

GM Will Invest \$5.4 Billion with Warren's Pre-Production Slated for \$139.5 Million

by Jim Stickford

During the recent economic downturn citizens and governments as well as employees of GM showed their faith by, investing time, labor and money in the company. On April 30, GM helped repay that faith to the tune of \$5.4 billion in new investments over three years in various GM sites around the country.

Alan Batey, GM North American president, made the announcement at the company's Pontiac Metal Center site, where he said that as part of the first phase of the process the facility will receive \$124 million in investments.

Two other facilities in Michigan will receive additional investments as well, Batey said. GM's Lansing Delta Township site will receive \$520 million for tooling and equipment, and the Warren Pre-Productions Operations site will get \$139.5 million for a new body shop and stamping facility upgrades.

All told, the first phase of GM's investment plans calls for \$783.5 million to be invested at the three Michigan locations. He said that GM will announce what other sites will be upgraded at a later date.

"The announcement naming these three sites is just what we're talking about today," Batey said. "We will stagger our announcements on what other sites are getting money in the future.

We want to be able to explain what we are doing and we've found that announcing everything in one go is not the best

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Alan Batey talks about GM investments at the Pontiac Metal Center.



Permolla and Dan Ammann

GM Benefit Dinner Raises \$2.8 Million for Karmanos

More than \$2.8 million was raised for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute at its 33rd Annual Dinner, held April 25 at General Motors Design Dome, said Karmanos spokeswoman Patricia A. Ellis.

This year's Annual Dinner chairs were Debra and Bob Ferguson, senior vice president of Global Public Policy at General Motors Company, Ellis said. This year's event set new fundraising records for Karmanos.

"Thanks to the generosity of its many sponsors and supporters, approximately \$2.3 million was raised leading up to Karmanos' Annual Dinner, with the event itself raising \$500,000 more," Ellis said.

Money raised at this year's Annual Dinner will benefit the ex-

pansion of Karmanos Cancer Institute's Intensive Care Unit and create a 24-hour acute care clinic, enhancing the care that patients receive at Karmanos, Ellis said.

"Debra and I were honored to serve as chairs of this outstanding event and to continue GM's long time support for the Karmanos Cancer Institute," said Bob Ferguson. "We know how important it is to provide cancer patients with the care and treatment they deserve and are thrilled to be able to support such a vital and important organization in Detroit."

This is the fifth consecutive year that a member of GM's senior leadership has chaired Kar-

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Detroit's Automakers See Stronger April Car Sales

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler all reported U.S. sales gains last month as Americans continued to choose small and midsize SUVs and pickup trucks over cars.

Several of the companies reported their best April sales in years, led by the SUVs.

The sales were mostly in line with industry analysts' expectations for about a 6 percent overall increase. All automakers were scheduled to report sales on Friday.

General Motors, the top-selling automaker in the U.S., posted a 5.9 percent increase led by small and midsize SUVs. The Detroit company says it sold just over 269,000 cars and trucks last month.

The automaker was led by the Chevrolet Equinox midsize SUV with sales up 42 percent to nearly 29,000. Sales of the Buick Encore small SUV rose 29 percent

to nearly 5,600.

GM's top-seller, the Chevrolet Silverado pickup, posted nearly an 8 percent sales gain to almost 46,000.

Fiat Chrysler U.S. sales rose about 6 percent, led by Jeep brand small and midsize SUVs. Fiat Chrysler said it sold just over 189,000 cars and trucks for its best April since 2007. The Jeep brand posted its best monthly sales at nearly 72,000, up 20 percent from a year ago.

The Cherokee compact SUV led the way with a 27 percent increase to just over 19,000, while the brand sold more than 4,200 new Renegade subcompact SUVs in their first full month at dealerships. Sales of the Ram pickup, Fiat Chrysler's top-selling vehicle, rose only 3 percent to just under 38,000, but that was still the best April ever for the trucks.

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2016 CT6

Cadillac CT6 Goes 'Green' with PHEV Tech

In a move to make the Cadillac CT6 truly a world car, GM declared at the Shanghai Auto Show that it will add an available Plug-In Hybrid Electric (PHEV) propulsion system to sedan when it comes out later this year.

The new PHEV system is expected to more than double the fuel economy of the conventional powertrain offerings.

The CT6 PHEV takes advantage of the car's advanced lightweight structure to create a unique formula for the sedan, said GM spokesman Donny Nordlicht.

"The first-ever CT6 is a technological showcase throughout, making it an ideal platform for Cadillac to offer its first plug-in hybrid," said Cadillac president Johan de Nysschen. "In the CT6, Cadillac presents a new formula for prestige luxury. The ad-

vanced Plug-In Hybrid system is a key addition, providing a combination of exceptional fuel economy, crisp acceleration and strong electric-driving range."

The CT6 Plug-In Hybrid system is designed to provide all-electric driving for most daily commutes, while maximizing fuel efficiency by providing blended power from the engine and battery at higher speeds and higher loads, even when energy is stored in the battery, de Nysschen said.

The CT6 PHEV leverages General Motors' proven battery technology, de Nysschen said. An 18.4 kWh lithium-ion battery pack is located between the rear seat and the trunk. The battery system is comprised of 192 prismatic pouch cells, which use the latest generation cell chemistry found in other GM plug-in vehicles.

With industry-leading quality levels of fewer than two problems per million battery cells produced, more than 20 million battery cells have been made for more than 73,000 GM plug-ins on the road today, de Nysschen said. The CT6 PHEV battery system will use the company's proven active thermal control system that maintains electric range over the battery system's life.

The battery system can be charged using a 120V or 240V charger. Range estimates will be provided closer to U.S. launch of the PHEV option.

All-electric launch performance is one of the key purchase considerations for PHEV and EV owners, Nordlicht said. The Cadillac CT6 PHEV combines an

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2015 Equinox

GM Gets Creative in Use of Toy to Design Child Seats

Child safety in terms of automotive design is no joke.

But how do GM engineers determine what seats fit and where, especially with hundreds of models on the market?

A Kinect motion sensor, originally developed for the Xbox 360, is helping solve that challenge, and the new Chevrolet Traverse is a vehicle that used this technology.

With ample space and adjustable second row seats, the Chevrolet Traverse offers parents flexibility when it comes to fitting child safety seats, said GM spokeswoman Rebecca White.

"There are over 250 different makes and models of child safety seats on the market, and new or revised models are introduced every year," said Julie Kleinert, GM's Global Child Safety technical lead, "and the lack of an industry standard for the size and shape of child seats makes it quite challenging for vehicle engineers."

Through the Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS), a National Science Foundation-funded industry/university research cooperative with partner research sites at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and The Ohio State University, Kleinert and engineers from other vehicle and child seat manufacturers are working to develop new tools to

help manufacturers evaluate child seat compatibility, White said.

The Kinect for Windows sensor first launched for the Xbox gaming console before being made available to Windows devices, White said.

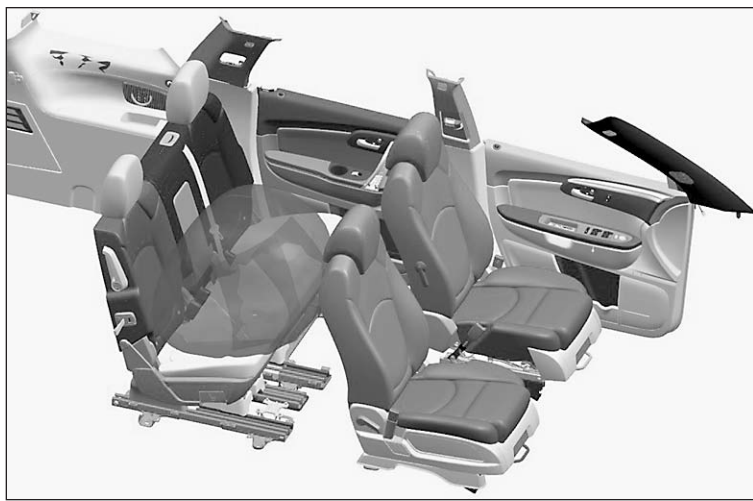
The same technology created to capture player movements and enable voice control of video games doubles as a powerful scanning tool in the automotive industry.

The project, led by CHOP's Dr. Aditya Belwadi, developed a methodology to use the Kinect controller to digitize the shape of a child seat in minutes and at a fraction of what it would cost to use a standard industrial scanner, White said.

CHOP researchers created "surrogate" child seat shapes by overlaying the individual child seat scans produced by the Kinect on top of one another.

The surrogate represents the maximum amount of space needed for a particular category of child seat, Kleinert said. Virtual evaluations of the surrogate may prove to be a simple way for vehicle manufacturers to assess a large range of child seats with a single tool.

"This new tool will be a great help to us in evaluating child restraint compatibility early in our vehicle design process," said Kleinert.



GM Engineers 'Kinect' use gaming tech in child safety seat designs.

The team, Kleinert said, hopes this approach, which was presented as a technical paper at the 2015 SAE World Congress in Detroit last month, may influence other vehicle and child seat manufacturers to adopt a common standard for the size and geometry of different categories of child seats.

"We haven't reached that point

yet," said Kleinert, "but we believe this project is an important step in that direction."

This project is just one example of how vehicle manufacturers, child seat manufacturers and university researchers are working together, Kleinert said, through CChIPS on research to improve the safety of children in vehicles."

Barra Makes \$15.8 Million in 2014 as GM CEO

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors CEO Mary Barra's compensation more than tripled in 2014 to \$15.8 million in her tumultuous first year in the automaker's top job.

Barra and other top executives got only 74 percent of the cash incentives they could have received, because GM fell short of goals set by the board.

But her stock awards more than doubled from 2013 back when she was senior vice president of for product development and purchasing at General Motors.

GM reported its 2014 compensation April 24 in its proxy filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company also at that time announced that its annual stockholders meeting will be held on June 9 at GM's Detroit headquarters.

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DiSalle to Speak at Adcraft

The Adcraft Club of Detroit will host a luncheon featuring Tony DiSalle, U.S. vice president of Buick and GMC Marketing, at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 8 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. DiSalle will discuss Buick's plans for the future, including his thoughts on the brand's newest campaign, "Experience the New Buick."

"GM Day is something we look forward to every year as an opportunity to learn about the marketing plans for one of our industry's biggest influencers," Phil Rzepka, Adcraft president and senior v.p., head of Digital for Carat, said. "We are proud of the special relationship we have with the auto industry and of our ability to provide our members access to the latest marketing and advertising strategies."

The "Experience the New

Buick" campaign is meant to challenge consumers' perceptions of the brand to see it in a modern light, Rzepka said.

DiSalle began his career with GM in 1988. His current role involves providing senior leadership and strategic direction for U.S. Buick and GMC marketing functions such as marketing, communications and product strategy.

DiSalle accepted his current position in 2011 and has held numerous management positions, including product and marketing director of the Chevrolet Volt as well as standing as vice president of sales, service and marketing for OnStar.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$40 for Adcraft members, \$50 for non-members. Register at adcraft.org/event-1895568.

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GM Will Invest \$139.5 Million In Warren Pre-Production

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way to do that.”

Cathy Clegg, vice president of GM North America Manufacturing, was also at Pontiac Metal. She said that she got her start as a stamper, so being able to make an announcement of such importance at the Pontiac facility was a joy for her.

“The common thread among our investments is the focus on product improvements that benefit customers,” Clegg said. “Together, with our UAW partners, we’re working hard to exceed consumers’ ever-increasing quality expectations.”

Clegg said that all major body panel dies are pre-tested at the Pontiac facility under regular production conditions, enabling stamping plants to produce quality parts in a shorter time span.

The Warren Pre-Production facility, Clegg said, is one of five that GM has around the world. It is where GM develops the most efficient manufacturing protocols for building its various vehicles. Once these protocols have been tested and proven, then people from the particular plant in question come, learn the techniques and take them back to their home site.

Basically, Clegg said, Warren Pre-Production finds problems before they become problems.

Lansing Delta is where GM assembles the Chevrolet Traverse, the GMC Acadia and the Buick Enclave.

Clegg said the order in which GM picks sites for investment is based on the company’s needs as it launches new products.

“The prep work on the three Michigan facilities has already started,” Clegg said. “The work

won’t be completed on late next year. No sites will be closed during the process. We’ll run at full operation.”

Batey said that in the past GM didn’t make such investments during bad economic times.

“It’s no secret that the auto business is cyclical,” Batey said. “It’s important to have a balance sheet that allows a company to invest. Having a ‘fortress’ balance sheet means that a company like GM can invest in product during both good and bad times. We want our development to be on time. In the past we delayed investing in sites and in new product to save money during down cycles. Fortunately, we are in a position where we have the cash to invest during lean times.”

Belle Isle Grand Prix Looking for Volunteers

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

The event, which takes place at Belle Isle over the course of several days at the end of May, needs volunteers to help out with customer relations, food services, chalet services, information booths, track services, ticket taking, transportation and delivery services and more, said event spokesman Merrill Cain.

“Without question, our volunteers at the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix are the best in the business,” said race chair Bud Denker.

To learn more about the volunteer requirements and to sign up, go to www.DetroitGP.com, Cain said.

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Ally Financial Sees Strong 1Q Profits

DETROIT (AP) – Ally Financial, the former lending arm of General Motors, said its quarterly profit more than doubled, thanks mainly its sale of a stake in an auto-loan company in China.

The results beat Wall Street's expectations, and drove the lender's stock up 49 cents, or 2 percent, to \$20.80 in early trading April 27.

The Detroit-based lender reported first-quarter earnings of \$576 million, or \$1.06 per share. That's up from \$227 million, 33 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier.

The sale of Ally's 40 percent stake in a joint venture in China at the start of the year contributed nearly \$400 million to quarterly profit.

First-quarter earnings, adjusted for non-recurring items, came to 52 cents per share, handily surpassed financial analysts' expectations. The average estimate of eight analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 42 cents per share.

New car loans hit \$9.8 billion in the quarter, a 7 percent increase from the same period of last year. Deposits at Ally Bank reached \$50.6 billion, up 12 percent.

Total revenue was \$1.09 billion in the period, down from \$1.14 billion the year before and also short of analysts' forecasts. Analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$1.17 billion.

Shares in Ally Financial Inc. have fallen 14 percent since the beginning of the year. The stock has declined 17 percent in the last 12 months.

Corvette to Lead Way in this Year's Indy 500 Race

Five-time Brickyard 400 winner and four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Jeff Gordon will drive a Corvette Z06 pace car for the 99th running of the Indianapolis 500 mile race, May 24 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, said GM spokesman Randy Fox.

It is the 13th time a Corvette has served as the official pace car, Fox said, dating to 1978, and the 26th time a Chevrolet has led the pack for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Corvette has served as pace car more than any other vehicle in the race's history.

Gordon, who grew up in nearby Pittsboro, Ind., is no stranger to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. In 1994 he won the inaugural Brickyard 400 – the first-ever NASCAR race at the Brickyard, and has visited the winner's circle there four more times. That makes him one of only two five-time winners at Indy in any series. Michael Schumacher won five Formula One races there.

"It's great to have Jeff Gordon serve as this year's pace car driver," said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of performance vehicles and motorsports. "He is a true champion who has earned the respect and admiration of competitors and race fans alike. It will be very special to have Jeff lead the Indy 500 field to the green flag, behind the wheel of the most powerful and capable production car ever from Chevrolet – on a day he'll also be competing in the Coca Cola 600 NASCAR race at Charlotte Motor Speedway."

"Indy is hallowed ground for racers like me and I couldn't be more thrilled to drive the Corvette Z06 pace car around the track that helped drive my success over the years," Gordon said.

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Cadillac CT6 Goes 'Green' With PHEV Technology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all-new rear wheel electric variable transmission (EVT) with exclusively designed motors to provide smooth, spirited acceleration.

The two-motor EVT also uses three planetary gears and is mated to a 2.0L turbo 4-cylinder engine with spark-ignited direct injection and variable valve technology. The use of a two-motor system provides smooth and seamless power through the entire driving range. The combined system is capable of producing total system power of 335 hp and 432 lb-ft of torque.

"The CT6 PHEV will deliver exceptional smooth, responsive acceleration that Cadillac and luxury sedan owners demand," said Travis Hester, Cadillac CT6 executive chief engineer. "We have managed to achieve superior drive quality when compared to our PHEV competitors due to our exclusively designed EVT."

Cadillac expects the fuel economy of the CT6 PHEV to be more than double that of the car's conventional engine offerings, Nordlicht said, as measured by miles per gallon equivalent. Standards for measuring vehicle fuel economy differ between China and other global regions. Full details on the CT6 PHEV efficiency in the U.S. and other markets outside China will be released closer to the car's introduction in those markets.

The CT6 PHEV will feature iBooster and Electronic Stability Program tailored for hybrid electric vehicle regenerative blended braking to provide maximum energy recovery combined with reduced stopping distance and improved fuel economy over tradi-

tional regenerative braking systems.

The iBooster and ESP-hev technology balance the use of the CT6 electric motors to act as generators to slow the vehicle and capture as much kinetic energy as possible during low-demand scenarios, Nordlicht said, while blending the traditional hydraulic brakes with the motors in high-demand scenarios.

As expected from a driver's car like the CT6, the system provides improved brake pedal feel and enables increased opportunity for engine stop-start operation.

CT6 PHEV drivers will be able to select among three distinct operating modes: Normal, Sport and Hold.

- Normal: Designed for everyday commuting. Provides ideal balance of comfort, performance and maximized EV range and fuel economy.

- Sport: Provides more aggressive pedal mapping for improved off-the-line feel and a stiffer steering response.

- Hold: Allows owners to select when the CT6 PHEV uses its engine, reserving the remaining battery charge for later use. This feature helps enhance efficiency because owners who mix city and highway driving can save the battery charge for city travel.

- The CT6 PHEV will have Regen on Demand. This allows the driver to temporarily regenerate energy from vehicle momentum into electricity and store in the battery pack for later use.

Regen on Demand supports a more-engaging driving experience by slowing the vehicle when entering a turn to better position it on the exit, Nordlicht said, much like downshifting with a manual transmission.

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