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Chevrolet SS Performance Gains Race Fans' Approval

GM's efforts to bring the upcoming Chevrolet SS to attention of the American public in anticipation of its launch later this year got off to an early success.

The Team Chevy race teams and the Chevrolet SS race car earned five of the top six starting positions at the Daytona 500, which was run on Feb. 24.

Danica Patrick made history behind the wheel of the No. 10 GODADDY Chevrolet SS, winning the pole for the 55th running of the Daytona 500.

Four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series (NSCS) champion Jeff Gordon powered the No. 24 Drive to End Hunger Chevrolet SS to second in the final order, giving the all-new Chevrolet SS the front row.

"We are so proud of Danica Patrick, Tony Gibson and the entire Stewart-Haas team on putting the No. 10 Chevrolet SS on the pole for the 2013 Daytona 500," said Jim Campbell, U.S. vice president, Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. "Danica was focused and drove a great line to secure the pole. She gave tremendous credit to her entire No. 10 team for this accomplishment. She is a determined racer, a team player and we're proud to have her on Team Chevy."



The Holden concept Commodore, above, inspired the 2014 Chevy SS.

The new Chevrolet SS production car will pace the Daytona 500.

Patrick's accomplishment marks the first time in the 64-year history of the NSCS that a woman will lead the field to the start of the Great American Race. Patrick's lap of 45.817 seconds – 196.434 mph – proved to have staying power as the other cars made their qualifying runs.

Team Chevy drivers who captured five of the top six qualifying positions were: Patrick, Gordon, Ryan Newman in the No. 39 Quicken Loans Chevrolet SS (fourth); Tony Stewart in the No. 14 Bass Pro Shops/Mobil 1 Chevrolet SS (fifth), and Kasey Kahne in the No. 5 Farmers Insurance Chevrolet SS (sixth), giving each excellent starting positions for last week's Budweiser Duel at Daytona Qualifying Races.



The 2014 Chevrolet SS made its debut at the time trials of the Daytona 500, gaining the pole position for its driver, Danica Patrick.

Michelle Malcho, GM spokesperson for Volt, Chevrolet Mylink at GM, said the public reaction to the Chevy SS has been positive so far. She added that the press seems to like the vehicle as well.

"The SS has been revealed in front of the fans," Malcho said. "They seem to like it, and it's the first time in a long time that what we race on the track will be avail-

able in the dealership."

The SS is based on the Holden VF Commodore out of Australia. Both vehicles use the GM Zeta platform.

The vehicle is a rear-wheel-drive performance sedan, the first GM has offered in 17 years.

The 2014 Chevrolet SS production sedan will be available in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Seminar to Show How to Get Into Defense Industry

Automation Alley is sponsoring a defense opportunities seminar for business people interested in diversifying into the defense industry.

This event will focus on procurement opportunities within the defense industry, and will provide many resources to those attending.

Featured speakers include Jennifer Tisdale, procurement counselor, Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) of Schoolcraft College; Dan Raubinger, director, defense and manufacturing, Automation Alley; and Marie Gapinski, associate director, TACOM Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP).

The seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 28, in the offices of Automation Alley, 2675 Bellingham in Troy.

The cost is free for Automation Alley members, \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration ends on Feb. 26 at the close of business. The cost at the door for non-members is \$20.

There will be a question-and-answer session after all of the speakers give their presentations.

For more information, call 1-800-427-5100, or email at info@automationalley.com.



2013 Ford Fusion

2013 Fusion Tops Accord as Best Family Vehicle

by Irena Granaas

Move over minivans and station wagons – the Midwest Automotive Media Association (MAMA), a Chicago-based nonprofit organization comprising more than 200 automotive journalists and public relations professionals, has named the 2013 Ford Fusion as the winner of its third annual Family Vehicle of the Year award.

"Choosing a family vehicle is an important decision. It should be affordable, reliable, efficient and roomy," said award coordinator and MAMA President Kirk Bell.

"MAMA pooled its collective expertise to pick the best family vehicle from a strong group of recent releases, and the Ford Fusion bested them all."

Qualifying contenders for the award had to start at less than \$50,000, have four doors, be new or significantly updated within a year of the 2012 MAMA Spring Rally, and had to appear at one of MAMA's two annual rallies, which includes a fall event. For the family vehicle award, contenders cannot be sport- or off-road-oriented.

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Dodge Sport, Chrysler Glacier Feature Winter Driving Safety

by Irena Granaas

Consumers who live in areas affected by wintry weather can benefit from improved control offered by all-wheel-drive systems.

To meet this need, Chrysler is showcasing two vehicles equipped with the newest AWD system: The 2013 Dodge Charger AWD Sport, designed for performance enthusiasts, and, for the luxury car customer, the new 2013 Chrysler Glacier.

The Charger and Glacier share the Chrysler "L" platform and are manufactured at the Brampton Assembly Plant in Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

Both vehicles have recently been put through their paces in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. According to Engineering, Powertrain, Safety & Regulatory spokesperson Eric Mayne, Chrysler regularly performs winter driving tests at Michigan Technological University's Keeweenaw Research Center adjacent to Houghton Memorial Airport in Calumet.

Both vehicles feature Chrysler's segment-exclusive Intelligent AWD with Disconnect.

"Both products performed as designed," Mayne said. "The system anticipates traction loss based on steering/throttle inputs, manages torque to provide AWD on demand when traction is poor, and seamlessly engages and disengages the front axle (going back to RWD mode) when conditions do not require AWD."

Mayne said Chrysler's new AWD system is unique, based on the combined effect of a single-speed transfer case and front-axle disconnect capability, giving improved fuel economy by allowing the AWD system to remain stationary when not needed. On

the other hand, the driver has interaction control in poor weather.

"Among its AWD competitors, the Glacier delivers best-in-class fuel economy – 27 miles per gallon highway," he said.

The seamless operation of this advanced AWD system, say Chrysler officials, makes it a great fit for the Glacier, the new all-season "athlete" of the Chrysler 300 line of luxury sedans.

Taking a page from the looks of the Chrysler 300S, the Glacier features contemporary styling on its exterior and interior. Yet, the Glacier has the power to muscle through snow-covered roadways with a state-of-the-art eight-speed automatic transmission and a more powerful 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 engine with new sport-tuned exhaust and cold-air induction system.

While the Glacier delivers style, comfort and the increased safety of AWD, the 2013 Dodge Charger AWD Sport (based on the Charger SXT and SXT Plus models) lives up to its performance reputation with two available engines: the award-winning 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 and a 5.7-liter HEMI V8.

The Pentastar V6 now generates 300 horsepower with the addition of a sport-tuned dual exhaust system and cold-air induction system. With this engine, the car packs plenty of power, yet it offers best-in-class city and highway fuel economy (18/27 mpg).

For the true performance enthusiast, the 5.7-liter HEMI V8 engine offers 370 horsepower, 395 lb.-ft. of torque and four-cylinder-mode Fuel Saver Technology.

Both V6 and V8 models have the segment-exclusive active transfer case and front-axle disconnect system when AWD is not required. Just like in the Glacier,

the AWD system in the Dodge Sport seamlessly engages and disengages with no driver action required.

More bonuses for performance buffs in the AWD Sport include paddle shifters and a "sport" mode that, when active, enables faster gear changes.

Also, revs are held higher for faster acceleration and higher shift dynamics.

Performance and traction control are strong selling points for police departments. The new Dodge Charger Pursuit will feature the 5.7 HEMI V8 engine with available Intelligent AWD with Disconnect for maximum foul weather traction.

When AWD is not needed, the



A 2013 Dodge Charger AWD Sport tests its mettle in winter weather.

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