

### Tech Center News

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## Lack of Skilled Workers Hampers Business Growth

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enough qualified applicants to fill these high-paying jobs,” Patterson said. “These are jobs that will go unfilled unless we find qualified workers.”

EdEn Inc., the Rochester-based research firm that conducted the survey, said the results showed an increasing level of technical knowledge is critical for jobs, regardless of education level, Huber said. They also revealed that not all employers use the most modern methods when recruiting potential employees.

“Some companies are still putting a sign out in front of the business looking for employees instead of using social media or more modern techniques,” Gibb said. “We’ve got to do better.”

The survey focused on the region of the Economic Growth Alliance: Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair counties and also Wayne.

## U.S. Army Testing Platform for Future Military Vehicles

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man, TARDEC Public Affairs spokesman.

Funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the ULV project was set up to design, develop and build three identical lightweight tactical research prototypes emphasizing survivability for occupants and meeting four research objectives:

- Payload – 4,500 lbs.;
- Performance – at 14,000 lbs. curb weight;
- Protection – comparable to the currently fielded Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles;
- Price – \$250,000 each in a hypothetical 5,000-unit production run.

TARDEC’s Ground System Survivability group partnered with non-traditional defense contractors to bring the engineering expertise of both to the project. In only 16 months, the team moved from design to prototype, Karaki said.

“The Army’s approach was to create synergistic survivability,” explained TARDEC GSS Associate Director Steve Knott. “Soft deliverables – such as data and lessons learned – and hard deliverables – such as test assets and spare automotive components – will help shape, inform and support tactical vehicle programs, technology demonstrator efforts and/or TARDEC innovation projects to maximize the overall return on investment.”

The team produced three vehicles: two will be used for mobility, mine blast and ballistic survivability testing and the third is moving into TARDEC’s Ground Systems Power and Energy Laboratory (GSPEL) for mobility and fuel efficiency testing. Results are expected to be available in early 2014, Huffman said.

Vehicle information – including

specifications, photos and videos – is located at [www.tardec.army.mil/ulv](http://www.tardec.army.mil/ulv).

Highlights of ULV’s powertrain, design, communications and protection, focusing on mobility and survivability, include a powertrain improvement.

With two electric motors (front and rear), the ULV’s hybrid powertrain improves both mobility and survivability.

By eliminating the need for a driveshaft, the underbody can be designed to perform well in a blast event, Karaki said. And either of the electric motors can power the vehicle, providing redundancy.

A lightweight diesel engine powers the electric motors and also enables: immediate launch; stealth drive; silent watch; exportable power generation; high torque at low/near zero speeds, and improved fuel economy.

The ULV’s final design was developed by lead contractor Hardware LLC, Huffman said. The cab provides more interior space than similarly equipped tactical vehicles.

Remote-mounted and remote-controlled vehicle electronics reduce HVAC loads and create space. “Clamshell” front and rear doors open away from the B-pillar, creating a protected area for soldiers to exit.

“The cab is designed to have seven egress points facilitated by quick-release and removable components, stowage space for personnel and mission-specific items, and 360-degree situational awareness through front- and rear-mounted ultra-wide-angle

thermal imagers,” explained TARDEC engineer Vladimir Gendlin.

The ULV features lower-weight command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) technologies focused on warfighter needs.

The ULC’s hybrid design allows for a “clean underbody” through the elimination of various automotive components potentially allowing for blast-mitigation technologies to perform un-

inhibited during a blast event, Huffman said.

This design provides added opportunities to integrate various blast-mitigating kits under the hull for higher threat levels.

Interior technologies include a crushable floating floor system that decouples the crew’s feet and legs from the steel hull and absorbs energy, adjustable stroking seats, five-point restraint systems, and spatial accommodations to mitigate head impacts and flail injuries.

## Ford, Chrysler Sales Rise

September’s auto sales are expected to snap a 27-month streak of year-over-year gains dating back to June 2011, forecasts Edmunds.com. And while September’s sales look shaky on the surface, a calendar anomaly likely explains the decline: Labor Day weekend sales were included in September 2012, but this year, Labor Day sales counted toward August.

“It looks like sales took a big hit in September, but the monthly SAAR is up year over year, and the industry is still selling more cars per day than it did last year,” says Edmunds.com Senior Analyst Jessica Caldwell. “Many of the fundamentals that have driven strong car sales over the last year are still in place, and we can expect them to contribute to a solid final quarter to close out 2013.”

Edmunds.com predicts that 1,143,968 new cars and trucks will be sold in the U.S. in September

for an estimated Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR) of 15.3 million. The projected sales will be a 23.8 percent decrease from August 2013, and a 3.7 percent decrease from last year.

Edmunds.com estimates that retail SAAR will come in at 12.7 million vehicles in September, with fleet transactions accounting for 17.0 percent of total sales. An estimated 3.01 million used cars will be sold in September for a SAAR of 36.2 million (compared with 3.04 million used car sales in August).

Ford and Chrysler were the bright spots in a down month for automakers. Ford is expected to see a five percent sales increase in September, while Chrysler will see sales tick up 0.7 percent. VW/Audi and Hyundai/Kia, meanwhile, are projected to take the biggest hits in September, falling 15.6 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively, from September 2012.

## Warren Band Concert Set for Oct. 20

The Warren Concert Band’s fall concert is set for Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m. in the Warren Woods Community Theatre, 13400 Twelve Mile in Warren.

The concert is titled “A Southwestern Fiesta.” Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

Small children are free. Tickets

may be purchased at the door.

Band conductor Jeremy Duby has chosen works by Rogers and Hammerstein, Aaron Copeland, Elmer Bernstein and Rossini’s “William Tell Overture.”

To learn more about the concert and other Warren Concert Band presentations, go to [warrenconcertband.com](http://warrenconcertband.com).

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