



Sublime Green-and-Black 2015 Dodge Challenger R/T featured in film

Fiat Chrysler's Power Cars Star in New 'Fast & Furious'

When it came time to put the pedal to the metal, the producers of the "Fast & Furious" movies chose Dodge.

"These films are about speed," said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich. "And Dodge cars and the performance they bring are perfect for these films – and these movies really show just what the Dodge brand can do. And, it's just exciting to be a part of a really fun and successful movie franchise."

Dodge, which has been a part of the blockbuster "Fast & Fur-

ious" franchise since its inception, has entered into a promotional partnership with Universal Pictures for "Furious 7."

Dodge also is in a first-ever partnership with Atlantic Records on music videos that support the label's "Furious 7: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack."

The movie is in theaters April 3 and the music videos are available starting March 17 and are available now for pre-order at

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GM Honors Its 'Best-of-the-Best' Suppliers

General Motors recognized 78 of its best global suppliers during its 23rd annual Supplier of the Year awards ceremony March 5.

Winning suppliers from around the world received the award for going above and beyond GM's requirements, designed to provide customers with the "most innovative technologies and the industry's best quality vehicles" at a special awards dinner, said GM spokeswoman Freda Agboka.

"These companies are the best-of-the-best suppliers, and deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contributions," said Steve Kiefer, GM vice president, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain.

"We need them to continue to bring us their most innovative technologies, highest quality services and work, and we will continue to win together for the benefit of our customers."

In addition to the Supplier of the Year awards, GM honored four companies – Dell Inc., Johnson Controls Inc., Lear Corp., and The Maersk Group – with its Overdrive Award, recognition of extraordinary leadership in cultural change and commitment initiatives that drove exceptional business results for GM, Agboka said.

"These awards are the result of hard work on the part of our em-

ployees, who are committed to a strong partnership with General Motors and one that benefits from the Johnson Controls operating system," said Brian Grady, vice president and general man-

ager of the General Motors business unit for Johnson Controls Automotive Seating.

"Johnson Controls' operating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



GM CEO Mary Barra speaks to suppliers at awards ceremony.

Autonomy in Cars Proposed To Help Self-Flying Aircraft

by Jim Stickford

The advent of the autonomous car is creating great opportunities for Michigan's aerospace industry.

Gavin Brown, executive director of the Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA) said that the technologies of the automotive industry and the aerospace industry are converging.

"Today's aerospace industry isn't just traditional fixed-wing aircraft," Brown said. "These days we're talking about unmanned autonomous craft. And that's where aerospace and automotive technologies are converging."

Just as the auto industry is spending billions on the autonomous car, the aerospace industry is investing a lot of money into creating flying craft that can travel routes on their own, Brown said. He added that vehicle-to-vehicle communications between cars is growing and this technology can also be used for vehicle-to-vehicle communications between flying craft.

"The wealth of engineering talent located in southeast Michigan is tremendous," Brown said. "That makes it possible to create a ground-zero for a new industrial base in terms of developing an industry that combines automotive and aerospace technologies."

This base, Brown said, would hopefully extend beyond just engineering. It would include manufacturing.

Fortunately, he said, Michigan also doesn't lack for talent in the

development of manufacturing systems.

Autonomous flying craft – Brown and his colleagues don't like the term "drone" because of its martial connotations – extend beyond Amazon using them to deliver small packages.

"In Africa, for example, there are places that aren't easily accessible by road," Brown said. "Having autonomous flying craft that could make deliveries of medicine and other basics would be of tremendous benefit."

Brown said that MAMA's mission started in 2007 and the organization has been based in Sterling Heights since 2012. The group held a meeting on March 9 so its members could interact, network and just see what they were all doing.

"Michigan has greater aerospace resources located in the state than people think," Brown said.

"There are about 300 aerospace companies that employ



Gavin Brown of MAMA in front of Michigan-made helicopter

more than 5,000 people in the state. Right now, we have an opportunity to help create a future for Michigan that is a little less auto-centric."

Brown cited Enstrom, a Menominee-based manufacturer of helicopters, as an example of a Michigan-based company in the aerospace industry. Its president, Tracy Biegler, is a member of MAMA and was

at the March 9 meeting.

"We're a small company," Biegler said. "We're one of five helicopter manufacturers in the U.S. and we employ about 250 people."

"Our helicopters cost between \$550,000 and \$1.2 million. Our product is in the low-end part of the helicopter market. They're 'off-the-shelf' vehicles."

And by working with others in

the state, Enstrom can see what's going on in the industry as a whole and stay on top of the latest technology, Biegler said.

The company got its start when its founder, Rudy Enstrom, a mining engineer in the Upper Peninsula, built a helicopter in his basement in the 1940s. In the 1950s, local people got together

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



2.3L EcoBoost

Ford EcoBoost Engines Now Built in U.S.

Ford began the official production start of the new twin-scroll 2.0-liter and 2.3-liter EcoBoost engines for North America at its Cleveland Engine Plant on March 6.

This marks the first time these engines are being produced in the U.S., said Ford spokeswoman Kristina Adamski.

The twin-scroll 2.0-liter EcoBoost engine is available in the new Ford Edge, launching in first quarter of 2015, Adamski said. The 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine is

available in the new Ford Mustang, Explorer and Lincoln MKC.

"With more than 4 million EcoBoost-powered vehicles on the road today, Cleveland Engine has been at the forefront of our plan to provide our customers with fuel-efficient, affordable engines," said Bruce Hettle, Ford vice president of North America Manufacturing.

"The hard-working team at Cleveland Engine," he said, "is proud to build two of the most technologically advanced

engines on the market today."

In 2013, Ford invested nearly \$200 million and added 450 new jobs to support production and rising consumer demand for the EcoBoost engine. The company made the move to assemble engines regionally to help optimize production capabilities around the world.

Production of the twin-scroll 2.0-liter and 2.3-liter EcoBoost engines for North America were

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Dr. Ramon Kuczera

GKN Driveline Has Appointed Kuczera, LaChance As Vice Presidents

GKN Driveline has named Dr. Ramon Kuczera as vice president of Global Product Technology.

The company also named Steven LaChance as vice president of Engineering for GKN Driveline Americas.

"Engineering is at the core of our ability to put ideas in motion across the global auto industry," said Robert Willig, president, GKN Driveline Americas.

"The elevation of Ray Kuczera and Steven LaChance provides our engineering teams with leadership and expertise that will help GKN continue to deliver leading-edge product innovation for our customers."

In his new role, Kuczera will leverage GKN's full line of technologies to provide sustainable product differentiation, innovation and cost competitiveness, Willig said.

LaChance will work closely with customers in the technological development phase, ensuring that product delivery meets and exceeds customer expectations.

Kuczera previously was vice president, Engineering, for GKN Driveline Americas, while LaChance was global chief engineer for GKN's General Motors business.

Kuczera has been with the company since 1990 and has held a variety of engineering leadership positions, including test, engineering systems and customer-facing positions with Toyota, Nissan and BMW.

LaChance joined the company in 1998 and has held a variety of engineering positions within GKN and its former DriveTek organization.

Kuczera has a Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Oakland University.

LaChance is a graduate of the University of Michigan where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also has a Master's of Business Administration from Walsh College.

GKN Driveline produces automotive driveline systems and solutions, including constant velocity joint, all-wheel drive, transaxle and electric-drive systems.

Fiat Chrysler's Power Cars Star in New 'Fast & Furious' Film

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<http://smarturl.it/furious7>.

As part of Dodge's partnership with Universal, the brand has provided the film with:

- a Candy Red 2015 Dodge Charger, driven by Dominic (Dom) Toretto (Vin Diesel) in various chase scenes throughout "Furious 7";
- a Sublime Green-and-Black 2015 Dodge Challenger R/T driven by Letty Ortiz (Michelle Rodriguez), and
- an armored 2015 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited driven by Tej Parker (Chris "Ludacris" Bridges).

All three cars play prominent roles in the movie.

In all, Fiat Chrysler provided nearly 30 vehicles for the movie production for use in front of and behind the camera, Wunderlich said.

Many high-performance Dodge vehicles – including the 707-horsepower Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat and Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat, 645-horsepower Dodge Viper GTS and other new and vintage Dodge vehicles – are featured in music videos Atlantic is releasing in support of its original movie soundtrack album.

"Fast Dodge cars, adrenaline-filled action and heart-pounding music have fueled the 'Fast & Furious' movie franchise," said Olivier Francois, chief marketing officer, FCA – Global.

"For the first time, Dodge is broadening its long-time partnership with an innovative new Atlantic Records collaboration that truly expands the power and reach of the 'Fast & Furious' franchise and provides a natural extension for showcasing Dodge's most powerful new performance vehicles to movie, music and car enthusiasts everywhere."

Dodge will support its promotional partnership with Universal with a multi-tier marketing initiative that includes television spots for the U.S. and international markets, social media and digital marketing campaigns, and a special 'Furious 7' landing page on the brand's

website, Wunderlich said.

Dodge created new television commercials to promote "Furious 7," including a national spot that debuted March 9, featuring the 2015 Dodge Challenger.

In addition, television spots featuring the 2015 Dodge Charger will air in the Middle East and ones featuring the 2015 Jeep Wrangler will air in other international markets. All ads include clips from the movie and new vehicle footage.

Wunderlich said it's difficult to measure just what impact any individual marketing effort has on overall Dodge brand sales.

"Sales are influenced by so many things," Wunderlich said. "There's advertising on TV, on the Internet, in magazines. There's product placement like this. There are articles in buff books and magazines. It all plays a role. But being a part of this movie series certainly doesn't hurt Dodge."

The "Flash to the Future" national spot opens at a Dodge dealership with a customer walking up to and getting into a Dodge Challenger R/T.

As he admires the interior and gets a feel for the Challenger, he suddenly is launched into a high-octane, aggressive, intense fantasy of the "Furious 7" world, which includes an action-packed scene from the movie.

The spot cuts back to the reality of the customer at the dealership and closes with a voice-over saying, "It's not Fast & Furious without a Dodge."

The spots were created in partnership with full-service advertising agency, Doner.

Fans can check out the www.dodge.com/en/furious-7 website to explore the muscle behind the movie and find out more about the "Furious 7" good guys, bad guys and cars.

The site includes movie stills and information about the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat, Charger SRT Hellcat, Charger R/T Scat Pack and Charger 392 Hemi Scat Pack Shaker.

In the weeks leading up to the soundtrack album's debut, Atlantic has been releasing a series of exclusive singles from artists such as Kid Ink, Y.G., Wale, Tyga & Rich Homie Quan's "Ride Out," T.I. & Young Thug's "Off Set" and Prince Royce's "My Angel."

In an exclusive partnership with Dodge, current and vintage Dodge vehicles are featured in the music videos.

A special "See You Again" video features six Dodge vehicles including the Sublime Green-and-Black 2015 Challenger from "Furious 7."

China's Auto Sales Up, But Growth Level Has Suffered

BEIJING (AP) – China's auto sales growth decelerated in February despite a near doubling in purchases of Chinese-made SUVs, an industry group reported March 10.

Sales in the world's biggest auto market rose 6.4 percent to 1.4 million vehicles, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM). That was down from January's 10.3 percent increase.

Demand for autos has weakened as China's economic growth cooled to a two-decade low last year of 7.4 percent. February sales also were depressed by the Lunar New Year holiday, when many businesses close for up to two weeks.

For the combined two-month period of January and February, passenger vehicle sales rose 8.7 percent from a year earlier to 3.4 million units. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 4.3 percent, which CAAM said represented a decline of 6.5 percentage points from the growth rate the same time last year.

Global automakers see China as a future revenue driver and are investing heavily to create models to appeal to local tastes. That is squeezing domestic brands such as Geely and Chery.

Sales of Chinese-brand SUVs jumped 94.7 percent in February to 187,000 vehicles. That helped to offset a 3.3 percent decline in domestic sedan sales to 174,000 vehicles. 2014 sales of Chinese sedans dropped 17.4 percent.

CAAM said Chinese automakers gained market share in February, reversing a steady decline, but gave no details. Last year, their market share fell by 2.1 percentage points to 41.2 percent.

Last year's total passenger vehicle sales rose 9.9 percent to 19.7 million vehicles, down 5.8 percentage points from 2013's growth, according to CAAM.

China is the biggest market by number of units sold but smaller than the U.S. in financial terms because Chinese drivers buy less expensive vehicles.

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Malibu Drives Toughest Roads for Quality

To build a car designed specifically for the North American market, GM spent a lot of time looking at vehicles from around the world.

Data collected over decades from across the globe is helping ensure that the 2016 Chevrolet Malibu can handle the world's worst roads, even if the new mid-size sedan never drives on them, said GM spokesman Chad Lyons.

Data collection boxes are placed in cars in real-world driving conditions around the world, Lyons said. Since 1972, these devices have accurately recorded the harshness and frequency of every jounce, bump and shudder inflicted on the car on roads in the U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia and developing markets.

"Although most Malibu owners will never put their car through similar abuse, we test all new vehicles in extreme climates, inclement weather and on punishing road surfaces," said Dan Devine, Malibu validation engineer. "The 2016 Malibu is definitely up to these challenges."

Tests like these ensured the current generation Malibu was dependable and durable, Devine said – two qualities that in turn helped Malibu stand out from its rivals in important quality surveys, such as J.D. Power's Initial Quality Study and Vehicle Dependability Study.

General Motors engineers analyze the data to calculate the precise amount of damage potholes and other hazards create over 150,000 miles.

Then the conditions are replicated at GM's Milford Proving Ground on three unique road courses, each riddled with simulated potholes of increasing severity. Engineers run preproduction cars through the course up to hundreds of times.

Additional validation and development tests include logging more than 1.5 million miles of driving in controlled environments and on open roads.

Devine said the 2016 Malibu also endured some harsh weather through drives in scorching Yuma, Ariz. – which averages 107 degree temperatures in July – and sub-zero cold of Northern Canada – which averages a low of

-13 degrees in January.

At the GM Tech Center in Warren, the Malibu put in several hours in the Climatic Wind Tunnel, Devine said, where temperatures can be raised to 140 degrees or lowered to 40 degrees below zero.

The new Malibu also endures a battery of stationary and dynamic tests to simulate abuse well beyond the average lifetime of the car, including:

- A four-post vehicle test that balances each wheel on a hydraulic post that actuates the suspension at high frequency, accelerating the wear on bushings and dampers.

• Door, hood and decklid slams speed up wear on hinges and latches.

- Road durability testing includes extremes such as twist ditches, driveway angles, mud and gravel, high-speed tests, chatter bumps, Belgian blocks and salt spray.

The 2016 Chevrolet Malibu will be available late in 2015.



2016 Chevrolet Malibu undergoes testing at Tech Center Tunnel.



This design by New Hampshire student Joshua Blundo took top honors.

Four Design Students Win For Drawing Future Dodge

Leaders of the Fiat Chrysler Design team on March 6 awarded four talented young artists at the "Meguiar's 63rd Detroit Autorama" for their winning vehicle sketches in this year's "Detroit Autorama High School Design Competition."

The Fiat Chrysler Design team joined forces with the College for Creative Studies (CCS) and challenged U.S. public high school students to design a next-generation Dodge vehicle for the year 2025.

Students were asked to submit hand-drawn sketches of their vision, along with a 500-word essay explaining what the Dodge brand means to them.

"It's been exciting to see this competition grow from a local level to now reaching students from all across the nation," said Mark Trostle, head of Fiat Chrysler's SRT, Mopar and Motorsports Design.

"Partnering with CCS and De-

troit Autorama gave us the exposure needed to attract young, creative minds and hopefully inspire them to explore automotive design as a potential career."

All four winners were awarded with prizes, including a three-week summer automotive design course at CCS (includes housing, meals and field trips), a MacBook or iPad, and passes to Detroit Autorama, Schulte said. The first-place winner also received a \$60,000 scholarship to CCS.

The four student winners were:

- First place – Joshua Blundo, Moultonborough Academy, Moultonborough, N.H.
- Second place – Conner Stormer, Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.
- Third place – Hwanseong Jang, Bloomfield Hills High School, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
- Fourth place – Dongwon Kim, Homestead High School, Sunnydale, Calif.

FCA Honors BorgWarner

BorgWarner Morse TEC recently received a Best Powertrain EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) Supplier Award 2014 from Fiat Chrysler.

The ceremony took place during the Qualitas Convention in Lingotto, Italy. BorgWarner was honored for its strong engineering contributions throughout the development of FCA's Global Small Engine (GSE) platform and its excellent service level, especially in part quality. Designed to reduce friction, BorgWarner's leading engine timing systems drive several Fiat models for the EMEA region, including the Fiat Panda and Fiat 500.

"We are very proud to receive this prestigious award as a result of the deep and successful relationship between BorgWarner and FCA in recent years," said Joe Fadool, president and general manager, BorgWarner Morse TEC. "BorgWarner's engine timing systems help improve engine efficiency by reducing power-wasting friction while simultaneously delivering lower noise and improved durability."

BorgWarner's advanced engine timing systems for direct-injected engines offer best-in-class strength, and feature low-weight and low-friction technologies to

help improve fuel economy, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Erika Nielsen.

Engineered to withstand high temperatures and tough operating environments, BorgWarner's engine timing systems increase efficiency while reducing mass and improving wear, she said.

BorgWarner's low-friction engine timing chain utilizes inverted tooth silent chain technology and an optimized link back shape for better engine performance, Nielsen said.

GM Honors Its 'Best-of-the-Best' Global Suppliers

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system leverages our businesses' best practices to improve quality, productivity and speed."

Mel Stephens, spokesman for Lear Automotive said that Lear and GM have been partners for a long time.

"This is a great honor, especially since it's such an important customer for Lear and because we've partnered with them in both business and community projects," Stephens said.

"We're proud of our relationship with GM and winning this award really gives the people who work here something to rally around. We've been honored by GM in the past and to be recognized for our work is such an honor."

The Supplier of the Year and Overdrive award winners are chosen by a global team of GM purchasing, engineering, quality, manufacturing and logistics executives.

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MEMBER FDIC

1934 Deussenberg, 1948 Tucker Featured In 91-Car Chesterfield Garage Collection

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) – Behind the brick walls of a nondescript building in Chesterfield Township, a treasure trove of automotive history awaits.

Shiny cars in candy-colored shades of reds, blues, greens and yellows sit side by side, row after row inside this oversized garage.

Some date back more than 100 years, according to the *Detroit Free Press*.

For a just few hours each week, the public gets a glimpse inside the 45,000-square-foot building that's home to 91 cars, including a sought-after Tucker Torpedo, one of only 51 ever made.

Ted Stahl, the executive chairman of an international group of companies based in St. Clair Shores, has amassed so many vehicles – with brands including Auburn, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Cord, Duesenberg, Ford, Oldsmobile, Pontiac and Packard – that his garage doubles as a museum.

Inside, there are bulging wheel wells, thin vertical grilles, wood panels, whitewall tires, built-in flower vases and even vehicles that have been featured in movies.

"Each car has a story," Stahl said. "It's fun telling those."

Some of the cars greet visitors with their hoods popped. Others have their tops down.

Most have no barrier preventing people from getting close.

The cars, each ranging in value from five figures to seven figures, are surrounded by vintage gas pumps, porcelain steel and neon signs, some with the names of automakers.

Car lovers, history buffs or

those just curious can see the collection firsthand 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoons and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.

There is no charge to enter Stahls Automotive Foundation.

Volunteers are eager to answer questions and explain innovations on the vehicles while learning from the visitors in the process.

"This is a hidden gem," said Fred Regan, who is among a dozen volunteer guides at the museum.

Hidden because it's at 56516 North Bay Drive, just east of 26 Mile Road and south of Gratiot.

Memories came back to Ray Gleason as he looked at the vehicles earlier this year.

During his visit, the 67-year-old from Emmett peered under the hood of a red 1964 Chevrolet Corvair Monza Spyder convertible.

He said the car was like the one his son bought in 1987, but a year older. They took the engine out of his son's car together, carried it to the basement, rebuilt it then reinstalled it, Gleason recalled.

"It's hard to believe you can have this many cars worth this much money in one spot," Gleason said.

Motorcycles, trucks, a boat, a fire truck, an ice wagon and a stagecoach are also part of the collection that includes a Big Boy exhibit in the corner.

It's a lesson in history walking through the building, with vehicles arranged chronologically starting with an 1899 De Dion-Bouton Tricycle.

"Each car has a uniqueness to it," Stahl said. "I do have a passion for cars, and so do all of our

guides and our staff."

He got his first collector car about 25 years ago – a 1930 Ford Model A Roadster Deluxe – then gradually began investing in other unique cars, learning more and more about different types along the way.

Most of them run – with a few exceptions.

"The museum itself has taken on, amazingly, a life of its own," said Stahl of Grosse Pointe Woods.

John Lauter works there full-

"This (museum) is a hidden gem."

– Fred Regan, Volunteer Guide

time and said it sometimes has what he calls "Christmas mornings." On those days, a new addition, sometimes more than one."

One of the stars of the collection is the rare 1948 Tucker, which is "powered by a rear-mounted, converted helicopter engine" and has a center-mounted headlamp.

Another is the 1934 Duesenberg Model J. Information posted on it said the car cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 during a time when a new Ford was less than \$600 and the average American home was \$4,000.

"It was for a pretty exclusive clientele," Lauter said, adding movie stars owned them.

Other cars at the museum have been stars in movies.

Ford EcoBoost Engines Now Being Built in U.S.

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previously based in Valencia, Spain, Adamski said.

The investment in Cleveland shifted North American production to Ohio, leaving Ford's Valencia Engine Plant as the exclusive production location of 2.0-liter EcoBoost engine for Ford of Europe-built vehicles. Valencia will continue to machine and ship components for both engines to North America.

Cleveland Engine Plant also builds the 3.5-liter EcoBoost engine and 3.7-liter V6 rear-wheel-drive application.

The Ohio facility employs more than 1,300 people and has produced more than 1 million EcoBoost engines since 2009 that have been used to support Ford operations in North America, Mexico, Europe and Asia Pacific.

As the cornerstone of Ford's global engine strategy to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, EcoBoost, introduced in 2009, can deliver significantly better fuel economy than larger-displacement engines, Adamski said.

EcoBoost uses a smaller overall engine size combined with turbocharging, gasoline direct injection and variable valve timing for the power customers want and the fuel economy they need.

EcoBoost is now available on 100 percent of the 2015 light-duty Ford lineup in North America, and Ford produced more than 1.6 million EcoBoost engines globally in 2014, up more than 30 percent from 2013.

The first EcoBoost engine was the 1.0-liter version, which was developed at Ford development centers in Dunton, England, and Aachen and Merkevich, Germany.

The 1.0-liter engine debuted in 2010 and was first made in Cologne, Germany and Craiova, Romania.

More than 190,000 EcoBoost engines now are produced every month, up 90 percent from 2013, Adamski said. In 2014, annual global EcoBoost engine capacity reached approximately 2.3 million units.

Utility vehicles are the fastest-growing segment globally – up 135 percent since 2009. Utilities account for roughly 20 percent of overall market globally. By 2020, utility vehicle sales are expected to reach 23 percent of the global industry.

"With the new 2.0- and 2.3-liter EcoBoost engines featured in the all-new Edge and Explorer, Ford is well-positioned to benefit from the rapidly growing utility vehicle segment," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president of U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"Utility sales are growing at three times the rate of the global vehicle industry."

Ford has been the No. 1 brand of utility vehicles in the U.S. for four straight years, LaNeve said. In 2014, the company sold more than 1.4 million utility vehicles around the world, up 11 percent compared with the previous year.

Edge is a technology showcase, featuring adaptive steering, enhanced active park assist, side parking sensors and a front 180-degree camera, Adamski said. It is offered with the 2.0-liter or a 2.7-liter EcoBoost engine.

The new Explorer is a significant update to the SUV "that defined the segment when it launched in 1990," LaNeve said.

Along with a new look and the new engine 2.3-liter I-4 EcoBoost, Explorer new features include: front and rear 180-degree wide angle cameras with washers; enhanced active park assist with perpendicular park, parking side sensors; smart-charging front-and-rear USB ports; and a hands-free, kick-activated liftgate.

Autonomy in Cars Proposed to Help Self-Flying Aircraft

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create the Enstrom helicopter company.

That spirit of cooperation that made Enstrom possible 60 years ago can help Michigan's aerospace industry today, Biegler said.

One Detroit-based company that's on the cutting edge of this new aerospace technology is Detroit Aircraft Corporation. The company is headquartered at Detroit City Airport and designs and makes small, unmanned aerial systems for military, civil and commercial interests.

"Take agriculture," said company founder and CEO Jon Rimanelli. "Unmanned craft can be of great benefit to farmers. They can fly over crops and show farmers what areas need watering or if crops are ready to be harvested."

"And this work can be done a lot faster than before when a farmer would have to walk around and see what was what."

It's now possible to see thousands of acres of farmland from the sky using unmanned craft, Rimanelli said.

As for civil and commercial uses, road systems need inspecting and nobody wants to climb structures like the Mackinac Bridge when a UAV can be sent to inspect the structure, Rimanelli said.

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STK #7827-15 • DEAL #52863

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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

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2015 BUICK VERANO 1SD

LEASE FOR ONLY \$169*/MO

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STK #6944-15 • DEAL #53282

(DRAC UNIT) • DEAL #53282 *GM Pricing plus tax, title, lic. Lease figured with Buick/GMC Lease Loyalty Rebate. Dealer removed All Weather Floor Mats. \$1416 Total Due at Signing.

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STK #6961-15 • DEAL #52861

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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2015 BUICK ENCLAVE FWD CONVENIENCE GROUP

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STK #6915-15 • DEAL #498058

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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2015 BUICK LACROSSE BASE 1SB

LEASE FOR ONLY \$239*/MO

36 MO. LEASE • 10K MILES PER YEAR

STK #6869-15 • DEAL #52858

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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

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24 MO. LEASE
10K MILES PER YEAR

STK #7737-15 • DEAL #51286

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*GM Employee Pricing Plus Tax, Title, Lic. and Doc. No Security Deposit Required. Lease Conquest Rebate Must Have Non GM Lease In Household To Expire Within 90 Days Of Delivery Of New Purchase Or Lease. Lease Loyalty Rebate Must Have 1999 or Newer GM Vehicle In Household. Programs subject to change. Photos may not represent actual vehicle. Price is subject to change without notice. See dealer for details. Expires 3/31/15.

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Mopar to Reward Sports Car Drivers For Their Loyalty

Mopar will provide multiple contingency programs across several sports car road racing series during the 2015 road racing season to reward loyal racers for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

These contingency programs are in addition to those provided by Mopar for sportsman drag racers in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Drag Racing Series, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Pat Caporali.

"This joint contingency program showcases our recognition for the sports car drivers and teams whose efforts reflect our brands' high standard for performance and success," said Pietro Gorlier, Fiat Chrysler's president and CEO of Mopar Brand Service, Parts and Customer Care.

"Both Mopar and Dodge have a long tradition of involvement in professional and amateur racing across various motorsports platforms and we continue to support the racers that embrace our quality performance products."

Mopar and Dodge will provide joint support for contingency programs, Caporali said, in the International Motor Sports Association-sanctioned TUDOR United Sports Car Championship, the Sports Car Club of America-sanctioned Trans Am Series, Pirelli World Challenge Series and 2015 National Championship Runoffs, as well as the North American Road Racing Association USGT series and the National Hot Rod Association.

Mopar is a longtime supporter of racing, Caporali said.

Young Drivers To Get Support From Mopar, FCA

Mopar will give a helping hand to young drivers in Florida with an advanced driving program called, "Mopar Road Ready," designed to teach safe and defensive driving techniques.

Sponsored by the FCA Foundation and supported by Mopar, the program dedicated to training and educating teenage drivers will be available to those between the ages of 15 and 19 with a learner's or driver's license and at least 30 hours of driving experience.

The program, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Lisa Barrow, was developed in collaboration with the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Motorsports Museum and B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe).

The two are nationally recognized nonprofit organizations that share similar missions of promoting the importance of safe and responsible driving.

"Mopar is a brand that cares about and supports all its drivers, especially the youngest," said Pietro Gorlier, Fiat Chrysler president and CEO of Mopar Brand Service, Parts and Customer Care.

"This is why we've teamed with the NHRA Motorsports Museum and B.R.A.K.E.S. to offer the 'Mopar Road Ready' teen drivers' initiative. This program allows teenage drivers to safely learn valuable defensive driving skills in a controlled environment."

Participants will benefit from a proven curriculum and skilled high-caliber instructors provided by the B.R.A.K.E.S. organization, with both classroom education and hands-on training with a 3:1 student-to-instructor ratio, allowing for quality time with each teen, Barrow said.

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MARCH Cherokee Lease Specials! 114 Available!

2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE #J5-70205 LEASE FOR \$133** 24 Mos. \$1495 due SALE PRICE \$18,857*	2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE 4X4 #J5-70244 LEASE FOR \$135** 24 Mos. \$1995 due SALE PRICE \$22,203*	2015 CHEROKEE LIMITED #J5-70258 LEASE FOR \$162** 24 Mos. \$1995 due SALE PRICE \$26,790*
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Eyes of Texas Are on Fiat Chrysler Vehicles

The 2015 Chrysler 300 took the highest award as the Car of Texas at the Texas Auto Roundup hosted by the Texas Auto Writers Association (TAWA).

Dodge, Jeep and Alfa Romeo brands also won accolades this year.

After a day of demanding driving at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, journalists voted for their favorite vehicles and Fiat Chrysler secured eight of the possible 20 awards, the most of any manufacturer at the event, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Rick Deneau.

"FCA US brought an amazing array of vehicles this year," said Michael Marrs, president of TAWA. It was truly an all-star lineup.

"Our members were especially impressed with the 2015 Chrysler 300 and the Dodge Hellcats. In fact, the 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat was the most driven car for the entire day."

Besides the 300's Car of Texas award, these Fiat Chrysler vehicles received awards:

- Mid-size Sedan of Texas: 2015 Chrysler 200;
- Full-size Sedan of Texas: 2015 Dodge Charger R/T Scat Pack;
- Performance Coupe of Texas: 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat;
- Performance Sedan of Texas: 2015 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat;
- Best New Feature: Dodge SRT Hellcat 6.2-liter Supercharged Hemi V8 Engine;
- Performance Utility Vehicle of Texas: 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT;
- Best Value: 2015 Alfa Romeo 4C Coupe.

TAWA members gather every spring to evaluate all that's new in passenger cars, minivans and performance SUVs, Deneau said.

The event gives 52 Texas automotive journalists the opportunity to drive nearly every new car –

this year, 54 vehicles – on the market, ranging from subcompact vehicles to supercars (more than 450 horsepower).

"It's always nice to do well in things like this," Deneau said. "But it's especially nice to be honored by the Texas Auto Writers Association."

"I wouldn't say it was a surprise that the Chrysler 300 won the top car award, but it was special. There were something like 55 vehicles that were judged, and many of them were cars, so the 300 winning was great."

Deneau said that Fiat Chrysler has done well in the past at TAWA contests with its SUVs and pickups, but not its cars.

"It's especially nice that the Alfa Romeo 4C Coupe won the 'Best Value' award," Deneau said. "It's just coming to the American market and costs between \$55,000 and \$70,000."

While that sounds like an expensive vehicle to win the best



2015 Chrysler 300

value award, Deneau said, it's a performance car that makes great use of carbon fiber in the chassis.

"Normally, when you talk about a carbon fiber chassis in a performance car, you're talking about a supercar that might cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars," Deneau said.

"But the Alfa Romeo 4C provides the tech and the perform-

ance at a fraction of that cost. It was great to see that value honored."

Deneau also said that TAWA also recognized just what Fiat Chrysler has done with its Hellcat cars.

"We put a lot of new tech in the Hellcat engines," Deneau said. "TAWA writers saw what we did and honored it. That's just exciting."



2015 Trax

Social Media Boosts SUV as Trax Tours

Chevrolet has introduced the 2015 Trax through an innovative marketing campaign called Hidden Gems, created with help from social media influencers.

Twenty social media influencers created a "social swarm," using a mix of paid media, social media and unique experiences – conveying the versatile personality and capabilities of the new Trax in Chicago and New York, said GM spokesman Craig Daitch.

Following personalized itineraries, each participant was tasked with sharing their city discoveries one may not otherwise find, Daitch said, including venues and activities like live music in a small club, trampoline training, a butchery demo and a distillery tour.

"Trax is the perfect small SUV for urban discovery," said Steve Majoros, Chevrolet director of marketing for cars and crossovers. "With its car-like maneuverability and SUV capability, in addition to OnStar 4G LTE with a built-in Wi-Fi hotspot, Trax gives you the tools to discover and share what the city has to offer."

Influencers posted live content to their social networks on Instagram and Twitter throughout the one-night experience, Daitch said. Beyond influencer followers, content will be aggregated to a Hidden Gems in the City online hub in partnership with Complex Media.

In addition to live curated content from participating social influencers, a series of three long-form videos focusing on secrets in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago will be created as well, with in-depth looks into restaurants, cafés, nightlife, and experiences of which even

locals may be unaware.

Lifestyle and fashion blogger Megan Collins, known as the Style Girlfriend, will host meet-and-greets with top city influencers, experiencing the city through local eyes.

"GM has had a long-standing relationship with social influencers," Daitch said. "But I would say that this is pretty close to being a first for GM. We got to expose social influencers to new things. We even took a group to a trapeze location where they literally got to swing from the rafters."

Each social influencer, Daitch said, got to invite two friends along to the activities. They traveled in a Trax and had the chance to see how its 4G LTE system provided wi-fi to their tablets and smartphones.

And, Daitch said, they also had the chance to see how the Trax, despite its experience, didn't seem cramped.

"And it didn't hurt that the participants got to see how the Trax performed on tight Chicago streets during winter weather," Daitch said. "They saw firsthand that the vehicle is maneuverable and easy to park."

The promotion was aimed at "Millennials who are living in city environments," Daitch said.

The promotion was developed by GM's marketing department with the help of Complex, a New York-based lifestyle media company known for its lifestyle content aimed at people between 18 and 34, Daitch said.

"We just launched the Trax, so this is a kind of coming-out party," Daitch said. "This campaign allowed us to show off just what the Trax can do."

"The effort, according to our tracking of social media, was successful in Chicago. We did it for a weekend. We will be doing something similar later this year in New York City."

Ford Honored for Business Practices by Ethics Group

Is being ethical important?

It is, as far as Ford Motor Company is concerned.

The Dearborn automaker was named on March 9 to Ethisphere Institute's 2015 list of "World's Most Ethical Companies."

The honor comes at a time in which the way a company conducts its business is viewed as every bit as important as the products and services it provides, new research shows, said Ethisphere Institute spokeswoman Clea Nabozny.

"This award celebrates doing business the right way, and making the right choices every day," said Ford executive chairman Bill Ford.

"Ethics and corporate citizenship are important factors that affect a company's reputation and success, and we are proud Ford is the only automaker to have received this honor for six consecutive years."

The World's Most Ethical Company assessment is based on a framework developed by the Ethisphere Institute to assess an organization's performance in an objective, consistent and standardized manner, Nabozny said.

The honor is given based on top ratings in five categories – ethics and compliance; corporate citizenship and responsibility; culture of ethics, governance and leadership; innovation; and reputation.

"The World's Most Ethical Companies embrace the correlation between ethical business practice and improved company performance," said Timothy Erblich, Ethisphere chief executive officer.

"Earning this recognition involves the collective action of a global workforce from the top down. We congratulate everyone at Ford for this extraordinary achievement."

The honor correlates with research showing that a reputation

for ethics and trust plays a role in consumers' purchase decisions, Erblich said.

Last year, according to the 2015 Harris Poll Reputation Quotient, 53 percent of the U.S. public learned more about a company before doing business with the organization.

More than one-third of the respondents decided not to do business with a company based on the perception of a negative reputation.

Ford sees this trend shaping consumers of all ages – especially younger customers, said Ford spokeswoman Becky Sanch.

Generation Z members born after 1993, Sanch said, are 54 percent more likely than their millennial counterparts to say they want to have an impact on the world, and these consumers do business with companies that share their values, according to a study from research firm Sparks & Honey.

It Doesn't Take a Rocket Scientist – Except in This Case

DETROIT (AP) – The auto industry, fed up with slow progress toward finding out why some airbags explode with too much force, has hired a Virginia rocket science company to investigate the matter.

Ten automakers whose vehicles have been recalled because of problems with Takata Corp. airbags said recently they have jointly hired Orbital ATK to figure out the problem.

The suburban Washington, D.C. company makes rocket propulsion systems, small-arms ammunition, warhead fuses and missile controls.

The companies also named David Kelly, a former acting administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, as project manager for the investigation.

Airbag inflators made by Takata

of Japan can explode with too much force, sending shrapnel into car and truck cabins. At least six people have been killed and 64 injured due to the problems, which surfaced a decade ago.

So far, about 17 million cars and trucks have been recalled in the U.S. and 22 million worldwide to replace the inflators, but Takata has been unable to pinpoint the cause. The company has known about the problems since at least 2004.

Takata uses ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion that quickly inflates its airbags. But government investigators say the chemical can burn faster than designed if exposed to prolonged airborne moisture. That can cause it to blow apart a metal canister meant to contain the explosion.

Automakers, Takata and the

government all want to find out just how much humidity and time it takes to cause the problem, both of which are unknown.

Orbital ATK has the ability to quickly simulate the impact of humidity on the propellant over long periods of time, which is key to finding out the cause, Kelly said in an interview.

The company will test airbag inflators that were taken from cars that have been repaired under recalls.

"The Orbital team has a tremendous amount of experience in being able to test that and being able to look at burn rates on a large scale," he said.

Long-term stability of airbag propellant is important because cars are staying on the road for 10 or 15 years, much longer than in the past, Kelly said.

He wouldn't estimate how long

it might take to find a cause. "It is much more important for us to get the answer right than to get the answer back," Kelly said.

Orbital ATK will share data with Takata and government safety investigators. Once a cause is found, it will be disclosed to all stakeholders and the public, Kelly said.

The automakers, include Toyota, BMW, Fiat Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Subaru.

In a statement, Takata said it welcomes Orbital and Kelly and will work with them and NHTSA on the investigation.

Takata is being fined \$14,000 per day by NHTSA for allegedly failing to cooperate in the government probe, an accusation that Takata denies. Fines began Feb. 20 and have grown to more than \$100,000 so far.

Colorado Offers a No-Bed Option for Buyers

Part of being in the auto business is helping other companies do their business, which is what GM is doing with the 2015 Chevrolet Colorado.

With a box delete option, business owners and fleet managers can customize the back end of the 2015 Chevrolet Colorado in a way that best helps their businesses.

Chevrolet will make available such an option package in mid-April. It was on display March 2-6 at the annual National Truck Equipment Association Work Truck Show in Indianapolis.

It is the only such option offered in the midsize truck segment, said GM spokesman Robert Wheeler.

He described a box delete as a pickup truck that doesn't have a bed.

"There are people in particular businesses where being able to put in the kind of bed they want really matters," Wheeler said. "For example, landscapers. They want to be able to get their equipment, which includes heavy lawnmowers, in and out easily. They like to put in aluminum stable beds."

"With the segment-leading efficiency and maneuverable size, the Colorado makes a great, flexible choice for urban businesses and fleets to make the most of a midsize truck," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, GM Fleet & Commercial.

"It's ideal for utility companies requiring service bodies, as well as landscapers and other busi-

nesses needing the utility of a flatbed."

The box delete package is available on Colorado Work Truck 2WD extended cab models and is offered exclusively with the 305-hp 3.6L V6 engine and six-speed automatic transmission.

A \$300 credit is applied to the Colorado's suggested retail price when the option is selected.

Additional vehicle and package highlights include:

- 2,200-pound payload rating;
- 6,001-pound gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR);
- Temporary taillamps installed on the rear of the frame;
- Rear bumper deleted;
- Full-size spare tire included;
- Eight body mount provisions (four per frame rail);
- Standard fuel filler position.

Optional BJA-code service body

fuel filler will be available and shipped loose in the cab for up-fitter installation;

- Z82 trailering package;
- G80 locking differential.

Additionally, an option to delete the rear seat for great cargo capacity and versatility is available with the Colorado Work Truck extended cab, regardless of whether the box stays or goes.

"The Colorado was developed with the upfitter industry in mind," said Mike Jones, product manager, mid-pickups with CNG and LPG.

"Input from body manufacturers and fleet owners helped us make the most of the optional fuel filler mounting location to suit their unique needs."

Like the full-size Chevrolet Silverado, the Colorado has a fully boxed perimeter frame, which provides the strength to support



2015 Chevrolet Colorado's custom upfit

its capabilities and was engineered, to provide a confident, smooth and quiet ride.

A coil-over-type front suspension features aluminum knuckles that are low in mass and high in strength, contributing to a more responsive feel and efficiency. Colorado also features the segment's first application of energy-saving electric power steering.

The Colorado has a short turning circle of 41.3 feet, enabling

easier maneuvering in tight areas such as on city streets.

Four-wheel disc brakes, with four-piston front calipers, are standard and feature Duralife brake rotors – pioneered on the Silverado – that can offer up to double the service life and save money on maintenance.

In the city, the V6-powered Colorado 2WD (with box) is rated at 18 mpg, and on the highway, 26 mpg.

Ford Rouge Tour Undergoes \$4.7M History Upgrade

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – The Ford Rouge Factory Tour that gives visitors a close-up look at the making of the automaker's F-150 pickup has received a \$4.7 million upgrade.

The tour runs from The Henry Ford, a Dearborn history attraction that includes Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. As part of the recent overhaul, BRC Imagination Arts helped create the Manufacturing Innovation Theater to showcase Ford Motor Co.'s manufacturing process.

Christian Lachel, executive creative director and vice president of California-based BRC Imagination Arts, said the exhibit tells an "inspiring story about human ingenuity, technological innovation and the future of 21st century manufacturing and transportation."

It highlights the aluminum-bodied F-150, which cuts down on the truck's weight and is part of broader efforts by automakers to meet tougher fuel efficiency standards. The original Rouge plant tour opened 10 years ago with support from the automaker.

A new video about the F-150 is shown, which precedes the tour along catwalks above the assembly line floor. The theater is surrounded by big-screen panels that show details of the truck's creation.

Updates were planned after Ford introduced the aluminum-bodied F-150 in January 2014 at the North American International Auto Show. The display area was closed for renovations starting in August and work happened quickly.

"A project like this usually takes up to two years for a museum to do," said Cynthia Jones, general manager of the Ford Rouge Factory Tour.

Jones helped design the original tour and funneled 10 years of guest feedback into the new experience. There also are new displays, signs and other updates.

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New Focus RS Has European Coming-Out

The new 2016 Ford Focus RS made its global debut March 3 at the Geneva Motor Show.

"The high-performance road car pioneers innovative Ford Performance All-Wheel Drive, and delivers class-leading cornering speed for thrilling performance and unbridled driving enjoyment," said Ford spokesman Aaron Miller.

"The Focus RS had its world reveal on Feb. 3, but Geneva is the first auto show where people could see it.

"Given the RS's heritage and history in Europe, we feel that's really an appropriate place for the RS to make its public debut.

Focus RS introduces advanced performance technologies, Miller said, adding that it's the first Ford RS equipped with selectable drive modes – including industry-first drift mode, as well as launch control.

With a 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine delivering well in excess of 315 horsepower, the high-performance road car features the most powerful Ford RS braking system ever, said Miller. Its dramatic exterior design, he added, offers optimized aerodynamics and cooling, with 9 percent less drag than the previous Focus RS.

"The all-new Focus RS is a serious machine with high-performance technology and innovative engineering that sets new

benchmarks for driving exhilaration on the road and track," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president of Global Product Development.

"The RS line has a proud history of technical breakthroughs that have migrated to mainstream Fords to benefit all of our customers," he added, "and the new Focus RS is no exception.

"It's a great example of our passion for innovation through performance, and creating vehicles that make people's hearts pound."

Focus RS is the latest vehicle to be unveiled as part of a new era of Ford performance that will bring to customers globally more than 12 performance vehicles through 2020, said Miller.

In addition to pleasing enthusiasts, he said, these vehicles help deliver the company's One Ford plan for profitable growth, product excellence and innovation in every part of its business.

Developed by a small team of Ford Performance engineers in Europe and the United States, the high-performance hatch is the third-generation Focus RS, following models launched in 2002 and 2009.

It's the 30th car to wear the legendary RS badge, said Miller, following such technology trendsetters as the 1970 16-valve Escort RS1600, 1985 turbocharged

Sierra RS Cosworth with radical aerodynamics and 1992 Escort RS Cosworth with four-wheel drive.

The RS will be built at Ford's Saarlouis plant in Germany beginning late this year. The Focus is a global vehicle and the ones sold in North America are built at Ford's Wayne Assembly Plant.

A factory in China also builds the Focus. All Focuses use the same platform – the Ford global C-car platform.

This platform replaced the Ford C170 platform and Mazda's BJ platform. The C1 platform debuted with the European Ford Focus C-Max compact MPV in early 2004.

The platform is designed for either front- or all-wheel drive, Miller said. This new Focus RS is the first RS model that will be sold in North America.

"The new Focus RS represents Ford at its passionate best – delivering innovation, unmatched driving dynamics and stunning performance that was previously only available with high-priced performance luxury marques and exotics," said Jim Farley, Ford executive vice president and president of Europe, Middle East and Africa.

"We are acutely aware of the benchmarks we've set ourselves with RS performance models through the years, and rest as-



Plans are for the 2016 Ford Focus RS to go on sale next year.

sured that this new car raises the game to a new level.

"Just as important is the fact that with technologies such as EcoBoost," he added, "we are able to demonstrate how an innovation that powers almost every car in our range can also be the heartbeat of our finest performance cars."

The new Focus RS, said Nair, exploits innovative Ford Performance All-Wheel Drive with Dynamic Torque Vectoring to deliver a new level of handling capability and driver enjoyment – combining outstanding traction and grip with unmatched agility and cornering speed.

Ford Performance All-Wheel Drive is based on twin electronically controlled clutch packs on each side of the rear-drive unit. These manage the car's front/rear torque split, and can control side-to-side torque distribution on the rear axle – delivering the torque vectoring capability that has a dramatic impact on handling and cornering stability.

The control unit in the rear-drive unit continuously varies the front/rear and side-to-side torque distribution to suit the driving situation – monitoring inputs from multiple vehicle sensors 100 times per second.

A maximum of 70 percent of the drive torque can be diverted to the rear axle. Up to 100 percent of available torque at the rear axle can be sent to each rear wheel.

Ford worked with Michelin to develop a choice of high-performance 235/35R-19 tires to com-

plement Focus RS driving dynamics – a standard Pilot Super Sport for everyday use and, for the first time on RS, an optional Pilot Sport Cup 2 for enhanced vehicle dynamics on the track-led oversteer drifts under circuit conditions.

"The all-new Focus RS is true-to-the-core RS principles of innovative engineering and high performance," said Joe Bakaj, Ford of Europe vice president of Product Development.

"Driving enthusiasts have always aspired to own RS vehicles, and this is a heritage that inspires everyone within Ford."

Miller said the Focus RS will go on sale in 2016.

Drivers Needed To Deliver Meals

Macomb County Community Services Agency's (MCCSA) Office of Senior Services is seeking volunteer drivers to deliver meals to homebound senior citizens on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Routes are available in all communities in Macomb County. Volunteers are asked to deliver approximately 10 to 12 meals. Volunteers must sign up by Wednesday, March 25. Meals will need to be picked up in Clinton Township.

The holiday meal delivery ensures all Macomb County older adults enrolled in the program have a delicious meal and friendly check-in. For more information, contact the Office of Senior Services at 586-469-5228.

Car Shoppers Are Looking for Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles

Certified pre-owned (CPO) car sales are at an all-time high, say analysts at Edmunds.com.

In the company's latest Used Vehicle Market Report, Edmunds.com analysts noted that in 2014, CPO sales hit an all-time high of 2.3 million – even though it was not a record year for used car sales overall.

Last year, CPO made up 20.8 percent of total used car sales at franchised dealerships, the highest percentage since certified pre-owned programs were introduced.

"We fully expect CPO popularity to continue throughout 2015," said Edmunds.com senior analyst Jessica Caldwell, "because many leased cars are being returned to the dealership in excellent shape and lightly used cars are being traded in at faster rates than in previous years.

"This allows dealers to maintain a large CPO inventory. Car shoppers are finding a great selection to choose from, and, in the current economy, many are comfortable spending a bit more for that extra peace of mind that a CPO car brings."

Even though there are more used cars in the marketplace than in recent years, retail prices have remained high. In fact, with a six percent gain in year-over-year used prices, 2014 generated record high average used vehicle retail values.

The average price for a used vehicle sold at a dealership last year was \$16,800, compared to \$15,900 in 2013. In 2014, the aver-

age one-year-old vehicle sold for almost \$30,000, 5.7 percent higher than in 2013.

"Lightly used cars are very appealing to car shoppers since they are equipped with modern technology and have already taken their biggest depreciation hit," said Caldwell.

Caldwell also said that 19 percent of used vehicles sold in 2014 were one or two years old, up from 14 percent in 2013.

Another factor that boosted average retail used car prices in 2014 was the dramatic decline in gas prices. This drew a greater proportion of shoppers to larger vehicles, which typically cost more.

In addition, low interest rates and longer loan repayment terms allow shoppers to buy more expensive vehicles with lower monthly payments, and all of these trends were realized in 2014.

Despite higher average prices, the average monthly payment for used cars financed in 2014 was \$370, three dollars less than the all-time high that was reached in 2007.

The Edmunds.com report also tracked the average age of car shoppers and found that millennials are a growing customer base for used cars.

"As new jobs and other changes in their lifestyles lead them to buy cars, millennials are using their smartphones to find the best deals and are often choosing used over new," said Caldwell.

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2016 Chevrolet Spark

Spark Sales Reach 1.1 Million

The new 2016 Spark will debut on April 2 at the Seoul and New York auto shows.

A sleeker, more aerodynamic profile and a progressive take on Chevrolet's signature design cues, said GM International Design Vice President Michael Simcoe, will give the redesigned Spark a more sophisticated aesthetic that reflects the changing tastes of the global minicar market.

"The new Spark's design has evolved and grown up with the segment," said Simcoe. "The youthful whimsy of the original Spark is still in its genes, but it is conveyed in more traditional proportions that reinforce the customer's refined expectations."

Chevrolet has sold more than 1.1 million Sparks around the world since it went on sale as the Beat in India in late 2009.

Today, the Spark is available in 71 markets worldwide, selling the most in South Korea, followed by the United States and Mexico, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

Spark is attracting younger and first-time car buyers to Chevrolet with 26 percent being under the age of 35, Farah said. Sales of the Spark in the U.S. are

up 32 percent in the first two months of 2015 versus the same period in 2014.

The vehicle is based on GM's Global Small Vehicles or Gamma platform, which got its start in 2000 with the Opel Corsa C. It was developed as a common platform with Fiat.

Since then, GM's Korean operations have taken the lead in the development of the Global Small Vehicle (GSV) platform. It has been used in such GM cars around the world as the Chevrolet Sail, sold in China; the Opel Mokka, sold in Europe; and the Buick Encore, sold in North America.

Grand Prix Needs Some Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to run the 2015 Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix.

The event takes place May 29-31 at the Belle Isle Raceway track. Race chairman Bud Denker said the goal is to have about 1,100 volunteers come down and help run the race. Volunteers will be expected to put in about 25 hours during the week of the race. Visit www.DetroitGP.com to sign up.

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2015 EQUINOX "LT"

- 2 Yr/24,000 Scheduled Maintenance INCLUDED!
- 2.4L DOHC Engine! • 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- Remote Vehicle Entry! • Rear Vision Camera!
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot!
- Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column!
- 17" Aluminum Wheels!
- 32 MPG on the Highway!

Stock#F22072 Was \$27,180

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Sale Price **\$21,056***

The Best Price... PERIOD!

24 Month Lease: **\$157*** SO DOWN!

2015 CRUZE "LT"

- 2 Yr/24,000 Scheduled Maintenance INCLUDED!
- ECOTEC 1.4L "Turbo" DOHC VTI Engine! • Automatic Transmission!
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! • AM/FM/XM Radio w/CD!
- 16" Aluminum Wheels! • Remote Keyless Entry!
- Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column!
- 38 MPG on the Highway!

Stock#F20943 Was \$20,920

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Sale Price **\$17,790*** +0% APR Up to 72 Months!

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36 Month Lease: **\$169*** SO DOWN!

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2015 MALIBU "LT"

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- 2.5L DOHC VTI Engine! • 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! • Rear Vision Camera!
- Previous Dealer Courtesy Car - 2200 Miles!
- Remote Vehicle Start/Entry!
- Power Driver's Seat!
- Aluminum Wheels!
- 36 MPG on the Highway!

Stock#F22289 Was \$24,560

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Sale Price **\$20,879*** +0% APR Up to 72 Months!

The Best Price... PERIOD!

36 Month Lease: **\$189*** SO DOWN!

2015 TRAVERSE "LS"

- 2 Yr/24,000 Scheduled Maintenance INCLUDED!
- 3.6L SIDI V6 Engine! • 6.5" Color Touch Screen Radio!
- Bluetooth for Phone! • Power Driver's Seat!
- 8 Passenger Seating!
- Remote Keyless Entry!
- 17" Wheels!
- 24 MPG on the Highway!

Stock#F20725 Was \$32,420

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Sale Price **\$26,604*** +0% APR Up to 60 Months!

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24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN
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36 MONTHS \$999 DOWN
10K LEASE

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36 MONTHS \$999 DOWN
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36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$213* + Tax with \$0 Down
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

2015 TRAVERSE 1LT

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Stk.#52426

Power Locks/Windows/Mirrors/Seats, Captain Seats, Heated Seats, Remote Start, Back-Up Camera, Touch Screen Radio, XM Radio, OnStar & More...

36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$236* + Tax with \$0 Down
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

2015 EQUINOX 1LT

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Stk.# 52636

Power Locks/Windows/Mirrors/Seat, Remote Start, Touch Screen Radio, Back-Up Camera & More...

24 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$166* + Tax with \$0 Down
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

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\$74**	\$16,153**	\$74**	\$16,153**

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27 MO. LEASE	PRICE	27 MO. LEASE	PRICE
\$105**	\$15,805**	\$105**	\$16,825**

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Stk# FT577878

EMPLOYEE		EVERYONE	
24 MO. LEASE	PRICE	24 MO. LEASE	PRICE
\$72*	\$27,635*	\$93*	\$29,153*

2015 Chrysler 300 Limited



HEATED LEATHER SEATS, VOICE COMMAND WITH BLUETOOTH, UCONNECT RADIO, SATELLITE RADIO WITH 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FH42885

EMPLOYEE		EVERYONE	
24 MO. LEASE	PRICE	24 MO. LEASE	PRICE
\$182*	\$24,019*	\$192*	\$25,279*

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Stk# EH334471

EMPLOYEE		EVERYONE	
24 MO. LEASE	PRICE	24 MO. LEASE	PRICE
\$197*	\$24,409*	\$212*	\$25,749*

2015 Jeep Cherokee Limited



HEATED LEATHER SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, 8.4" UCONNECT RADIO, REAR CAMERA AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FW531753

EMPLOYEE		EVERYONE	
24 MO. LEASE	PRICE	24 MO. LEASE	PRICE
\$166*	\$21,092*	\$173*	\$22,229*

2015 Chrysler Town & Country



HEATED LEATHER SEATS, REMOTE START, REAR DVD PLAYER, POWER SLIDING DOORS AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FR699352

EMPLOYEE		EVERYONE	
24 MO. LEASE	PRICE	24 MO. LEASE	PRICE
\$177*	\$23,459*	\$188*	\$24,717*

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Stk# FB086873

EMPLOYEE		EVERYONE	
24 MO. LEASE	PRICE	24 MO. LEASE	PRICE
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2015 GMC Terrain

32 MPG (HIGHWAY), 4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT, REAR CAMERA, COLOR TOUCH-SCREEN RADIO, SATELLITE RADIO, BLUETOOTH, FOG LAMPS, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY, 17" ALLOY WHEELS AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# F6146530

EMPLOYEE	EVERYONE
24 MO. LEASE \$144*	24 MO. LEASE \$208*
PRICE \$23,363*	PRICE \$24,373*

2015 GMC ACADIA

8 PASSENGER SEATING, REAR CAMERA, REAR PARK ASSIST, BLUETOOTH, COLOR TOUCH-SCREEN RADIO, ONSTAR WITH TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION, SATELLITE RADIO AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FJ213007

EMPLOYEE	EVERYONE
24 MO. LEASE \$214*	24 MO. LEASE \$269*
PRICE \$29,126*	PRICE \$29,917*

2015 Buick Verano

4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT, REAR CAMERA, REMOTE START, INTELLILINK RADIO, BLUETOOTH, SATELLITE RADIO, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, 10 AIR BAGS, ONSTAR WITH TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# F4159424

BELOW EMPLOYEE PRICE	EVERYONE
24 MO. LEASE \$115*	24 MO. LEASE \$170*
PRICE \$17,941*	PRICE \$19,231*

2015 Buick Regal

4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, 259 HP TURBO ENGINE, REAR CAMERA, INTELLILINK RADIO, BLUETOOTH, SATELLITE RADIO, ONSTAR WITH TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION, 18" ALLOY WHEELS, POWER SEAT AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# F9181868

BELOW EMPLOYEE PRICE	EVERYONE
24 MO. LEASE \$148*	24 MO. LEASE \$217*
PRICE \$23,732*	PRICE \$25,461*

2015 Buick Lacrosse

4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT, REAR CAMERA, INTELLILINK RADIO, BLUETOOTH, USB PORT, ONSTAR WITH TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION, SATELLITE RADIO, POWER SEAT, DUAL ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, UNIVERSAL HOME REMOTE, SATELLITE RADIO, 18" ALUMINUM WHEELS AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FF117852

EMPLOYEE	EVERYONE
39 MO. LEASE \$289*	24 MO. LEASE \$314*
PRICE \$29,342*	PRICE \$29,396*

2015 GMC Yukon SLE 4WD

4 WHEEL DRIVE, 4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT, 20" POLISHED WHEELS, POWER REAR LIFTGATE, POWER ADJUSTABLE PEDALS, AUTO-DIMMING REARVIEW MIRROR, UNIVERSAL HOME REMOTE, FRONT & REAR PARK ASSIST, REAR CAMERA, RAIN SENSING WIPERS, REMOTE START, BOSE PREMIUM SOUND SYSTEM, INTELLILINK RADIO, ONSTAR WITH TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FR571512

EMPLOYEE	EVERYONE
39 MO. LEASE \$490*	39 MO. LEASE \$528*
PRICE \$46,759*	PRICE \$48,212*

2015 GMC Sierra SLE Double Cab

4G LTE WI-FI HOTSPOT, TRAILERING PKG, LOCKING REAR DIFFERENTIAL, INTELLILINK RADIO, BLUETOOTH, DUAL-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, REAR PARK ASSIST, POWER SLIDING REAR WINDOW, ONSTAR WITH TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION, POWER ADJUSTABLE PEDALS, REMOTE STARTER, REAR DEFROSTER AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FZ213771

EMPLOYEE	EVERYONE
39 MO. LEASE \$227*	39 MO. LEASE \$243*
PRICE \$31,360*	PRICE \$31,897*

2015 Buick Enclave

7 PASSENGER SEATING, REMOTE START, REAR CAMERA, REAR PARK ASSIST, POWER LIFTGATE, TRI-ZONE AUTOMATIC CLIMATE CONTROL, INTELLILINK RADIO, SATELLITE RADIO, BLUETOOTH, POWER SEATS, HEATED MIRRORS AND MUCH MORE.
Stk# FJ207059

EMPLOYEE	EVERYONE
36 MO. LEASE \$282*	36 MO. LEASE \$282*
PRICE \$33,757*	PRICE \$33,757*

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GM Plans to Buy Back \$5B In Stock by the End of 2016

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors agreed to buy back \$5 billion in stock by the end of next year as part of a plan to return more cash to shareholders. In return, an activist shareholder decided to drop a potentially divisive bid for a seat on the company's board.

The move, announced March 10, is part of a deal with Harry Wilson, a former member of the federal government task force that restructured GM coming out of its 2009 bankruptcy.

Wilson, who represents four hedge funds that own about 2 percent of the company, had previously accused GM of hoarding cash to the detriment of shareholders and had sought an \$8 billion buyback and a board seat.

But on March 10 he said he was impressed at how quickly GM's management responded, adding that the company agreed to just about everything the funds wanted.

"We basically said thank you," Wilson said.

GM had \$25.2 billion in cash at the end of last year, part of what it called a "fortress balance sheet" designed to withstand another financial crisis. Going forward, the automaker plans to maintain a cash balance of \$20 million and aims to keep its investment-grade credit rating.

The share repurchase will begin immediately and finish before the end of 2016. Investors liked the announcement.

Talks with Wilson's group had been going on for about two weeks, GM CEO Mary Barra said. She said other major shareholders agreed with the buyback.

Barra indicated that the buyback might have come without Wilson's prodding. "We were on a

path to do this anyway," she said March 9.

GM recently announced plans to boost its quarterly dividend by 20 percent to 36 cents. On March 10, Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said further returns to shareholders were under consideration for the second half of the year.

Combined, the dividend increase and the buyback will cost GM \$10 billion by the end of 2016.

Stevens said a \$20 billion cash reserve is enough for GM to withstand any potential economic downturn, as well as the costs of an ignition switch recall.

The Justice Department is investigating GM for failing to disclose a deadly problem with ignition switches in its small cars to government safety regulators. That penalty could be as much or more than the \$1.2 billion that Toyota paid in a similar case.

The switches are responsible for at least 64 deaths, and GM has committed to making payments to those injured and families of those who were killed. The company has set aside \$400 million for the payments but says they could go as high as \$600 million.

Also, like other Detroit automakers, GM also faces the financial uncertainty of contract talks with the United Auto Workers union later this year.

GM also pledged March 10 to return capital to shareholders each year and said it will announce those allocations each January.

It reiterated plans to invest more than \$9 billion in the company this year to roll out more new vehicles in the coming years.

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36 MONTH/10K PER YEAR

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63 AVAILABLE

EMPLOYEE PRICE \$399

36 MONTH/10K PER YEAR

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36 MONTH/10K PER YEAR

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 LUXURY COLLECTION



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EMPLOYEE PRICE \$679

36 MONTH/10K PER YEAR

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