

Tech Center News

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Growing Sales
Of F-150 Pickups
Drive Ford to Add
900 Employees

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- F-Series sales increased 22 percent in the January-to-July period, compared with the same seven months last year;
 - F-Series sales were at 60,449 in July, representing the best July sales month since 2006 and a 23 percent increase over 2012;
 - Based on July U.S. sales results, F-Series sales now have increased for 24 consecutive months.
- F-150 leads in a variety of fields, including:
- 68 percent market share in hazardous materials work;
 - 67 percent share in the oil pipeline industry;
 - 62 percent share in road and highway maintenance.

With the additional crew at the Kansas City Assembly Plant, Ford has reached 75 percent of its goal to create 12,000 hourly jobs in the U.S. by 2015.

GM to Add \$167M
For 2 Vehicles at
Tennessee Plant

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top quality for our customers.”

Located 40 miles south of Nashville, GM Spring Hill Manufacturing operates as a flexible-assembly plant, capable of building a variety of products on a range of platforms, Grotz said. The facility is designed to supplement production for plants being retooled for new products or add production to meet sales spikes in real time.

Chevrolet Equinox production began at the site in the third quarter of 2012 to meet growing consumer demand and support GM’s Canada operations, Grotz said. GM Spring Hill Manufacturing, home to the former Saturn brand from 1990 to 2007, operates as a fully integrated complex.

Baby Falcon Doesn’t Survive ‘The Wild’ in Warren

There’s bad news for bird lovers. The last surviving Lowe Campbell Ewald falcon hatchling – or eyas – died on July 27.

The hatchling, named Amelia, was part of a peregrine falcon nest of three eggs that was discovered on the roof of the Campbell Ewald building on Van Dyke in Warren across the street from the GM Tech Center in the spring.

The advertising agency was excited about the discovery and shared the news with the world through a special camera that uploaded images to a special web site they created to monitor the birds.

Lowe Campbell Ewald spokesperson Mary Evans said that Amelia hatched from her egg on May 14.

“One egg didn’t hatch,” Evans said. “One hatched on May 14, that was Amelia. The other egg hatched on May 15, but that chick didn’t survive.”

The state’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was contacted and a special banding ceremony was held on June 5 so that the DNR could monitor the surviving hatchling.

Evans said that when they contacted the DNR about the nest, they were told that it wasn’t uncommon for an egg not to hatch and that they should be surprised if one of the hatchlings didn’t survive.

Peregrine falcons, as highest-order predators, have always been relatively rare. In the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s, DDT damaged egg shells, further depressing the population. This damage lasts to this day.

“We don’t know the reason why,” Evans said, “but I was told that the unusual weather we’ve

been having might have played a part in one of the hatchlings not surviving.”

Evans said Amelia grew quickly and by late July was taking flights on her own.

But Evans said that Amelia was found injured at the GM Tech Center on July 25.

“She was found in an enclosed courtyard with an injury to her right wing and a small open wound near her elbow,” Evans said. “The hope was that Amelia would successfully heal and return to her parents. However, it all just seemed too much for her. This is tough, but I’ve been told that it’s very difficult for baby peregrine falcons to survive in the wild.”

They don’t know what happened to Amelia, Evans said, but the guess is that she flew into a window and injured herself that way. She was taken to a place called Spirit Filled Wings of Oakland County to heal, but it was reported that she died on July 27.

Christine Becher, peregrine falcon nesting coordinator for the DNR wrote, “I would like to take this moment to thank those folks who found Amelia grounded at the GM Tech Center and took the time to contact us so we could rescue her.

“I would also like to thank Linda Bianco, raptor rehabilitator and Dr. Pasternak, veterinarian, for their attempts to help.

“Please keep in mind that even though Amelia had fledged weeks earlier, she was not yet an expert at flying; she was still in the learning stages of both flying and hunting. Sadly, peregrine falcons have an approximate 50-60 percent survival rate in the first



DNR officials in May tag the falcon hatchling nesting on the Lowe Campbell Ewald building. Sadly, the baby bird died two weeks ago.

year, and only 25 percent of birds make it through the second year. It is however possible for a healthy falcon who survives those first two years to live to the average age of 13 years.”

Evans said that it’s possible that Amelia’s parents will continue to nest on the roof of the Lowe Campbell Ewald building and that they might see some hatchlings next year.

Ultrasonic Welding Improves Batteries

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ufacturing Systems Research Lab, Advanced Propulsion Center and the Brownstown plant. GM first applied the process on the award-winning Chevrolet Volt – its groundbreaking extended-range electric vehicle – and further refined it for the Cadillac ELR, Darovitz said.

“This effort is an outstanding example of teamwork between research and manufacturing engineering,” said Catherine Clegg, GM vice president of Global Manufacturing Engineering.

“It has helped integrate the use of highly technical, complex technology into a sustainable manufacturing process, which means we can consistently deliver high-quality batteries to our customers for the Cadillac ELR.”

She said the ELR’s T-shaped battery pack is located along the centerline of the vehicle, between the front and rear wheels

for optimal weight distribution. The 5.5-foot-long, 435-pound pack supplies energy to an advanced electric drive unit capable of 295 lb.-ft. of instant torque to propel the vehicle. Using only the energy stored in the battery, the ELR will deliver a GM-estimated range of about 35 miles of pure electric driving, depending on terrain, driving techniques and temperature.

Charging the ELR’s battery can be done with a 120V electrical outlet or a dedicated 240V charging station. The vehicle can be completely recharged in about 4.5 hours using a 240V outlet, depending on the outside temperature, Clegg said.

The Cadillac ELR is built at GM’s Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant, one of the few high-volume electric vehicle manufacturing facilities based in the U.S. Its battery pack is built from cell to pack at Brownstown and shipped to Detroit-Hamtramck for assembly into the vehicle.

To Increase Tigershark Engine Output,
Chrysler Will Invest \$52M in Michigan

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paying jobs,” said General Holiefield, UAW vice president and director of the Chrysler Department. “This is what can happen with dedication, commitment and a focus on delivering quality products to our customers.”

Trenton North ceased operations in May 2011, but Chrysler Group announced a \$114 million investment a month later to repurpose nearly 400,000 square feet of the plant to produce core components for the Pentastar engine produced at its sister plant, Trenton South, Harlow said.

Trenton North began producing the Pentastar engine in January 2012. In November 2012, the automaker announced an additional \$40 million investment to add a flexible production line that can run both the Pentastar engine and the Tigershark (I-4) engine. Trenton North is also building the 3.2-liter Pentastar engine for the all-new 2014 Jeep Cherokee.

The Dundee Engine Plant, built

in 2004, is owned by Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance (GEMA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chrysler Group that was formerly a joint venture between Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Hyundai Motor Company and DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Harlow said.

In December 2009, Chrysler Group announced a \$179 million investment to launch production of an advanced-technology, fuel-efficient 1.4-liter engine for the North American market, a collaboration between Chrysler Group and Fiat powertrain groups.

Harlow said Chrysler announced in October of 2010 an additional \$150 million investment to expand capacity and prepare the plant for production of future engines.

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