

GM developed special robotic systems to weld unlike materials together for the upcoming Cadillac CT6.

Cadillac Uses New Construction Techniques To Produce Large Luxury Sedan – the CT6

Cadillac will use the auto industry's most comprehensive and advanced mixed-material manufacturing techniques to build its new CT6 sedan, allowing creation of a top-of-range large luxury sedan with the agility and efficiency of a smaller vehicle.

The CT6, which goes on sale in the fourth quarter of 2015, will be built at the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant, using a unique combination of joining techniques, a first for any General Motors model, said Cadillac spokesman David Caldwell.

A new body shop with new tooling and advanced technologies – including 205 robots – has been added to the plant. The fully automated, roughly 138,000-square-foot shop is dedicated to the manufacturing of the high-end luxury sedan.

When it launches, the CT6 will expand the Cadillac range upwards – adding rather than

replacing a current product, Caldwell said. Positioned above today's CTS and XTS product lines, the CT6 aims to join the elite group of top-class large luxury cars.

"For the Cadillac CT6, we have developed additional new body construction techniques and technologies allowing various types of advanced and lightweight materials to be combined within the manufacturing environment like never before," Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen said last week at the Washington Auto Show.

"We have invested \$300 million in the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant to make this possible," he said. "These actions will allow us to advance the art of manufacturing and take craftsmanship and manufacturing technology to a new level."

This is important, Caldwell said, because lightweighting has been a major priority for auto-

makers over the past several years. In the past, engineers and designers had to decide if a vehicle was going to be constructed predominantly of either steel or aluminum. That's because it's very difficult to join unlike materials.

That meant that engineers faced a challenge in manufacturing the advanced mixed-material vehicle structure for the CT6. Combining different types of joining methods, the team overcame previous manufacturing difficulties involving the joining of traditionally dissimilar materials, while still allowing the engineering team to optimize every panel for its desired purpose.

Material joining techniques prominent in the body construction of the CT6 include:

- Patented Aluminum Spot Welding Technology;
- Aluminum Laser Welding,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

GM Clay Sculptor by Day, Detroit Tour Guide by Night

by Jim Stickford

Who said the history of Detroit is a dry topic?

Not the people at Detroit History Tours, who will stop at some city bars on the new tours they're hosting.

The tour company will cover the city, employing history experts to explain background about the stops at major and minor Detroit locations – including many storied drinking spots.

The idea for the business started with Bailey Sisoy Isgro, an interior sculptor for Cadillac. She earned her degree at the Center for Creative Studies and works at the GM Tech Center.

She is also getting her PhD in women's studies from Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

"My thesis is women in the auto industry between the two world wars," Isgro said. "I do everything digitally and every three months fly out to the school for testing and thesis review."

Besides working as a sculptor for GM, Isgro also worked for the Detroit Bus Company.

"My mother always called me an unofficial ambassador for Detroit," Isgro said. "And among one of the many things the De-



Bailey Sisoy Isgro

troit Bus Company does is hold tours of Detroit. I loved working for them and left the company on very good terms."

But while the tours of the city were fun, they weren't exactly what Isgro wanted to do.

She mentioned this fact to her friend Dennis Borawki, who she knew from the Detroit art scene.

"We'd run into each other at various events and talk," Isgro said. "We obviously had an interest in the history of Detroit just from the events we'd attend."

Isgro said she mentioned to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Johnson Controls Debuts Vehicle Interior Concepts

Global automotive industry trends like urban mobility, comfort, fuel economy and autonomous driving are the leading forces behind Johnson Controls' innovations in seating, interior and batteries that saw their debut at the 2015 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit earlier this month.

Johnson Controls showcased two vehicle interior concepts for the first time at NAIAS that address these global trends.

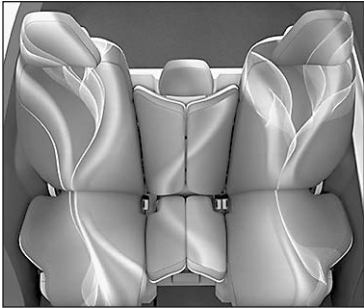
"The 2015 Automotive Seating Demonstrator 'SD15' and the Automotive Interiors Demonstrator 'ID15' display innovative new products that offer enhanced comfort, personalization options and other unique features addressing the megatrend of autonomous driving," said Johnson Controls spokeswoman Mary Kay Dodero.

The company also unveiled a new battery that Johnson Controls says will help automakers meet increasing fuel efficiency and emission reduction regulations.

"At Johnson Controls, we are always thinking ahead to ensure we're offering the right solutions for vehicles that meet drivers' expectations today and in the future," said Boda Bolzenius, president of Johnson Controls Automotive Experience and vice chairman of Johnson Controls Asia Pacific.

"Our seating, interior and battery solutions help advance our automaker customers' brands as well as enhance the overall driving experience."

In addition to the debut of



SD15 Seat

SD15 and ID15, Johnson Controls lists these highlights of its 10,000-square-foot exhibit of Detroit's Cobo Center:

- Automotive seating systems that achieve lighter weight, allow for customization and improved performance through products such as the new Loft rear seat and protective FreshPer4mance seat coating and its innovative carbon-fiber-based seat back frame;

- Interior materials and flexible designs for door panels, instrument panels, floor consoles and overhead consoles that increase the consumer's perception of value across all vehicle segments through mass reduction and enhanced functionality;

- A full spectrum of battery systems for conventional, Start-Stop, Micro Hybrid, hybrid and electric vehicles that meet the evolving needs of the global market;

- The new Recaro Sport Seat Platform, an innovative, lightweight and highly modular sport car seat platform concept for original equipment manufacturers.

Mustangs Selling Globally for First Time

The phrase, "made in Michigan," now has a worldwide meaning with the new Mustang officially going global.

For the first time in its 50-year history, Mustang will be available to customers around the world in more than 100 markets, said Ford spokeswoman Amanda Zusan.

First shipments of the "highly-anticipated Mustang" are headed for Asia, with vehicles arriving in Europe midyear.

Ford spokesman Said Deep said in an email that the 2015 rear-wheel-drive Mustang has a new platform but does not have a name for it that the company uses externally.

The new Mustang – assembled in Flat Rock – now joins other Ford and Lincoln vehicles exported to countries abroad.

In 2013, Ford Motor Company shipped more than 380,000 vehicles from the United States, making the automaker a top U.S. exporter of vehicles.

"Henry Ford exported the sixth Model A assembled in 1903 and we continue this legacy today," said Joe Hinrichs, Ford president of The Americas.

"The success of our One Ford

plan presents opportunities for growth in global markets. Exporting Ford and Lincoln vehicles to Asia Pacific and beyond is an important part of Ford's global growth story.

"Mustang is just one more example of the international demand for Ford cars and trucks."

Making Ford vehicles available to global consumers supports thousands of jobs across the United States, Hinrichs said.

The new 2015 Mustang is supported by U.S. suppliers in 25 states.

In 2013, Flat Rock Assembly Plant, the car's production home, celebrated the 1 millionth Mustang built there.

The facility has approximately 3,000 employees working two shifts at full capacity to produce Mustang and Fusion. In addition,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A Michigan-made Mustang getting ready for export

GM Clay Sculptor by Day, Detroit Tour Guide by Night

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Borawski at an event that she would really have liked to have given more detailed tours of the history of the city. It was Borawski who suggested immediately that they make that happen.

The end result was the creation of Detroit History Tours, a company that will take people on a bus tour of Detroit.

Customers will visit some of the city's most interesting historical sites. And, there will also be cocktails because a lot of Detroit's history took place in bars.

Right now, three tours are planned, Isgro said, each with a particular theme. The first tour is titled, "Wild Women of Detroit."

Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7, it starts at 6:15 p.m. and will go to 11:30 p.m. The cost is \$40.

"Detroit may have been founded in 1701 by the French explorer Antoine Laumet de La Mothe Sirur de Cadillac, but it was his wife Marie who decided much of the town's original layout," Isgro said.

"From the very beginning, Detroit has been a dame's town."

The tour will take customers to various Detroit sites, including two bars, that will tell the history of the city from the female perspective.

The next tour, titled, "Tales of Detroit Cocktail Bus Tour," is set for Saturday, March 7, starting at 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$100.

Isgro said this tour looks at Detroit's drinking history. The city has been home to brewers and distillers and played a major role in Prohibition.

Local Orchestra Awarded Grant From MCACA

The Motor City Symphony Orchestra (MCSO) of Warren has been awarded a grant of \$15,000 from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA).

The grant was awarded through the MCACA peer review process and was one of nearly 500 applications to compete for MCACA fiscal year 2015 funding.

The grant will allow the Motor City Symphony Orchestra to present to the community an orchestra concert on April 19, featuring works by Debussy, Glass & Rachmaninoff.

The concert will also feature the members of the Assembly Saxophone Quartet.

The concert will start at 3 p.m., in the Warren Woods Tower High School Auditorium, 27900 Bunert Road in Warren.

Tickets are available by calling 586-754-2950, or through www.motorcitysymphony.org.

The grant will provide funding for the group's annual Youth Concerts to be held on Wednesday, April 29, Warren Woods Community Auditorium at Warren Woods Middle School, 13400 E. Twelve Mile Road, Warren.

The Motor City Symphony Orchestra, formerly known as the Warren Symphony Orchestra, is a nonprofit dedicated to providing cultural experiences and musical education to enrich lives throughout the tri-county area, said orchestra spokeswoman Jessica Trepton,

Those taking the tour can sample "the booze that shaped the city's history," at five stops, she said.

The final tour scheduled is the Belle Isle Walking Tour and Picnic, Isgro said. The cost is \$40 and it takes place on Saturday, April 4, starting at 10:30 a.m.

"One of the women that will be talked about at this tour is Ann Scripps Whitcomb," Isgro said.

"She was an heiress of the Scripps newspaper fortune and at one time had the largest private collection of orchids in the world. She donated that collection to the city of Detroit and, as a result, the Belle Isle Conservatory was named after her."

Isgro said one of the things that makes Detroit History Tours different is that the people behind it, as well as those conducting the tours, have a profound knowledge of the city and its history.

"Our guides won't be people who are just reading off a script," Isgro said. "They will be experts in the particular topics of the tour. They will be speaking using their knowledge and will be able to answer questions and talk about the city's history."

One thing that surprised Isgro when she began setting up the tours was just how much of the city's physical history is still standing.

"Not all of it is in great shape,"



A 1943 photo shows some of the women who came to Detroit from across the U.S. to learn skills like welding.

Isgro said. "But there are still buildings around that people are using.

"For example, there is a bar called Abick's in Detroit that opened up 100 years ago. It was run for decades by a woman everyone called Manya.

"We just lost her at the age of 93.

"She was born in the apartment above the bar that's now run by her grandson. It's the oldest continuously run bar in the city.

"During WWII, when there was rationing, Manya would collect all the stray food ration coupons people had, and use them to buy food on Sundays.

"Then, she would use that food to feed the neighborhood at her bar on a Sunday afternoon.

"That's a great story and a great piece of Detroit's history that shouldn't be lost."

Those who are interested in learning more about Detroit History Tours can visit the Web site, www.detroithistorytours.com.

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Chevy's Amber Icon Warns: Driver Following Too Closely

Tailgating is great before football games, but in traffic, not so much.

Rear-end crashes make up more than one in four of collisions reported to police each year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Many are preventable, said GM spokeswoman Jennifer Ecclestone, through technology such as GM's Forward Collision Alert available in several 2015 Chevrolet models, including the Silverado, Malibu, Equinox and Traverse.

Forward Collision Alert warns customers in everyday car-following situations if they may be seconds away from a crash or following much too closely.

And that's not the only technology GM has to help prevent collisions, Ecclestone said.

In the 2015 Chevrolet Impala, Tahoe and Suburban, available Front Automatic Braking goes beyond an alert to automatically slow or stop the vehicle under certain conditions, for example, if the driver does not respond quickly to an alert.

"Many of us have been in driving situations where the car ahead of us suddenly slows – or we momentarily look away at the wrong time – and we have to slam on the brakes to avoid a collision," said General Motors Active Safety Technical Fellow Raymond J. Kiefer.

"Front Automatic Braking provides a layer of driver assistance beyond Forward Collision Alert systems to help prevent this common crash situation."

Depending on the model, Chevrolet's Forward Collision Alert system uses a radar located in the front grille area or a

camera mounted behind the windshield in front of the inside rearview mirror, Kiefer said. When activated, it produces a green icon when a vehicle is detected ahead and an amber one when a driver is following much too closely.

A red "Collision Alert" warning will flash – along with rapid, high-pitched beeping – when the driver is approaching a vehicle too quickly and may be seconds away from a potential crash.

In Chevrolet models equipped with the available Safety Alert Seat, the patented seat will quickly pulse five times on both sides instead of beeping.

Low-speed rear crashes cost millions of dollars annually in repair costs, Ecclestone said. Higher-speed rear crashes are responsible for severe injuries and even fatalities.

In a report earlier this year, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety estimated that forward collision alert technology applied across the entire passenger vehicle fleet could prevent 879 fatal crashes a year.

The auto industry has focused on reducing rear crashes for decades. Systems such as the Center High Mounted Stop Lamp have been in effect since 1986 in passenger cars.

Over the long term, these have helped reduce rear crashes by about 4.3 percent annually, according to NHTSA.

GM's Forward Collision Alert technology is designed to encourage customers to accept and use it, Kiefer said.

"Our goal," he said, "is that our customers leave safety systems on every trip so they can take advantage of the potential safety benefits."



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Ram 1500 Rebel to be Built at Warren Truck

by Jim Stickford

The Ram 1500 has been successful for Fiat Chrysler, but that doesn't mean there's no room for improvement.

And the public had a chance to see just what Ram's done with the 2015 Rebel model of the 1500 recently at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center.

"Offering an off-road-style package on the Ram 1500 has been on our to-do list for some time, but the right combination didn't present itself until now," said Bob Hegbloom, president and CEO – Ram Truck Brand.

"The Rebel drops right into a core segment of the truck market with unique design cues and can-do attitude backed by Ram Truck engineering."

Rebel features an all-new grille with prominent billet silver "RAM" letter badge.

Departing from the brand's iconic "cross-hair" designs, the blacked-out Rebel grille tops a completely new black off-road front bumper design with a durable powder-coated surface, which incorporates a powder-coated, billet silver skid plate, new front tow hooks and new LED fog lamps. Black bezel bi-functional projector headlamps with LED marker lights lie beneath an aluminum,

twin-snorkel sport hood.

Rebel's blacked-out front end continues on the flanks with black Power Wagon wheel-arch moldings, flat-black badge, mirrors and lower body panels.

The new trim features a two-tone paint scheme with black as a constant on the lower body, front to rear.

The Ram 1500 Rebel also features an all-new 17-inch aluminum wheel. Among the most elaborate designs found in mass production, the new one-piece wheel incorporates matte black painted accent pockets and multi-angled surfaces.

Continuing around to the rear view is a new "RAM" stamped tailgate with blacked-out lettering. The "Rebel" and "4X4" badge, Hegbloom said, emphasize the truck's uniqueness. The rear bumper is also treated with durable black powder coating with flared cutouts around dual chrome-tipped exhausts. Tail lamps incorporate black bezels to match forward lighting.

Rebel includes an optional backup camera, providing a better field of vision when maneuvering, Hegbloom said. A new tri-fold tonneau cover is embossed with the Ram logo.

The Ram 1500 Rebel will be available in five colors: Granite Crystal Metallic, Bright Silver Metallic, Flame Red, Bright White

and Brilliant Black. Both mono-tone and two-tone paint options are offered.

Becky Blanchard, newly-appointed director of the Ram brand, said there is a real demand for a truck like the Rebel 1500.

"We listened to our customers," Blanchard said. "This truck has both capability and looks. It has the same towing capacity as a regular 1500, and it will still be available at an affordable price."

"We're not saying how much it will cost right now. The price will be released closer to the release date, which is expected to be sometime close to the end of the second quarter."

"The Rebel will be manufactured at our Warren Truck facility and we expect the Rebel to comprise between 5 and 10 percent of the Ram brand."

Blanchard said the Rebel was designed for the "bold customer." It allows them to express themselves, she said.

The truck has the capacity to tow dirt bikes to off-road locations, she said, or it can be used to drive off-road itself, adding that a lot of the features on the Rebel are the sorts of things people would normally have to get in after-market shops.

"We know that people like to customize their trucks, so we



Ram Brand Director Becky Blanchard and the Ram 1500 Rebel

just added those features to the Rebel," Blanchard said. "The advantage here is that all our customized features are factory-tested and come with Ram warranties. I just hope we don't get SEMA too mad at us."

Blanchard said that the Rebel isn't Ram's only big announcement at this year's auto show. She said the brand also was able to announce that they upped the fuel efficiency of its "best-in-class mileage" engine from 28 to 29 mpg.

"The Ram EcoDiesel's mileage has improved," Blanchard said. "We knew demand for it would be strong when we introduced it. We expected sales to be about 10 percent of Ram sales, but no one

forecast that it would get the 20 percent it has now."

Blanchard said she's been asked a lot about how fluctuations in fuel prices affect EcoDiesel sales.

"I have to say not much," Blanchard said. "While gas prices are under \$2 a gallon now, only a couple of months ago, they were closer to \$4."

"Diesel fuel prices, on the other hand, tend to be very stable over a long period of time, so their sales aren't really affected by wild swings in fuel prices."

"Additionally, EcoDiesel owners like the fact that diesel trucks retain an additional 8 to 10 percent of value in the resale market."



2016 Lincoln MKX

New Lincoln MKX to Reach U.S. Dealerships This Fall

"What a difference a year makes."

Those were the words Ford CEO Mark Fields used at the 2015 NAIAS auto show to describe where the Lincoln brand was.

"The proof of this is in our actions, not our words," Fields said. "Last year, we launched the Lincoln brand in China. The brand had its best sales year since 2008."

And, Fields said, the brand also launched the MKC both here and in China as well. The new Lincoln Navigator was launched in 2014 and it doubled its market-share in the luxury SUV segment.

But 2014 was only one year in Lincoln's journey, Fields said. Granted, it was a year that had Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey become a spokesman for the brand.

"I think there should be some new kind of metric to measure a commercial's success based on the number of parodies done of it," Fields said.

He said Lincoln's growth in the U.S. and China is important because, over the next few years, fully half of all luxury vehicles will be sold in those two countries. But that's 2014, Fields said. The next chapter of Lincoln features the new MKX.

"We are focused on delivering engaging and refined luxury vehicles with innovative and thoughtful technologies," said Kumar Galhorta, president of Lincoln. "The all-new Lincoln MKX reflects that focus."

He said the MKX is the third of

four vehicles that Lincoln promised to introduce by 2016.

The new Lincoln MKX goes on sale first in the United States this fall, followed by other markets like China, Canada, the Middle East, Mexico and South Korea.

The Lincoln MKX, Galhorta said, further strengthens Lincoln's position in the global mid-size premium utility segment, which represents 11 percent of the global automotive luxury market and is expected to grow to 12 percent by 2018. It is one of the largest luxury segments in the United States, representing about one-quarter of the retail luxury automotive market.

Leading the engine choices for the new MKX is the available advanced 2.7-liter twin-turbocharged Ti-VCT EcoBoost V6. It is projected to deliver more than 330 horsepower and more than 370 lb.-ft. of torque, based on preliminary test data.

The standard engine, Galhorta said, is a 3.7-liter V6, projected to deliver 300 horsepower and 280 lb.-ft. of torque, based on preliminary test data.

Both engines are mated to a six-speed automatic transmission with push-button shift and SelectShift. Front-wheel drive is standard, with Intelligent All-Wheel Drive optional.

The addition of the integral link rear suspension, upgrades to the body structure and chassis components make the new model the best-handling, best-riding and quietest Lincoln MKX ever, Galhorta said.

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Faurecia Displays New Technologies at Show

Faurecia returned to the North American International Auto Show in Detroit earlier this month with nearly three dozen new technologies and processes.

The new methods help reduce vehicle weight while enabling automakers to offer more capability and performance to consumers," said Faurecia spokesman Tony Sapienza.

Pursuing a "Less Is More" perspective, Sapienza said, Faurecia features systems and components that weigh less, helping improve mileage and decrease emissions.

At the same time, Sapienza said, these technology advancements provide more comfort and roominess for passengers, more flexibility for vehicle designers and more natural materials for improved sustainability.

"Faurecia is dedicated to driving well-being for vehicle occupants, the environment and the automotive industry by making 'less' a central goal and 'more' a consistent result," Sapienza said.

A wide range of new approaches to fashioning vehicle systems were also exhibited and demonstrated at Faurecia's display in the Crowne Plaza Detroit Downtown Riverfront, directly across from Detroit's Cobo Center, Sapienza said.

New applications of technology and materials inside, outside and under the vehicle were highlighted in products from all four of the company's business groups: Faurecia Interior Systems, Faurecia Emissions Control Technologies, Faurecia Automotive Seating and Faurecia Automotive Exteriors.

"At Faurecia, we consider our 'Driving Well-Being' approach to be a reinvention of the way the auto industry views traditional components and systems," said Faurecia North America President Michael Heneka.

"We are harmonizing desirable technology for the vehicle with the advanced manufacturing processes that bring them to life, all with the goal of demonstrating that less really can mean more for our customers and consumers."

A centerpiece of the Faurecia exhibit was its "Less Is More" demonstrator that showed how Faurecia can integrate its innovations into a lighter, more comfortable vehicle.

The display had such inventions as:

- Thinner, roomier seats built on hybrid frames;
- A fiberglass composite rear floor and trunk;

2014 Car Sales Up In Europe, But OEMs Cautious

MILAN (AP) – Europe's automakers' association ACEA has confirmed that the industry's six-year decline ended last year, reporting a 5.7 percent increase in car sales in 2014 to 12.5 million vehicles.

That was the continent's first positive full-year result since 2007, with December marking the 16th straight month of growth.

Despite the upbeat performance reported last week, carmakers were cautious heading into 2015 amid new economic uncertainty.

Carlos Ghosn, the CEO of Nissan and Renault, said at the Detroit Auto Show that he expects European growth this year to be slow, around 1 percent to 2 percent.

Jeff Schuster, executive vice president of forecasting for industry consultancy LMC Automotive, says the tamped-down forecasts are due in part to deflation concerns.

- A one-piece, injection-molded window lifter;
- A liftgate – made entirely of carbon-fiber composites – that weighs only half as much as a conventional steel liftgate.

Other Faurecia exhibits introduced a full-size premium trunk floor surface composed of lightweight natural wood materials, an industry award-winning active glove box that replaces separate knee-impact airbags, and a rear seat that folds flat and fully reopens with just the touch of a button.

"Faurecia extends its leadership in the use of natural materials within vehicle interiors to incorporate high-performance natural fibers into the instrument panel, center console and door panels," Heneka said.

The company also exhibited

three new approaches to producing a lighter cross-car beam using composites, hybrid materials or cold-metal transfer welding techniques.

Other Faurecia recent automotive innovations, Sapienza said, include:

- A universal docking station with Bluetooth and near-field communication capabilities;
- A family of new technologies to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from diesel engines;
- A compact exhaust-heat-recovery system now extended from hybrids to all-gasoline engines;
- Technologies to control the levels and types of sound emitted by exhaust systems.

Faurecia this year made its second appearance at the annual North American Auto Show.

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<p>NEW EQUINOX 2015</p> <p>LEASE LT 24 MONTHS \$89* \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE A LS FOR \$20,997*</p>	<p>NEW TRAVERSE 2015</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$168* \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$27,297*</p>	<p>NEW IMPALA 2015</p> <p>LEASE FOR 39 MONTHS \$208* \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE A 2014 FOR \$23,993*</p>	<p>NEW CAMARO 2015</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$187* \$1,669 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE A 2014 FOR \$20,895*</p>

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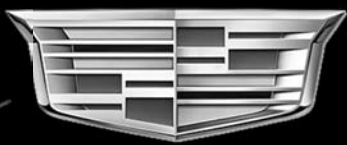
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Cadillac's New Techniques Help to Produce CT6 Sedan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which creates a seamless joining of exterior panels;

- Self-Piercing Rivets, which are able to join different types of materials together with a clean appearance;

- Flow Drill Screws, which are able to join different types of materials and used in conjunction with adhesive;

- Aluminum arc welding and structural adhesive are also separately used for CT6 body assembly.

Among the five techniques, the CT6's engineers were able to select the best joining method depending on material combination and body location (for machine equipment access), Caldwell said.

To weld both the inner and outer vehicle frames, 28 robots descend on the vehicle body in two separate framing stations, joining the body-in-white together from all angles. The robots are mounted above and beside the vehicle and can also reach beneath it.

The two framing processes were choreographed to compensate for different microscopic vibrations, and CT6 body construction resembles an orchestra as the robotic arms move in and out around the vehicle.

"Never before has an automaker brought this combination of joining techniques together for a single vehicle," said Travis Hester, CT6 executive chief engineer.

"The manufacturing team has enabled body engineers to optimize the vehicle for mass, safety, stiffness and materials with more precision than ever.

"The result is a top-level large

luxury sedan, with class-leading body stiffness that generates excellent driving characteristics and impressive fuel economy without compromises to safety, comfort or quality."

Once the body construction is complete, a large robotic arm lifts the entire vehicle from one part of the assembly line to an upper-level conveyor – unheard of for a vehicle the size of CT6, Hester said – to be transferred across the plant.

Using these advanced manufacturing techniques allows for the CT6 to meet the highest standards in vehicle build quality, and to allow Cadillac to use the most mass-efficient materials while reducing fuel consumption and enhancing safety and driving dynamics, said Caldwell.

Details of the CT6 will be released to the media later this year, Caldwell said, but he added that the vehicle "is a larger car."

By using this new joining technology on the CT6, GM is able to build a bigger car that has the agility of a smaller vehicle.

Additionally, Caldwell said, the CT6 will be a premium car, and its buyers are the type of consumers that expect – and are willing to pay for – premium craftsmanship.

The CT6 marks the return of a full-size luxury sedan to Detroit-Hamtramck.

"It's kind of exciting that this 'hometown' invention of new building techniques will make their debut in the hometown Hamtramck factory," Caldwell said.

"These are 'made in Detroit' techniques GM created to be used in cars made in Detroit – leading-edge manufacturing done right at home."

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