

OnStar's 4G LTE Kicks Up Data Speed in 2015 Chevrolets

Starting this summer, Chevrolet will have some of the fastest vehicles on the roads, and that has nothing to do with horsepower.

Chevrolet drivers will be enjoying high-speed data – made possible by a new OnStar 4G LTE connection in the vehicle, running on AT&T's network.

Chevrolet announced at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas Jan. 7 that the 2015 Chevrolet Corvette, Impala, Malibu and Volt would be the first General Motors vehicles to come optionally equipped with OnStar 4G LTE.

They will be followed by the Equinox, Silverado, Silverado HD, Spark and Spark EV.

In the Canadian market, OnStar with 4G LTE will be introduced on the Chevrolet Trax as well. The majority of the 2015 Chevrolet lineup in the U.S and Canada will have a 4G LTE connection built in at vehicle launch. More models will be announced later this year.

"Chevrolet is expected to implement the broadest deployment of 4G LTE in the automotive industry," said Alan Batey, senior vice president of Global Chevrolet.

"The fact that OnStar with 4G LTE will be available in models that range from the Chevrolet Spark to the Silverado to the

Corvette is indicative of our broad commitment to deliver more value and convenience through smart technology applications. This new, purposeful technology solution will make our consumers' lives easier to connect."

The 4G LTE rollout will bring to most Chevrolet vehicles a built-in Wi-Fi hotspot, which allows passengers to connect their personal devices, such as smartphones, laptops and tablets, to high-speed wireless internet. Each vehicle can accommodate multiple devices at one time.

"We know that our customers

rely on being connected on a daily, if not hourly basis, and they expect to be provided with the information and content they desire with no interruptions," said Mary Chan, president, GM's Global Connected Consumer.

"A 4G LTE hotspot that's built into a car's architecture will provide a more consistent and powerful Wi-Fi connection than a smartphone."

With OnStar's 4G LTE connection, the vehicle acts as a mobile hub, giving customers easier access to apps and services that

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GM technology brings Wi-Fi connection to individual cars.



2013 Buick Encore

Buick Sets Sales Record

Buick delivered 1,032,056 vehicles in China, the United States, Canada and Mexico in 2013, the most Buicks sold in a single year in the brand's 110-year history. The previous record was 1,003,345 sold in 1984.

Strong growth in both China and North America accounted for the record-breaking year, with global sales up 15.4 percent over 2012.

China posted a 15.7 percent sales gain over 2012, with 894,605 units sold, while the U.S. delivered a 13.9 percent sales increase. Canada also saw strong

sales growth, with a 9.5 percent increase over 2012.

In the U.S., 42 percent of Buick buyers were new to the brand and to General Motors.

Buick experienced strong global growth in both crossovers and sedans from a product lineup that is among the freshest in the industry and the strongest the brand has ever featured, said Buick spokesman Nick Richards.

The new Encore small crossover ended 2013 with 97,311 sales globally, while the

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'You Don't Have to Worry About Me Leaving' – Alan Mulally

(AP) – All eyes will be on Ford's new vehicles – not its CEO – at the Detroit auto show next week.

CEO Alan Mulally finally put to rest rumors that he will leave Ford to run Microsoft. Mulally said Jan. 7, he'll stay at the Dearborn-based automaker through at least the end of this year.

"I would like to end the Microsoft speculation because I have no other plans to do anything other than serve Ford," Mulally told The Associated Press in an interview.

With that, Mulally ended months of speculation that had already clouded the debut of the new Mustang last month and threatened to overshadow next

week's widely expected unveiling of a new F-150, plus the launch of 23 new vehicles this year.

Mulally wouldn't say whether he had talked to Microsoft about the CEO job, but said the speculation had been a distraction for Ford.

"You don't have to worry about me leaving," Mulally said.

Mulally, who is credited with returning Ford Motor Co. to profitability and ending the toxic infighting in its ranks, will stick with his plan to stay at Ford through at least the end of 2014.

Ford announced that plan in November 2012. At the same time it promoted Mark Fields – Mulally's likely successor – to chief operating officer.

Over the last few months, there have been numerous reports that Mulally was on the short list of candidates to replace Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer. Microsoft announced in August that Ballmer plans to step down as CEO.

Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets, said in an email that Mulally's decision was a negative for Microsoft because he was the front-runner for the CEO job. Microsoft wouldn't say last week if Mulally's announcement came as a surprise.

"Out of respect for the process and the potential candidates, we don't comment on individual names," a Microsoft spokesman told the AP.

Mulally's withdrawal from Microsoft's CEO derby shrinks the pool of candidates who have been touted as Ballmer's potential successor.

Mulally, 68, was trained as an aeronautical engineer. He spent 36 years at Boeing Co. – and was president of the company's commercial airplane division – before Ford Chairman Bill Ford lured him to the struggling automaker in 2006.

Mulally overcame skepticism about being an outsider in the insular ranks of Detroit car guys by quickly pinpointing the reasons why Ford was losing billions each year.

Just months into his tenure, he mortgaged all of Ford's assets –



Alan Mulally

including its Blue Oval logo – for a \$23.5 billion loan to fund a massive restructuring. It was a pre-

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Big 3 parking lots were empty after a major snowstorm hit the Midwest.

Snowstorm Brings 'Unsafe' Roads That Cause Hiccups in Big Three Production

by Jim Stickford

As Mark Twain said, every body talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it.

But there wasn't anything the Detroit automakers could do about last week's extreme cold. Even when manufacturers cleared away snow at their facilities, roads leading to the factories were often unsafe to drive on.

Bill Grotz, manager, GM Manufacturing and Labor Communications, said that between the snow and the below-zero temperatures, eight GM plants were directly affected by the weather the week of Jan. 6 – in Lansing, the Delta, Grand River assembly and Stamping plants; in metro

Detroit, the facilities in Romulus and Orion Township; and in Indiana, operations in Fort Wayne, Marion, and Kokomo.

"Generally speaking, all our facilities were safe and we managed to get the snow cleared away," Grotz said. "And we were able to keep pace as the snow fell."

"Where there was trouble was with the local road networks. The roads leading to the facilities weren't always safe to drive."

"And adding to the trouble was that in the Lansing area and in Indiana, states of emergency were declared because officials thought the roads weren't safe to drive on."

As a result of these conditions, plants were closed and even some that were open had a

slowed production line, Grotz said. Adding to the difficulties was a supply problem. Getting parts to plants as needed was difficult because of road conditions.

As to the overall production problems caused by the storms, Grotz said that he was confident that GM will be able to make up for lost time so that no customers will be affected by the problems.

Whether that means adding an extra shift or having people come in on Saturday will depend on the plant, Grotz said.

"But the main thing to remember is that what counts is how the customer is affected and that's nothing."

Chrysler spokesperson Jodi

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