASE <b>\$13,997*</b></p> <p><b>1-PAY LEASE \$2,699.00*</b></p>
<p>STK. #2-4134</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 AVENGER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 282 HP V6 ENGINE</li> <li>• REAR SPOILER</li> <li>• DUAL EXHAUST</li> <li>• 18" ALUMINUM WHEELS</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PRICING</b></p> <p><b>\$14,697*</b></p> <p>72 MO. BUY <b>\$219.95*</b></p>	<p>STK. #2-8196</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 CHARGER R/T</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.4" TOUCHSCREEN MEDIA CENTER</li> <li>• 5.7 HEMI</li> <li>• HEATED SEATS</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PRICING</b></p> <p>24 MO. LEASE <b>\$209.95*</b></p>	<p>STK. #2-7113</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 DODGE DURANGO R/T</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AWD</li> <li>• GPS NAVIGATION</li> <li>• TOUCH SCREEN MEDIA CENTER</li> <li>• REAR BACK-UP CAMERA</li> <li>• 3<sup>RD</sup> ROW SEATING</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PRICING</b></p> <p>24 MO. LEASE <b>\$219.95*</b></p> <p>PURCHASE <b>\$30,597*</b></p> <p><b>EVERYONE QUALIFIES PRICING</b></p> <p>24 MO. LEASE <b>\$299.95*</b></p> <p>PURCHASE <b>\$32,597*</b></p>
<p>STK. #2-8233</p> <p><b>NEW 2012 CHARGER SRT-8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.4L 392 HEMI</li> <li>• PK. SENSE, REAR PK. ASSIST SYS.</li> <li>• STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED PADDLE SHIFTERS</li> </ul> <p><b>EVERYONE QUALIFIES PRICING</b></p> <p><b>\$39,958*</b></p>		

**MON & THUR 9 AM-9 PM • TUES, WED & FRI 9 AM-6 PM • SATURDAY 9 AM-3 PM**

VAN DYKE AVE.

**GALEANA'S VAN DYKE DODGE**

**I-696**

**28400 Van Dyke www.vandykedodge DODGE/RAM SALES LINE: 888-351-0617**

\*The above prices and payments are plus tax, title, doc. and destination; include the factory rebates, Chrysler employee discount and returning lease loyalty rebate (except where it clearly states everyone qualifies, an employee discount is not required). Purchase prices include the \$1000 returning lease rebate; add \$1000 if you do not have a qualifying vehicle. Ram prices and payments include Chrysler's \$1500 down payment match. Payments are based on Ally S Tier or US Bank Tier One approval; not all buyers will qualify. Security deposit is not required for those who qualify. If you qualify for a military discount, college grad program or target direct mail program, you will save even more. Residency restrictions apply; see dealer for details. †SE base msrp plus destination & options. Expires 8-31-12 @ 6pm. N2270799