

# It's Time to Register for Chrysler Suppliers Training Week, Set at CTC

Chrysler has invited all its suppliers to its first 2013 Supplier Training Week (STW) May 6-10 at Chrysler's world headquarters in Auburn Hills.

The training, Chrysler officials say, is designed to enhance the

lines of communication between the automaker and its suppliers, improve efficiency and quality, and help build a solid working relationship.

"Suppliers Training Week is our suppliers' opportunity to

come in to our facility, to meet on a face-to-face basis with our purchasing and supplier quality teams, and to get some great training to help them work within our processes and systems," said Chrysler Corporate Communica-

tions Manager Katie Hepler.

STW will offer 94 instructor-led training sessions in the areas of purchasing, risk management, engineering, quality, supply chain management, manufacturing, Mopar, materials engineering as

well as finance.

To register for Supplier Training Week, visit the website at [ChryslerPortal.Covisint.com](http://ChryslerPortal.Covisint.com) or [www.ChryslerTraining.com](http://www.ChryslerTraining.com).

Registration is \$100 and closes on May 2. Walk-ins pay \$150.

# Oakland Tech News<sup>TM</sup>

AUBURN HILLS AND ENVIRONS

VOL. 31 NO. 14

News of the Automotive, Technology and Supplier Community

APRIL 15, 2013

## Red Point Engineering Converting Gas Cars to Electric

by Jim Stickford

Red Point Engineering is another Auburn Hills-based company looking to make some noise in the electric and hybrid technology business.

Along with many other firms, Red Point will have a booth at the upcoming Electric & Hybrid Technology Expo, which will be held in Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace Sept. 17-19.

The company will be showing off its technology, which is used to convert gas-powered vehicles to vehicles with electric propulsion systems.

Redpoint co-founder Monica Kedzierski said Red Point first built an EV-tech vehicle in 2008. They've built several since and are looking to "accelerate" into the marketplace.

"We started out in Silicon Valley in California," Kedzierski said. "We moved to Auburn Hills because of the supply chain and the

technical people in Michigan. Plus, Auburn Hills is right off I-75 and that's convenient. We also liked the friendliness of the city's managers."

Kedzierski said her husband, Norbert, also a founder of the company, has just applied for a patent for the company's mid-sized engine conversion system that takes a vehicle from gasoline-powered to electric propulsion.

While they say they specialize in drivetrain and powertrain technology, Kedzierski said they really deal in vehicle propulsion systems. People often don't understand the difference, she said.

Right now, Red Point is enjoying some success with its products. The firm last year received the 2012 "Best Four-Wheel Conversion EV Award" at the fourth annual Michigan Electric Vehicle Show and Rally. This year's show is in June and sponsors include DTE Energy and Schoolcraft College.

One judge said that "if I didn't know that Porsche did not release an electric car for sale, I would have thought that this electric Porsche was manufactured by the OEM."

She said their customers are different groups of people. Some are those who wish to leave the traditional ICE propulsion system behind. Others are early technology adopters.

Then there are the trendsetters who just like being ahead of the curve.

The company converts many different models of cars, but specializes in Porsches, Kedzierski said.

"We convert gas-powered vehicles to EVs," Kedzierski said. "We do it two different ways. A customer can send us his or her car and we do all the work."

Or, Red Point can send a complete conversion kit to the customer that contains everything the customer needs to do the

work himself.

Right now, they are targeting specific market niches. These include the collector market, the classic niche and the sports car enthusiasts who might enjoy a sports car with an EV propulsion system, Kedzierski said.

In addition to specializing in Porsches, Red Point offers customers a variety of options when it comes to determining a vehicle's range. Different customers have different requirements and they want options to be available before making a decision.

It's important to get the word out now on what the company can do, Kedzierski said. Hence, the booth at the upcoming Novi show.

In addition to doing vehicle conversions, Red Point Engineering provides a wide range of design and consulting services in the area of powertrain/drivetrain development and integration, Kedzierski said.



Dave Andrea

## MEMA: Suppliers Providing Muscle To Manufacturing And to Economy

by Jim Stickford

Auto suppliers play a huge role in the nation's economy and the people at the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) have the paperwork to prove it.

MEMA recently issued a report titled, "Moving America Forward." The document breaks down just how much the motor vehicle manufacturing industry contributes to the national economy, both in terms of jobs created and sustained and in dollar value added.

The report states that 734,000 people with a labor income of \$58 billion work making auto parts. The industry indirectly supports an additional 1.2 million workers who generate \$86 billion in labor income.

All told, according to MEMA, once the direct effect, the indirect effect and the induced effect (defined as the impact of spending by employees supported by auto parts manufacturing) has been added up, a total of 3.6 million jobs have been created, with a labor income of \$226 billion for a total value added to the economy of \$364 billion.

Dave Andrea, senior vice president, industry analysis & economics for the MEMA subsidiary Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA) out of Troy, said the report was issued for a very specific reason.

The report shows that Michigan leads the way in terms of jobs created by the auto supplier industry.

MEMA estimates that figure to be 102,000. Ohio is second, with 89,000 and Indiana is third with 79,000 jobs.

But, Andrea said, the latest report shows that auto supplier jobs are spreading from North to South. Tennessee with 48,000 jobs and Kentucky with 41,000 jobs now outrank Illinois with 37,000 jobs.

## Charity 'Vette Sales Net Cancer Institute Over \$2 Million

The 2014 convertible Corvette Stingray donated by GM to raise money for the Karmanos Cancer Institute was sold by the Barrett-Jackson car auction company April 5 for \$1 million to NASCAR team owner and Chevrolet dealer Rick Hendrick.

He said that while he might have paid a lot for the convertible – as well as the first 2014 Stingray coupe also sold to raise money for charity earlier this year – he owed a lot to Corvette for getting him into the car business in the first place. He paid a total of \$2.05 million for both vehicles.

The Stingray convertible will be the first retail production vehicle of this seventh-generation Corvette to come off the production line. It features a 6.2L engine with a manual transmission.

GM brought back the Stingray

name at the 2013 Detroit Auto Show in January. The General Motors Foundation is a longtime supporter of Karmanos, with nearly \$6 million in support over the last 15 years.

The auction was part of Barrett-Jackson's 10th annual Collector Car Auction, held at the South Florida Fairgrounds in Palm Beach. Those unable to attend were able to bid by visiting [www.barrett-jackson.com](http://www.barrett-jackson.com). Hendrick received a letter of authenticity, as well as the ability to select the color.

"When we asked ourselves how best to assist the Karmanos Cancer Institute in its valiant fight against this horrible disease, the first Corvette Stingray Convertible off the line for sale was an obvious choice," said Mark Reuss, president, GM North



America. "It's the best we have to offer, and it should prove to be an immensely desirable and highly collectible car."

The donation, Reuss said, demonstrates GM's outstanding commitment to the Barbara Ann

Karmanos Cancer Institute. This is the second year GM has offered one of its collector vehicles to be auctioned to benefit Karmanos.

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## Visitors Can Look or Buy at the Novi Expo

People are getting out their classic cars and anticipating an enjoyable season of car shows or maybe just hitting the road in their favorite ride. Spring is here.

Classic car buffs who are still looking for their next set of wheels will have the chance to inspect and even purchase one at the upcoming Detroit Spring Classic Car Auction.

The event will be held in The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28.

Bob Lichty, president of Class Motorcar Auctions, said about 200 vehicles will be on display and for sale. Prices will range from about \$5,000 to \$105,000.

Some of the vehicles that the public can see and bid on include a 1960 Nash Metropolitan, a 1939



1967 Corvettr

Cadillac LaSalle, a 1960 Chevy Impala Sport Coupe, a 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster, a 1988 Ferrari Mondial, a 1971 Olds 442 convertible and a 1994 Porsche Carrera.

"What's wonderful about this

event is that the cars will be on the floor for people to look at," Lichty said. "Visitors don't have to bid on the cars to enjoy them."

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## Breakfast

The Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce is co-sponsoring a special "automotive breakfast" on Wednesday, April 24.

The event's other sponsors include Oakland University, the City of Auburn Hills, *DBusiness* Magazine and Oakland Community College.

Jeff Gilbert, auto beat reporter for WWJ Newsradio 950, will give the feature presentation. He will talk about how past successes and challenges are paving the way for Michigan's future.

The breakfast will be held at Oakland Community College's Student Center in Building G at 2900 Featherstone in Auburn Hills.

The breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and goes until 10 a.m. Register at [auburnhills-chamber.com](http://auburnhills-chamber.com) and click on "events."

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