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Trucks Were King of the Road in Detroit 3 Sales in 2013

Sierra, Silverado Lead Way for GM, With Ram Truck Pacing Chrysler, Ford's F-Series Nation's Best Seller

Sales for December and the year are in, and while all three Detroit automakers reported stronger vehicle sales, it was the truck that led the way for each manufacturer.

The news for GM was mixed. While GM dealers delivered 2.8 million vehicles in the United States in 2013, retail sales increased 11 percent and total sales were up 7 percent compared with 2012.

In December, dealers delivered 230,157 vehicles, down 6 percent versus a year ago. Retail sales were down 6 percent and fleet sales were down 9 percent.

The all-new Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and GMC Sierra 1500 helped the company increase its full-size pickup sales by 14 percent. GMC sales were the strongest since 2007, and the Sierra now has the highest average transaction price of any full-size pickup truck line in the industry, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates.

Overall, GM's share of the \$40,000-and-up light-duty pickup segment, which is about one-third of the market, has increased 7 percentage points to 36 percent.

"2013 was the year that GM and the auto industry put the last traces of the recession in the rearview mirror," said Kurt McNeil, vice president, U.S. Sales Operations, "so now we can devote our full attention to the things that matter most to customers: compelling design, world-class quality and delivering the best ownership experience in the business."

"GM has laid a strong foundation to pursue all of these goals. We have announced more than

\$10 billion in capital investments in the United States since 2009 and plowed billions more into R&D to refresh our product portfolio at twice the rate of the last few years."

Cadillac finished the year as the industry's fastest-growing full-line luxury brand, said spokesman Jim Cain.

Buick had its best sales year since 2006 as the brand expanded into new segments with the



2013 Ram 1500



2013 GMC Sierra



2013 Ford F-150

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Fiat Buys Up Chrysler Shares; Can Merger Be Far Behind?

(AP) DETROIT – Automaker Fiat SpA has reached an agreement to acquire the remaining shares of Chrysler for \$3.65 billion in payments to a union-controlled trust fund.

Fiat already owns 58.5 percent of Chrysler's shares, with the remaining 41.5 percent held by a United Auto Workers union trust

fund that pays health care bills for retirees.

Under the deal, Fiat will make an initial payment of \$1.9 billion to the fund, plus an additional \$1.75 billion upon closing the deal.

Chrysler will also make additional payments totaling \$700 million to the fund as part of an

agreement with the UAW. The deal is expected to close on or before Jan. 20, according to a statement from Chrysler.

Sergio Marchionne, CEO of both Fiat and Chrysler, has long sought to acquire the union's shares in order to combine the two companies.

"The unified ownership struc-

ture will now allow us to fully execute our vision of creating a global automaker that is truly unique in terms of mix of experience, perspective and know-how, a solid and open organization," Marchionne said in a statement issued by Turin, Italy-based Fiat.

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Chrysler Foundation Supports FIRST Robotics Teams

The Chrysler Foundation has issued grants totaling \$229,000 to support FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics teams and organizations in Michigan.

The grants will enable more than 1,000 middle and high school students to discover the rewards of science and technology as they compete in the annual international robotics competition.

The Chrysler Foundation's funding announcement coincides with the official start of the 2014 FIRST Robotics' design-and-build season on Jan. 4, Frazier said. During this phase, teams have the opportunity to meet at local FIRST kickoff events to compare notes, get ideas, make friends, find mentoring teams, learn the design challenge, pick up the official parts kit, and get geared up for the exciting competition season.

Last year, FIRST teams were tasked with building robots that were capable of competing in a high-tech version of disc golf.

"The FIRST program provides students with invaluable real-world engineering experience," said Mark Chernoby, senior vice president, Engineering, and vice president – Product Committee

Coordinator – Chrysler Group.

"We hope that by engaging students at an early age, we can provide the spark that inspires them to be future innovators and problem-solvers."

The Chrysler Foundation has awarded each of the following Michigan schools a \$5,000 grant to support their run at the 2014 FIRST Robotics Championship. In all, 41 Canadian and U.S. high

schools will receive grants:

- Ann Arbor Huron High School;
- Birmingham Seaholm and

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Members of the Assumption College Catholic High School in Windsor, Ontario.

Parts Thieves Beware: Tahoe No Easy Target

Customers of the 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe will get a vehicle that offers a new level of security and one designed to deter thieves who target vehicle parts, say Chevy officials.

Thwarting theft was a design focus of Chevrolet's full-size SUVs, said GM spokesperson Michelle Malcho.

New standard features include a steering column lock that deters push-away and tow-away theft, which account for a significant portion of today's stolen vehicle incidents.

The 2015 Tahoe also features side-cut keys that deter lock picking and more robust door lock cylinders and shields to prevent access with "slim jims" and other tools.

Also new for 2015 is "creative and hidden storage," Malcho said, such as a compartment behind the available infotainment screen as well as third-row seats that are bolted down, all but eliminating theft of third-row seats, which are removable in the current generation full-size SUVs. In 2015 models, the second and third rows fold flat to make storing cargo easier.

Available on the Tahoe's LT and LTZ models is a Theft Protection Package, which features glass breakage sensors, interior motion sensors, and an inclination/tilt sensor, Malcho said.

They all sound an alarm if the vehicle is lifted off the ground, attempted to be broken into, or if motion is detected within the vehicle when the alarm is armed.

Additional features reinforce

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