

Chevy and Students Engineer Hand-Driven Cycle for Vets

Prior to the playing of the 113th Army-Navy football game, Chevrolet and students from Michigan Technological University revealed a new hand cycle designed to make it easier for wounded veterans to compete in racing events, including marathons.

In addition, GM Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson announced GM will build 10 prototypes for use next year by the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans in marathons across the country.

Akerson accompanied retired Marine Cpl. Joseph Woodke of Port Hope, Mich., a member of the Achilles Freedom Team, as he rode the new cycle onto the field during the first quarter of the game.

"GM has a long tradition of serving those who serve," said Akerson. "That includes devoting our engineering and technology resources to give these veterans a competition-worthy cycle that honors their sacrifice for our country."

Stronger, as well as more comfortable, durable and portable than current commercially available cycles, this one was designed by Michigan Tech mechanical engineering students as part of a senior project named Huskies Helping Heroes.

Sponsored by GM and mentored by Chevrolet engineers and Michigan Tech faculty, the students spent time with the wounded veterans to observe their

competitions and design a cycle that meets their needs.

Three-wheel hand cycles allow athletes to lean forward while pumping the wheels with their hands. For veterans who are amputees or who have sustained other serious injuries, this is often a better solution for racing than a traditional wheelchair.

GM's Military Discount Program underwrites several Achilles Freedom Team competitions, and has supplied cycles and a Chevrolet Silverado HD for transporting them.

Chevrolet was the Official Vehicle of the Army-Navy game, which was played at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia and aired on CBS.

Joining Akerson and Hayes on the field Saturday were Michigan Tech senior James Cook, of Lexington, Ky., and GM engineer Alexa Ellswood.

"I loved working with the students and seeing their energy and passion," Ellswood said. "This isn't their last class. It's their first job."

The new cycle uses high-strength steel alloys for durability; improved restraints for comfort and safety; and designs that make them more portable and less prone to damage during transit. For example, a pivoting fork-to-frame attachment allows the front wheel assembly to fold into the seat during travel, which reduces the overall size of the cycle.

Huskies Helping Heroes formed

in January with four teams and grew to five in September.

"This is the most rewarding assignment I've ever worked on," said Michigan Tech senior Brett Jenkins of Troy, Mich., who led one of the student teams.

The Army-Navy game, among college football's biggest rivalries, pits the U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen against the U.S. Military Academy Black Knights. At a vehicle display near the stadium, Chevrolet representatives distributed free seat cushions and hot cocoa.

Fans saw a special Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 that will be auctioned in January to benefit the

Achilles Freedom Team.

GM and the GM Military Discount Program began their affiliation with the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans in 2010. Achilles officials visit with wounded service members as they recuperate in military hospitals, where they can learn to use specialized adaptive devices, such as hand cycles, for competitions.

"The Achilles Freedom Team is thrilled to be the first to compete in these groundbreaking, state-of-the-art hand cycles, as it will take their racing goals to the next level," said Genna Griffith, the team's executive director.



Michigan Technological University senior engineering student James Cook with the Tomahawk racing hand cycle he helped engineer.

Warren Librarian Takes It Digital

Warren libraries are entering the digital age under the direction of Warren's new Library Director Deb Lambert.

"I am passionate about moving libraries into the digital age, and believe libraries need to keep up with digital services like e-books, e-magazines and mobile apps as more and more of our patrons shift to those technologies," said Lambert.

While advertising is always a major challenge for libraries with tight budgets, Lambert said she believes social media is the best way to promote programs and services inexpensively.

Lambert stressed the need for consistency in regard to policies and services at all branches. She said she intends to keep a watch over Warren's smaller branches to make certain none are lacking in services and needs.

"My experience working with multiple library branches has shown me that each branch has different community needs," Lambert said.

"I recognize that our smaller branches need attention. I am excited about working with the library staff and community to update the Burnette and Busch branches."

Art Van Donating \$10K in Furniture To Detroit Couple

As part of a joint initiative, Art Van Furniture is donating \$10,000 in furniture to a young Detroit couple. The McQueen family of Detroit will receive a fully furnished new home as part of Project: Welcome Home.

"Our mission, with Compuware, Habitat for Humanity and The Parade Company, was to ensure that the McQueen family had not just a house, but a place to call home in time for the holidays," said Art Van Elslander, founder and chairman of Art Van Furniture.

"We wish them a holiday and a home filled with joy, love and beautiful family memories for many years to come."

SPX Now Part of Bosch, Extending Service, Repair Business

Following approval by the antitrust authorities, Bosch has completed its acquisition of the Service Solutions business of SPX Corporation, which maintains a facility in Warren.

The agreement to purchase the U.S. automotive diagnostics specialist was signed in January this year.

The Service Solutions business develops, manufactures, and sells service equipment, repair-shop accessories, and software for the global automotive market.

Based in Canton, the Service Solutions business generated sales of \$920 million in 2011.

The company employs some 2,800 associates in 17 countries, and has manufacturing sites in the U.S., Germany, France, and China. The purchase price is approximately \$1.15 billion.

"In acquiring the Service Solutions business, we will become a comprehensive supplier of solutions in the diagnostics and repair business," said Robert Hanser, president of the Bosch Automotive Aftermarket division.

"In expanding our portfolio and extending our global presence, especially in the U.S., we are strengthening our position. We

will quickly merge our know-how and wealth of experience in this growing market. Our aim is to become the world's leading supplier of diagnostics solutions for all makes of vehicles."

With automotive electronics becoming increasingly complex, the market for diagnostics solutions has a great deal of potential for growth.

Up to now, Bosch has served this market with products and services for diagnosing, servicing, and repairing passenger cars and commercial vehicles, with brand-independent workshops as its main customers.

The portfolio of the Service Solutions business comprises engineering services for automakers, as well as accessories and services for workshops that are contractually bound to individual automakers.

Combining these complementary areas of competence will provide Bosch with a wider

range of customers and a broader portfolio, and open up new market opportunities, especially in Asia Pacific and European regions, Bosch officials say.

The business activities of the Service Solutions business will be integrated into the Bosch Automotive Aftermarket division, a leading supplier of aftermarket-specific products and services that generated sales of some \$5.6 billion in 2011.

As part of an integration project, the new "Automotive Service Solutions" business unit will be set up.

The former Diagnostics business unit will also become part of this new business unit. All in all, these two business units generated sales of roughly \$1.3 billion in 2011.

Tanvir Arfi, who was president of the Service Solutions business for many years, will be in charge of Automotive Service Solutions and its 4,200 associates. The unit's world headquarters will be in Canton.

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