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2014 Cadillac CTS Rides 'The Ring' At Nürburgring

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braking, ride and handling," said Dave Leone, CTS executive chief engineer, Performance Luxury Vehicles. "The new CTS models had a lot to live up to considering the nameplate's history of outstanding performance, and we were not disappointed."

Measuring 12.9 miles and including some 154 turns, the Nürburgring's Nordschleife ("north loop") is widely considered the world's most-demanding course for vehicle validation.

Cadillac vehicle dynamics performance engineers Kevin Zelenka and Jeff Grabowski drove full production models of CTS and CTS Vsport with no performance modifications, which they say validates the new 2014 CTS sedan that goes on sale this fall.

"The new CTS was an absolute riot to drive on the Ring," said Zelenka. "It's more athletic and refined, and the Vsport proved extremely capable. If a car performs well on the Ring, it will perform well on any road in the world."

The CTS has been the centerpiece of Cadillac's portfolio for more than a decade. This CTS is one inch lower, five inches longer and over 200 pounds lighter than its predecessor. It also has lower curb weight, greater structural stiffness and more horsepower than its primary competitors, said Corbett.

He added that the new CTS is engineered from the ground up to deliver a driving experience that combines sport-tuned handling with world-class comfort.

GM Orion Plant's Paint Shop Features 'Blue Suit Crew'

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outstanding craftsmanship.

Nadrowski said this attention to detail includes banning many everyday personal hygiene items – such as lotion, cologne, hair spray, deodorant and silicon – from being used in GM paint shops because their mere presence can cause the new paint to become contaminated.

And, Nadrowski said, it's not just management that is looking to perfect the painting process.

Paint shop employees are constantly seeking the sources of paint contamination, looking for clues and hunting down potential contaminants.

"The process of painting a vehicle properly is much harder than the average person would assume," said Anton Busuttill, Orion Assembly's paint shop area manager.

"We have many different factors that we have to be cognizant of at all times.

"The weather – including temperature and humidity – is one of those major factors over which we have no control."

The goal for the Blue Suit Crew is a perfect finish.

"There are precise stages each

Auto Sector Helping Attract Business to Oakland County

by Jim Stickford

Oakland County has been working hard to attract new businesses.

And, according to Irene Spanos, one factor that helps is the auto industry.

Spanos, speaking at the third "Talent Townhall" sponsored by the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce, was emphasizing how Oakland County's resources can help employers find the employees they need to grow and prosper.

As director of Oakland County's Economic and Community Affairs department, Spanos said, "We're excited about how the auto sector is helping attract IT and infotainment businesses to the county. We are also having success with the life sciences."

With all the hospitals in the county, Oakland County is bigger than the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic, Spanos said, adding that the county also is home to many medical supply manufacturers, again making the county bigger than places like North Carolina, which is known for its medical research.

One of the ways county government is helping promote life science in Oakland is through its Inno-Vention conferences. The next one is at the Troy Marriott Hotel in Troy Nov. 6-8, Spanos said.

INNO-VENTION 2013 will focus on how information technology is fueling changes in health care and its impact on the next generation of medical devices. The conference, with the Medical Main Street Network, builds valuable relationships and productive collaborations in the Southeast Michigan region and globally.

Spanos added that Oakland County is home to 900 foreign-owned firms from 37 different countries and that Japan is leading the way with 270 companies in Oakland. China has now opened up 34 companies she said, and even New Zealand has one.

"We're looking to put together an IT forum," Spanos said. "Did you know the creator of Apple's Siri system lives in Oakland County? So what we want to do is pull all the IT people and resources in the county together to see what we at the county can do to help grow that sector."

Oakland also has resources, she indicated, to help small businesses best develop IT systems

that will help their businesses.

"People have a lot of questions about what's best for them," Spanos said. "Sometimes they're told they need a new server. Then they're told they should go to the cloud. Having people they can talk to who are not salesmen can really help their businesses grow."

Part of what makes Oakland County attractive to companies is the highly-educated workforce, Spanos said. The county has double the number of Ph.D.s than the national average. And quality of life is important as well.

"What we've learned is that when companies look for a place to relocate, good government and incentives are important," Spanos said. "But people also want to work where they live. We have a wonderful quality of life in the county and that helps."

Once businesses come to the county, there are resources to help them find the workers they need to be successful, said John Almstadt, manager of Oakland County Workforce Development.

These programs are funded through a variety of state and federal programs and they do things like help with talent recruitment, do candidate pre-screening – so companies don't have to sift through 500 resumes – offer training support, offer labor market information and provide support networks.

Jennifer Llewellyn, director of Troy Michigan Works! and Career Development facilitator, was the final speaker. She said one of the problems small businesses have is that they don't know what resources are out there that can help them.

"When I talk to small business owners, they ask what can the

Mann's 1970 Mopar Charger R/T Picked as 'Top Eliminator'

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car includes the 440 Magnum V8, automatic transmission, performance axle package, power front disc brakes, air conditioning, power steering and an 8-track tape player.

The '70 Charger R/T belonging to Mann, is from Piscataway, N.J., and joined the first Mopar Top Eliminator winner chosen in 2013, a 1964 Plymouth Savoy owned by Miles Watsko of Winnipeg, Manitoba, as featured cars in the Mopar display at the Woodward Dream Cruise, Hecker said.

As a new addition to the pro-

gram, the third Mopar "Top Eliminator" vehicle selection was to focus on the top rides that raced down the track at the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis, Ind., Labor Day weekend.

Mopar will recognize a Sportsman racer who competes in a Chrysler Group vehicle with the "Top Eliminator" trophy, and the chance to lead the HEMI Challenge parade during the event.

Similar to the current "Top Eliminator" criteria, this program expansion honors an entrant's performance and personal statement brought to life in the vehicle they compete in during race weekends, Hecker said.

Candidates for a fourth "Top Eliminator" winning vehicle were to be selected online allowing aficionados to upload images of their Moparized ride.

A fan vote was used to select the best candidate from among those posted.

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John Almstadt, Oakland County Workforce Development manager

county do for them," Llewellyn said. "They say they have HR departments after all."

Llewellyn said that in one instance the county was able to screen applicants for a manufacturer who needed to hire a couple hundred workers.

If the one HR staffer at the business had to look at all the resumes, she never would have been able to go through them all to get the 200 workers the business needed.

"We have one-stop shopping for job postings," Llewellyn said. "We can do the promotions, the social media work, screen candidates."

Llewellyn said that when she

talks with manufacturers, she hears about the need for people with the skills to do advanced manufacturing work.

That's why Business Works! in Oakland County is hosting a seminar on Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the Troy Marriott from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The subject will be how companies can find out about employer-based training opportunities for in-demand occupations and the ways Oakland County can help businesses succeed. To learn more about the event, visit the "Business Works! in Oakland County" web site. County executive L. Brooks Patterson will be one of the speakers.



Special gloves avoid leaving lint.

vehicle goes through in order to leave GM's paint shop with phenomenal colors," Busuttill said.


"The vehicles are prepped, dipped in treatment, and sprayed with PVC antichip material, primer, base coat and finally clearcoat.

"The vehicles are then checked to ensure they are in compliance in terms of quality.


"If they meet expectations, they are sent to General Assembly to continue the build process."

Yves Dontigny, paint production shift leader at the Orion facility, has been with GM for 18 years. He started out at the company's St. Therese facility in Canada and has worked at many plants.

He said the paint system in Orion Assembly is able to save time and money by eliminating a



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