



Officials from the Auburn Hills government and Ralco Industries recently broke ground on a new world headquarters for the auto supplier.

## Delphi Launches New Telematics Technology

The global telematics market is poised to grow with approximately 104 million new cars expected to have some form of connectivity by 2025, according to a recent study from Ernst & Young. And thanks to Delphi Automotive, European drivers will soon be able to enjoy the benefits of advanced, secure and affordable cloud-based telematics.

Delphi Automotive publicly announced the upcoming launch of its new cloud-based automotive connectivity service for European consumers. Delphi Connect, which received multiple technology and innovation awards, was demonstrated at the IAA Frankfurt motor show. The device provides a car-to-cloud/cloud-to-car connectivity service and works in most vehicles built in 1996 and later.

Delphi Connect is planned for introduction in Europe in early 2014. To access the service, car owners simply plug in the Delphi Connect module to the onboard diagnostics (OBD) port of their vehicle. The service uses a dedicated and secure cloud server to store data and provide access to certain vehicle information.

Through a smartphone app (Android or Apple) or a web portal, the user will have access to numerous features such as receiving alerts about their vehicle's health and any necessary repairs.

## Ralco to Build 125,000-Square-Foot World Headquarters

by Jim Stickford

Ralco Industries broke ground on a new world headquarters and manufacturing facility in Auburn Hills on Sept. 6.

"As a rapidly expanding manufacturer of stamping and robotic welded assemblies, our people, facility and location are critical components to our success," said Ralco President Jim Piper.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to grow in Auburn Hills, which we have called home for more than 25 years. The city of Auburn Hills and Oakland County's dedicated workforce, great infrastructure, and pro-business climate make this the perfect place to expand our operations.

"Cooperation and leadership from the MEDC, Oakland County, and the City of Auburn Hills demonstrated commitment to economic development for Michigan and our success as a business.

"Guidance from our real estate advisor, Plante Moran Cresa, de-

veloper J.B. Donaldson, and Wynn Design team made this truly a team effort."

Auburn Hills City Manager Pete Auger said: "We are thrilled that Ralco Industries, Inc. has made the decision to continue to invest and expand in Auburn Hills. This project demonstrates Ralco's commitment to the community and to the state of Michigan. Ralco is a valued corporate partner and their decision to build here in Auburn Hills further solidifies our reputation as the premier global manufacturing address in the Midwest."

Plante Moran Cresa President and CEO Bill Lichwalla said, "Plante Moran Cresa is proud to have the opportunity to act as a real estate advisor and owner's representative during the planning, site selection, design and construction of Ralco Industries, Inc.'s new world headquarters. This new facility will reflect the world-class workforce, innovation and leading technology Ralco Industries, Inc. delivers to its customers."

Sarah Piper, building project manager, said the company has been a Michigan-based outfit since 1970 and has been in Auburn Hills since 1987.

"This project has been years in the making," Piper said. "We've been working on it since 2006 and we're thrilled to stay in Michigan."

There was some thought about relocating in the South, but the state was able to provide Ralco with the incentives it needed to stay in the state, Piper said. They were pleased to see Steve Hilfiner, executive vice president and

COO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation at the groundbreaking. He and the MEDC's efforts to keep Ralco in the state paid off, she said.

The 125,000-square-foot building itself will be on 18.5 acres of property along the north side of Taylor Road near the Fieldstone Golf Club, Piper said. It should be completed and running by the end of the summer of 2014.

Currently, Ralco has four facilities located in and around Auburn Hills. Once the building is complete, all operations will be under one roof, Piper said.



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