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Sonic Dusk (left) and Sonic RS Sedan (right) join the Sonic RS Hatch in 2014.

Trigui Appointed
Executive VP,
Chief Technology
Officer at DURA

Nizar Trigui has been appointed executive vice president and chief technology officer for DURA Automotive Systems, a company based in Auburn Hills.

Trigui, most recently serving as global chief engineer of Sustainable Mobility for Ford, will lead all DURA new product development, Advanced Engineering and Innovation Activities. In the newly created executive position, Trigui reports directly to DURA CEO Lynn Tilton.

“Creating a culture of innovation in both product and process that provides vision and competitive advantage to our customers will be the lifeblood of the new DURA organization,” said Tilton. “We are delighted that Mr. Trigui has joined our team as chief technology officer; in a world of rapidly-evolving technology, his extensive experience and insights will enhance execution of the bold initiatives set forth for the coming years by our executive leadership.”

Before joining DURA, Trigui served for more than 20 years in advanced technology and product engineering leadership positions with Ford and its affiliated brands.

Chevrolet unveiled at the recent L.A. Auto Show two new sedan options to the Sonic lineup in 2014 – the performance-inspired RS and the stylish Dusk.

The options further demonstrated Chevy’s commitment to the subcompact segment and to offering younger buyers expressive options at affordable prices, said GM Sonic spokesperson Annalisa Bluhm.

The suggested retail price for the 2014 Sonic RS sedan starts at \$20,530 including \$825 destination.

Sonic Dusk starts at \$20,945 including destination. Title and license fees are extra.

“Keeping the Sonic lineup fresh and offering consumers more choice is a priority for Chevrolet,” said Cristi Landy, Marketing director for Chevrolet small cars. “The Sonic RS and Dusk sedans offer all of the great attributes that have made the Sonic a popular choice in the subcompact segment and they add performance and design cues.”

The performance-inspired Sonic RS sedan joins the RS hatchback in the lineup and is powered by the Ecotec 1.4L turbo engine rated at 138 horsepower and 148 lb.-ft. of torque.

Unique transmission gearing in the six-speed manual, or a 3.53 final drive ratio for automatic-equipped models, along with a sport-tuned suspension and lowered ride height, enhances the

car’s performance feel, Landy said.

One of the most dramatic Sonic RS cues, she said, is its front fascia, which has a deep air dam design that enhances the car’s road-hugging stance. Vertical intakes at the edges of the fascia reinforce a wide, low proportion and house the fog lamps. Interior refinements include:

- Aluminum sport pedals;
- A sport three-spoke, leather-wrapped steering wheel with contrasting stitching, and a racing-inspired flat-bottom design;
- Leather-appointed front bucket seats with red RS accents to the sportier appearance.

EPA-estimated fuel economy ratings are the same as the Sonic RS hatchback – 27 mpg city and 34 mpg highway with the manual transmission.

The Sonic RS sedan initially will be available in three color combinations: black granite metallic, silver ice metallic or summit white, all with jet black leather-appointed interiors.

The Sonic Dusk sedan, first shown as a concept at the 2011 SEMA Show, is meant to bring sophistication and style to the subcompact market, Landy said, which is done via unique exterior appointments that include a ground effects package, rear spoiler, 18-inch aluminum wheels with a Midnight Silver matte finish and four-wheel disc brakes – unique to Dusk and RS.

Sonic Dusk is powered by the

Ecotec 1.4L turbocharged engine, rated at 138 horsepower and matched with six-speed manual and automatic transmissions. EPA-estimated fuel economy ratings are 29 mpg city and 40 mpg highway, with the manual transmission.

Also new in 2014, Chevrolet is introducing performance parts that enhance Sonic’s handling, braking and performance, Landy said. The Chevrolet Performance parts include:

- 1.4L Turbo Stage Kit with high-flow exhaust, boosting the car up 10 horsepower and 15 lb.-ft. of torque;
- Cold-air induction;
- Suspension kit with lowered ride height;
- Brake package with Wilwood front calipers;
- 18-inch wheel-and-tire package.

These parts join appearance

accessories announced in 2013, Bluhm said. Both models go on sale in spring 2014 and will be manufactured at Orion Assembly in Michigan. Sonic is the only subcompact assembled in America.

The Chevrolet Sonic and Spark are the first vehicles to offer Siri Eyes Free integration, Bluhm said.

Through the cars’ available Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system, customers with a compatible iPhone running iOS6 or iOS7 can direct Siri to perform a number of tasks while they safely keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

Also, the available BringGo navigation app, the most affordable navigation system in its class, offers easy-to-use features that included 3-D maps with lane suggestions, live traffic data, and more, Bluhm said.

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