



A Faurecia employee inspects a unit at the Saline interior systems plant.

Faurecia's Sales Ranking Surges to 5th

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new, expanded North American headquarters facility (also in Auburn Hills) to be completed sometime in 2014.

In the North American market, 32 percent of Faurecia's sales are generated by emissions control; 31 percent by interior systems; 34 percent by automotive seating and 3 percent by automotive exteriors.

The company's acquisition in June 2012 of the Automotive Components Holdings (ACH) interior systems business at the Saline, Mich., plant helped lift Faurecia to the number one position among interiors suppliers last year, while contributing significantly to its rise in the rankings overall among North American suppliers.

The former Saline ACH interiors business represents nearly \$368 million of Faurecia's sales.

"Faurecia's acquisition of the Saline business reinforced our leadership position in interior systems and our global partnership with Ford Motor Company," said Heneka.

"It strategically fits with Faurecia's key priorities, directly tying to our core focus, continuous improvement in operating performance, global customer expansion, technology leadership and strategic growth plans.

"We see tremendous opportunities ahead for Faurecia, employees, local communities and other key stakeholders."

In 2012, while light vehicle production was growing at a fast rate in North America, Faurecia sales outpaced that rate, growing by 41.3 percent in 2012 alone.

The new headquarters facility soon to be under construction – at 2800 High Meadow Circle in Oakland Technology Park near I-75 and University Drive – posi-

tions Faurecia North America in a more highly visible, easily accessible, more spacious location that is tailored to its needs.

Upon the building's completion in the spring of 2014, up to 700 employees will be transferred to the building from three smaller Michigan facilities: the current Faurecia Automotive Seating Technical Center on Meijer Drive in Troy; Faurecia's Oakland Shared Services Center on Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills; and its Oakland Technical Center for Automotive Exteriors on W. Entrance Drive in Auburn Hills.

Faurecia North America currently accounts for nearly 30 percent of the Nanterre, France-based supplier's global sales, and is one of the regions growing most rapidly for Faurecia sales. Ford, GM, Chrysler, Fiat, Volkswagen, BMW and other automotive OEMs are Faurecia customers.

The Show Must Not Go On; Buyer to Demolish Cinemas

by Irena Granaas

The business climate in Auburn Hills continues to glow red-hot, and an illustration is that the former Showcase Cinemas will be demolished to make way for a high-tech park.

Steve Cohen, director of Community Development for Auburn Hills, said the long-vacant site previously owned by National Amusement has been purchased by Novi-based Amson Dembs Development, Inc.

Cohen said no formal date for demolition has been set, but he expects it will likely start early in the month of July.

Cohen said it looks like the property will end up being used by at least two companies for their corporate headquarters. One user, an automotive-related business, is already under contract. The name is to be announced later.

Cohen noted that once the theaters are down, the site is very attractive to businesses as they will be easily visible from I-75.

"It's a very high-profile location. The plan is, once people see activity at the site, the second user will come along pretty quickly," he said.

The Showcase Cinemas at 2150 North Opdyke Road closed 11 years ago when the established movie site was unable to keep pace with competition from the newer, then state-of-the-art Star Theatre (now AMC) at the nearby Great Lakes Crossing Outlets.

"Amson Development is pleased to take a prime site that has sat vacant for so many years and turn it into a high-end business park that will continue to fuel the economic development and growth of Auburn Hills," said Ryan Dembs, president of Amson Dembs Development.

"This is our first development project in the city of Auburn Hills and we look forward to contributing to the energy and vitality of this community."

The property has a long history as a movie venue, starting in 1948 when the Blue Sky Drive-In opened with space for 700 cars and later became part of the National Amusements chain.

As the era of the drive-in theater came to a close, the Blue Sky was torn down to make way for the Showcase Cinemas Auburn Hills megaplex, which opened Dec. 8, 1989, and closed in January 2002.

Auburn Hills city officials said Amson Dembs Development purchased the property in May. Development of the approximately 21-acre site is slated to start this summer and is expected to take about 10 to 12 months for completion of the first phase.

"This blockbuster project is generating a lot of buzz around town," said Cohen. "Our community envisioned a beautifully landscaped high-tech park for that property since the day the theater closed 11 years ago.

"It's great to see Amson Dembs Development demolish that vacant building and its 'sea of parking,' he continued. "By repurposing the land into a major job center, they're helping make Auburn Hills' vision for this city become a reality."

"Obviously, it's great taking a building and a property that has been vacant since 2002 and putting it back into business," said Stephanie Carroll, coordinator of Community Relations and Legislative Affairs for the city. "The city is very excited about the investment that is being made in the property.

"It's zoned technology and research, so it's a perfect fit."

'Coolest Under \$18K' List Names 3 Detroit OEMs' Cars

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this Coolest Cars runner-up."

KBB said consumers would like the car because it delivers "an outstanding mix of style and substance" and that the 2013 Ford Focus enriches its fundamentally solid and efficient basic package with the availability of class-leading technologies, including My Ford Touch, active park assist and a PowerShift dual-clutch 6-speed automatic transmission, as well as offering a pure electric alternative.

The Dart also rated high in the eyes of KBB's reviewers.

They stated that, while the Dart is an American car with Italian roots, it is the product of both the Chrysler Group and Fiat.

KBB reviewers wrote, "The

multinational compact sedan offers its own unique combination of personalization and performance, including all the tech you need."

KBB also said of the Dart that it was Dodge's first compact model since the Neon, and that the 2013 Dart "is an impressive exercise that's stylish, roomy, well-finished and offers loads of powertrain and personalization possibilities.

"With a host of new techno touches, innovative user-friendly features and multiple trim grades – including a late-arriving, performance-oriented R/T variant – this engaging front-drive sedan can be tailored to meet almost any set of buyer preferences.

"Given its equally aggressive pricing, the 2013 Dodge Dart is poised to be a major player in a

super-competitive market segment that includes established heavyweights like the Chevrolet Cruze, Ford Focus, Honda Civic and Mazda Mazda3."

KBB said of the Spark, "The only all-new nameplate on this year's list is also the first car in the world to integrate with Apple's Siri assistant via 'Eyes Free' mode. Press a button on the steering wheel and ask Siri to read you text messages or sports scores, or compose your own message via voice. Connectivity is cool."

KBB elaborated further by saying in its review of the Spark, "America's rising gas prices have made this model more relevant. That being said, the Spark's miniscule size, edgy styling and smart packaging are what really make it stand out."

Fireworks On Tap for Those Visiting Golling Car Show

by Irena Granaas

Thursday is the Fourth of July, and what better way to celebrate all things American than by enjoying Golling Buick-GMC's second Classic Car Show of the summer season?

Show hours are 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the dealership, with dash plaques to be given away for those who register their cars early, prizes to be awarded, 50/50 raffles, food and live entertainment provided by 2 Days Gone.

This will be the second show of the summer. The first show at Golling Buick-GMC was held June 21.

"It was a huge success," said volunteer event coordinator Bill Kokenos, who added about 150 classic cars were entered. "Our charity, the Lake Orion Veterans Memorial, made over \$600 in food concessions and 50/50 raffles that will help maintain the war memorial."

Kokenos said all the dealership's

car shows are free, with never a charge for admission. And the dealership donates the food, so organizers get to keep the profits.

Kokenos announced an added perk for the July 4 show – organizers will transport everyone who has registered a classic car at the event down to see the Lake Orion fireworks.

"This is the first time we've done anything like that," he said.

Like all of the dealership's car shows, the show uses food concession sales and 50/50 raffles to raise money for a charitable cause.

This time, the cause is a memorial scholarship fund established in the name of Kenley Marie Dabrowski. The scholarship will go to a Lake Orion High School senior who attended Stadium Drive Elementary School.

Golling Buick-GMC is in Lake Orion at 1491 S. Lapeer Road. For information, contact Kokenos at b21koko@gmail.com.



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