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SEPTEMBER 14, 2015



Chrysler employees work on the 1,000,001 948TE transmission.

Chrysler Enjoys Another Engine Making Milestone

ing the one millionth TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission, Fiat Chrysler facilities in Indiana celebrated another milestone - production of the one millionth 948TE nine-speed automatic - and officially welcomed it into the TorqueFlite transmission family.

Fiat Chrysler North America vice president of Manufacturing Brian Harlow, on Sept. 3, joined by the company's vice president of Transmission Powertrain Jeffrey Lux, acknowledged the

Just two months after produc- achievement during employee events today at both the Indiana Transmission Plant I (ITPI) and the Tipton Transmission Plant, where the nine-speed has been built since May 2013.

"Five years ago, when Chrysler Group announced that it would build the nine-speed automatic transmission in Indiana, it was a huge vote of confidence in the skills, knowledge and expertise of our local workforce, especially because ITPI would be the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Restoration Complete on 1 Millionth Corvette

and 1,200 man-hours of painstaking craftsmanship, restoration of the milestone 1 millionth Corvette - a white 1992 convertible – is complete.

It was unveiled Sept. 3 at the National Corvette Museum, where it returns as part of the permanent exhibit, said GM spokesman Monte Doran. The car was damaged on Feb. 12, 2014, when it and seven other rare Corvettes tumbled into a sinkhole that opened beneath the museum's Skydome area.

"We felt it was important to restore this extremely significant car in Corvette's long, storied history," said Mark Reuss, General Motors executive vice president, Global Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain. "When we disassembled it, we found that each employee

a part of the car, which was fantastic and moving to see. It brought the history to life, and reinforced the importance of the project."

After recovery from the sinkhole, the 1 millionth Corvette was moved from the museum to the Design Center on GM's Technical Center campus in Warren for restoration. Approximately 30 craftspeople and technicians from GM Design's Mechanical Assembly group, along with GM Service Operations, took on the project, Doran said. Mechanical Assembly and the Fabrication Shops at GM Design build concept vehicles and maintain GM's historic vehicle collection.

"As the one and only 1 millionth Corvette, its preservation was important to us as the designers of the vehicle - and as

After more than four months involved in building it had signed Corvette enthusiasts," said Ed Welburn, vice president of GM Global Design. "The damage was significant in many ways; however we have one of the most highly skilled specialty shops and team of people in the industry, so they were fully prepared to take on the challenge.'

Despite extensive damage, the team, represented by UAW locals 160 and 1869, vowed to preserve and repair as many original components as possible - a decision that involved posterity as much as history, Doran said. That's because under the skin, the 1 millionth Corvette carried all those signatures from the Bowling Green Assembly workers who built the car.

Only two signed components couldn't be saved, so the team

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3





The National Corvette Museum shows the before and after of efforts to restore vehicles hurt in a cave-in.

New Material Gives Consumers Seat Options

sumers who like the feel of leather seats, but don't want to pay for a lot for extras to get it.

A recent J.D. Power study, the quality of synthetic leather materials used on new vehicle seats has gotten so good that new-vehicle owners often don't know or can't tell if their vehicle's seats are leather or leatherette - a synthetic leather-like material - according to the J.D. Power 2015 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study released in late August.

The study provides automotive manufacturers and suppliers with quality and satisfaction information related to seating systems, said Brent Gruber, director of Global Automotive at J.D. Power. New-vehicle owners are asked to rate the quality of their vehigard to whether they have experienced defects/malfunctions or design problems during the first 90 days of ownership.

Consumer responses indicate that leather and leatherette have such a similar look, feel and durability that it's difficult to tell the difference between the two, Gruber said. That's beneficial to both automakers, who can offer leatherette at a fraction of the cost of leather, and consumers, who save money without compromising the luxury and quality associated with leather.

"It's really a compliment to the suppliers that they can produce a synthetic material that customers indicate looks and feels so much like leather that they often times cannot tell the difference, despite automakers marketing the leatherette as a synthetic leather-like material," said Gruber. "And it's not just the look and feel that makes it difficult for

There's good news for con- owners to differentiate between the two: the quality and durability are also very similar. Leather is viewed as a premium product that, in addition to its upscale look and feel, offers added scuff and soil resistance over cloth seating. Leatherette provides similar benefits to those provided by leather, yet at a reduced cost to manufacturers and owners and without a decline in quality or customer satisfaction.'

Many of today's entry-level luxury vehicles offer leatherette as standard seating material, with leather only available in upgraded trim levels, Gruber said. Among owners of one midsize premium car model, 94 percent indicate their vehicle has leather seats; however, given owners' survey responses regarding the cle's seats and seat belts with re- trim level of their vehicle, approximately 13 percent of these owners actually have leatherette. In another example, 79 percent of owners of a mass market midsize car say their vehicle has leather seats when in fact 41 percent of

them most likely have leatherette given the vehicle's trim level. Gruber admitted to being sur-

prised by the results of the study. "I guess it's because I remem-

ber the faux leather seat material used in the 1970s," Gruber said. "You could tell just by looking at it that it was fake. They've made such improvements since that time and it shows in this study."

Gruber said that people who want the benefit of having something that looks premium would, in the past, have to get leather seats, which are often bundled with other premium features that many didn't want. The faux leather gives consumers options that can help keep the cost of a car down.

In the midsize premium car segment, where both options are frequently offered, models that offer both seat material options receive similar satisfaction ratings for their seats in comparison with models that offer only leather seats, Gruber said.

Models that



Faux leather and real leather seats offer buyers options.

tions actually perform slightly on a 10-point scale), but this higher (0.06 points) for the feel of the seat material than models that offer authentic leather seats

leatherette and leather seat op- only (9.00 vs. 8.94, respectively, highlights the fact that owners

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



The Michigan-made Mustang now comes in a right-handed edition.

Mustang a 'True' World Car

might be considered the final step to being a true world car in September.

Production of the right-handdrive Mustang model is officially underway at Flat Rock Assembly Plant in Flat Rock, continuing the car's first-ever global launch.

This is the first year Mustang is available to customers in more than 100 markets around the world - including those where motorists drive on the left side of the road, said Ford spokeswoman Amanda Park.

Customers around the world

The Ford Mustang took what have made Ford Mustang the best-selling sports car on the globe during the first half of the year, according to global IHS Automotive registration data, said

> During the first six months of 2015, customers globally registered 76,124 vehicles - a 56 percent increase versus the same period last year.

> "Initial global response to the Mustang has been strong, and we are only in second gear," said Stephen Odell, executive vice

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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Auburn Hills is Hosting Autumn Events for Public

With Fall right around the corner, the city of Auburn Hills is sponsoring a number of events and activities for the public.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, there will be a Clinton River Clean-Up at River Woods Park from 9 a.m. until noon. Volunteers will walk along stretches of the Clinton River along the Lake St. Clair shoreline to pick up debris, remove invasive specials and stencil storm drains.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, the city is holding a community health fair and flu vaccine clinic in the Auburn Hills Community Center's Seyburn Room.

The event is sponsored by Rochester School of Nursing, Alana's Foundation and the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan. There will free flu vaccinations for those without insurance. Those with insurance are asked to bring their insurance cards.

To learn more about these events, call the Auburn Hills city hall at 248-370-9400.

GM Tech Center to Hold Annual JDRF 'Walk for a Cure'

Timothy Herbert Financial Group, for the fourth year in a row, has agreed to be a sponsor of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) for the 2015 Walk to Cure Diabetes.

The walk will take place Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015 at the GM Tech Center in Warren from 8:30 - 11:30 am.

Joining the movement to find a cure for this disease has always been a cause close to the heart of Tim Herbert, founder of Timothy Herbert Financial Group, said company spokeswoman Kaadou.

"Tim spent sixteen years working at General Motors before he opened his own financial company specializing in GM and automotive retirement planning.," Kaadou said. "Throughout his entire career, Tim knew that one day he wanted to join the fight to find a cure for diabetes. His younger brother John is one of the 366 million people around the world suffering from juvenile diabetes and he has been battling this disease for years. Tim sees firsthand the trials and tribulations his brother must cope with each and every day to survive, including testing his blood sugar 6 or more times a day.

Last year, the Herbert team raised over \$5,500 for the foundation, Kaadou said.

According to JDRF statistics, in the U.S. alone, a new case of diabetes is diagnosed every 30 seconds, meaning more than 1.9 million people are diagnosed each year. Since its founding in 1970, JDRF has awarded more than \$1.6 billion to diabetes research.

"Mr. Herbert is grateful that his brother has a chance for a longer survival, but he doesn't consider the job complete until a cure has been found." Kaadou said.

"Each and every person living

with this disease deserves a life free from diabetes. I can only hope that by raising funds for this lifesaving foundation, they can move one step closer to finding a cure", says Timothy Herbert.

DETROIT AUTO SCENE

The Walk to Cure Diabetes is JDRF's largest national fundraising event to help raise funds to accelerate progress toward the most promising opportunities to cure, treat and prevent Type 1 Diabetes. More than 80 percent of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education

To join the Timothy Herbert Financial Group in their walk to cure diabetes or make a donation. visit www.timothyherbert.com and click on the Giving Back page.

The Timothy Herbert Financial Group isn't the only Detroit business to support the walk.

According to JDRF, Ford Motor Company has been a JDRF Elite Partner since 1983. In 1998, Ford expanded its support with the creation of the employee-driven Ford Global Action Team (FGAT) that brought the power of Ford employees, families, and friends, as well as key business partners from WPP, Mazda, BP, ADESA, and the UAW, said JDRF spokesman Christopher Rucas.

With tens of thousands of volunteers working together, the FGAT has consistently raised more than \$3 million annually over the last decade, Rucas said. Employee efforts drive the majority of the funds raised, and include a variety of fundraising initiatives from raffles and auctions to barbecues and sneaker sales. But Ford didn't stop there. The Ford Fund also provides an annual research grant, most recently to support JDRF's Healthy Eye Project. With more than 90 fundraising teams at 40 global sites, Ford has raised more than

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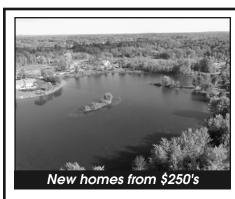
The 2015 JDRF Walk at the Tech Center is almost upon us.

\$45 million to advance our joint mission to find life-changing treatments and a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D).

Rucas said that in 1998, Ford Motor Company organized a formal JDRF Walk Team with Edsel B. Ford II as the Corporate Chair. The team raised more than \$197,000 for JDRF at three sites in southeast Michigan.

The following year, the first global JDRF Walk Team was established, and Ford employees raised more than \$790,000 at 11 Walk sites worldwide. Ford Motor Company has also been generous in supporting JDRF fundraising efforts through its donation of vehicles for auction as well as opportunities with many Ford programs, Rucas said.





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Restoration Complete on 1 Millionth Corvette

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had the autographs scanned, reproduced as transfers and placed on the replacement parts.

"We went to great lengths to preserve every autograph," said David Bolognino, director of GM Global Design Fabrication Operations. "In the end, we saved every one of them, which was an unexpected and important element to the restoration."

One component with a single signature from Bowling Green Assembly employee Angela Lamb was too damaged to save or even accurately scan for her autograph. Chevrolet worked with the National Corvette Museum to secure a new signature from Lamb on the replacement part, Doran said so the 1-millionth Corvette will be historically accurate down to the last signature.

Among the parts replaced were the hood, front fascia and the lower panels between the front wheels and doors, as well as a number of ancillary supporting components under the hood. The replacements came from a vehicle of the same vintage and color, ensuring authenticity of the parts and materials involved with the restoration.

A few other components, such as the rear fascia and front exhaust system, would have probably been replaced in almost any other restoration project, but the team repaired them because they were also covered in signatures

Additional highlights from the restoration:

Alcoa Talk on Use of Aluminum for Lightweighting

The American Society of Body Engineers (ASBE) is hosting a tech briefing on lightweighting with aluminum on Monday, Oct. 15.

The event will be held at 8 p.m. at Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills campus, Building G.

The event is being co-sponsored by Alcoa, said ASBE secretary Jerry Klein. There is no cost to attend.

Presentations include:

- Aluminum Sheet The Lighter Weigh to Meet CAFÉ. This topic of discussion will be presented by Shawn J. Murtha, Alcoa Ground Transportation Business Technology manager. This discussion will address current and future aluminum alloys, strategies for integrating aluminum into future vehicles, the importance of recycling and the new manufacturing process for aluminum sheet.
- Joining the Aluminum Revolution. This will be presented by Gregory Fata, Alcoa Automotive Technical Manager. This presentation will provide an overview of current and future joining techniques for aluminum, aluminum pretreatment for aluminum intensive vehicles and other structural applications, and tailored blanks for improved material utilization.

Klein said the presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

While the event is free to attend, Klein said those who wish to hear the speakers must register by Monday, Oct. 15. To do so, Klein said go to the Web site asbeFound.org/events.

- The front sub-frame was damaged in the fall into the sink-hole and required straightening.
- The wheels were damaged, but reconditioned, with the original Goodyear Eagle GS-C tires.
- Rather than replace the scuffed and scratched pad on the instrument panel, its soft cover was carefully removed and replaced to preserve the employee-signed structure beneath it.
- The red leather seats, featuring one-off "1,000,000th Corvette" embroidery on the headrests were damaged but deemed irreplaceable, so they were restored, including a few replacement patches of carefully matched hide.
- The 5.7L LT1 engine, transmission and other drivetrain components were inspected and found to be damage-free.

Surprisingly, Doran said, the one component the team didn't have to replace was the crushed windshield header. When the car first rolled into the shop, an overhead crane was used to raise it enough to make the car drivable, but the frame pulled up surprisingly close to the original position, encouraging the team to save it.

"The header restoration was a wonderful surprise for what everyone assumed would be the toughest aspect of the restoration," said Bolognino. "With access to the original specifications, we got it spot-on – and even the new windshield glass dropped in perfectly."

The final touch was replacing the unique "1,000,000th" windshield banner it wore when it rolled off the assembly line 23 years ago. The computer graphic file used for the original was still available, allowing creation of an identical banner, Doran said.

The 1 millionth Corvette is the second sinkhole damaged Corvette that Chevrolet has restored. The first, a 2009 Corvette ZR1 prototype known as the Blue Devil, was only lightly damaged and was returned to its original condition last fall. The National Corvette Museum will oversee the restoration of a third car, a 1962 Corvette.

The other five Corvettes swallowed by the sinkhole will remain in their as-recovered state.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plant ever to build the ninespeed," said Harlow. "This was a significant challenge, but an even greater opportunity. There was a lot riding on our employees' ability to deliver.

"Today, as we celebrate the one millionth nine-speed produced, I can honestly say that everyone involved rose to the challenge and exceeded expectations," Harlow continued. "You have proven that our decision to invest here was a wise one and demonstrated what makes this workforce one of the best in the business.

Along with recognizing the dedication of its employees, the company chose this opportunity to also introduce the nine-speed automatic transmission as the newest member of the Torque-Flite family, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

The TorqueFlite automatic transmission has a long history, dating back to 1956. First introduced in Imperial models, TorqueFlite transmissions were known for having superior performance while also being extremely tough and reliable, Tinson said. The new nine-speed embodies those same characteristics, but in a modern day package, deserving of the TorqueFlite name.

"Our TorqueFlite nine-speed transmissions deliver superior performance in a broad range of driving environments both on road and off road," said Lux. "We're extremely proud to hit the first milestone and look forward to engineering and building millions more for our customers.'

Plans for nine-speed automatic transmission production were confirmed in November 2010. FCA US, then known as Chrysler Group, announced that it was partnering with Friedrichshafen, Germany-based ZF Group, which was making its nine-speed designs and technology available to the company and its Kokomo

Right-Handed Mustang Hits New Markets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

president, Global Marketing, Sales and Service. "We continue accelerating production and global reach with right-handdrive models now coming out of the plant."

The addition of a right-handdrive Mustang to Ford's global vehicle lineup allows export to more than 25 of those markets around the globe, including the UK, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, as well as Cyprus, Malta and a smattering of Caribbean islands, Odell said.

Sales in the U.S. and Asia began last winter, and Mustangs made their way to European markets this summer, Odell said. In the U.S., Mustang sales were up 70 percent in August, overtaking the Chevrolet Camaro for best-selling sports car in the U.S., based on Ford reported sales data.

New buyers are driving U.S. sales growth, especially in regions such as Southern California - the largest sports car market in the country, according to IHS – where Mustang retail sales have more than doubled this year, Odell said.

While Mustang is a new entry into the China market, it is already one of the nation's topselling sports cars, with hottest sales in Beijing, Guangdong and Shanghai.



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Ford, Spielberg Join Forces

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) -Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg and Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford announced Sept. 10 they are partnering to expand a multimedia program for Detroitarea students designed to foster tolerance.

The program is an extension of the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation, which was founded by Spielberg and uses visual testimonies from survivors to educate people about the Holocaust and other genocides.

The Shoah Foundation runs IWitness, an educational website that provides access to more than 1,500 full life histories and testimonies of survivors and witnesses of genocides.

Ford Motor's \$180,000 gift will help expand IWitness to more

schools in the Detroit area.

The donation also will sponsor for the next two years USC Shoah's IWitness Video Challenge, which invites students to produce a video inspired by the survivors' testimonies that tells the story of how the students have contributed to making their communities a better place.

"My dream, through the USC Shoah Foundation, is someday to have programs like IWitness become prerequisites for graduating high school - for tolerance education to be folded into the social science study program in public high schools and private schools everywhere around this nation," Spielberg said at the press announcement.

About 450 teachers in Michigan already use IWitness, said Kori Street, USC Shoah Foundation's director of education.







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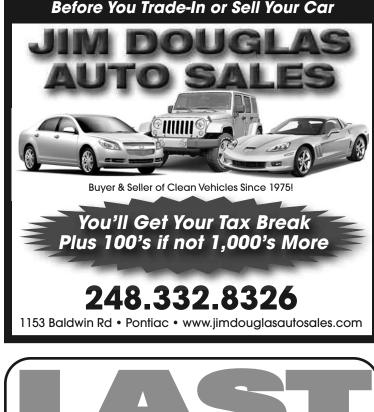
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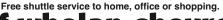
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Faurecia Employees Collect Food for Local Food Banks

Across North America, emplovees of automotive supplier Faurecia are gearing up for the company's annual community food drive during the month of September, an initiative started in 2010 that has grown every year since.

FUELS, which stands for Faurecia Unites with Employees for Local Service, has provided more than 3.5 million meals to thousands of families in need throughout Canada, Mexico and the U.S. - an accomplishment achieved through teamwork and a passion for giving back to the communities Faurecia calls home, said Faurecia spokeswoman Jessica Sader.

This year marks the sixth consecutive year of FUELS, a monthlong drive supported by Faurecia's more than 20,000 employees at 47 locations, collecting non-perishable food items and money to nourish neighborhoods across North America, Sader said. Faurecia employees in Metro Detroit have partnered with Gleaners Community Food Bank to help those in need. All donations for FUELS, food and monetary, are measured by the number of meals they produce.

One pound of food is equal to one meal, and \$1 is equal to three meals. Last year, employees helped donate 1.12 million meals.

To maximize the success and effectiveness of FUELS, Faurecia teams up with local food banks in the communities where the company has a presence, Sader said. Each participating site works closely with its food bank partner to understand the specific needs of that neighborhood and to ensure Faurecia's efforts are as impactful as possible.

In addition to food and monetary contributions, many employees donate time during scheduled volunteer days at their partner food banks.

"It's inspiring to see Faurecia's employees continue to demonstrate such a high level of enthusiasm and involvement with charitable initiatives such as FU-ELS," said Mark Stidham, president of Faurecia North America. "This year's 'Nourish our Neighborhoods' theme encapsulates all of the great work our teams are doing to help our neighbors thrive. When the company comes together, it shows that we are serious about our roles as corporate citizens and devoted to making a positive difference in communities across North Amer-

In years past, Faurecia's sites have competed with each other to foster teamwork and goodspirited competition for this important cause, Sader said.

This year, Faurecia will take a creative twist on the competition. The winner of the 2015 FU-ELS challenge will be the site that beats its own 2014 food collection record by the highest percentage. Faurecia will donate \$1,000 to the food bank partner of each site that meets its goal,

GM Issuing New Cadillac Recall

DETROIT (AP) - GM is recalling about 121,000 Cadillacs because the rear window defroster control can overheat and catch fire. The recall, announced Sept. 9, covers ATS small sports sedans from the 2013 to 2016 model years sold mainly in North America.

GM says it has four reports of fires but no injuries. The company says the problem happens because of a weak electrical connection in the module that powers the defroster, located in the driver's side rear pillar.

plus \$5,000 to the food bank of the most successful site in the U.S./Canada and in Mexico, Sader said.

The FUELS program is one example of Faurecia's service and volunteer initiatives through its business groups and individual team members.

Its ongoing efforts include a dedication to STEM, providing shelter, ending hunger and participating in other charitable partnerships. The FUELS initiative, started by Faurecia North America in 2010, is now a global Faurecia program, inspiring a number of countries outside North America, including China, France, Germany, India and Spain, with other countries to join the program this year.

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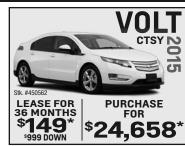








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Consumers Like Leatherette

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

perceive little difference between the two seating materials.

Owners of midsize premium car models that offer both leatherette and leather seat options report slightly more probwith seat materials scuff/soil easily than owners of models that offer only leather seats—1.6 problems per 100 vehicles (PP100) vs. 0.9 PP100, respectively—but report no problems related to seat material imperfections, while owners of models that offer only leather seats report an average of 0.2

"Leather is viewed as a premium product.... Leatherette provides similar benefits."

Brent Gruber

Among owners of midsize premium cars, overall satisfaction with the vehicle's seats, the driver seat, styling of the seats and comfort of the driver's seat bottom cushion is higher among owners of models that offer both leatherette and leather seats than among those whose model offers leather seats only.

The overall industry average for seat-related problems is 8.3 PP100 in 2015, an improvement of 0.8 PP100 from 2014.

On average, overall satisfaction with the ease of adjusting driver seat to desired position is 8.12; however, when more power-adjustable features are added to the seat, satisfaction increas-

es, Gruber said. When power-adjustable sliding, reclining, height, and memory seats are added, satisfaction increases to 8.68.

Designing seats to accommodate the range of consumer sizes continues to be an issue for seat suppliers. Owners who are 5 feet 3 inches tall or shorter experience more seat-related problems than average (9.7 PP100 vs. 8.1 PP100, respectively), specifically with the seat height adjustment and headrest adjustment. Owners who weigh less than 135 pounds or more than 239 pounds report more seat problems than the rest of the industry (8.6 PP100 and 10.2 PP100 vs. 7.9 PP100, respectively).

Johnson Controls, Inc. receives two segment awards for seat quality, while Hanil E-Hwa, Lear Corporation, Magna, Toyo Seat and TS Tech Co., Ltd. receive one award each.

Johnson Controls, Inc. ranks highest in the luxury SUV segment for its seats in the Land Rover Range Rover Evoque and in the mass market midsize/large car segment for the Kia Cadenza.

Hanil E-Hwa ranks highest in the mass market midsize/large SUV segment for the Hyundai Santa Fe.1 Lear Corporation ranks highest in the mass market truck/van segment for the Chevrolet Silverado LD. Magna ranks highest in the mass market compact SUV/MPV for the Ford C-Max. Toyo Seat ranks highest in the mass market compact car segment for the Mazda MX-5 Miata. TS Tech Co., Ltd. ranks highest in the luxury car segment for the Acura RLX.

The 2015 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study is based on responses from 84,367 purchasers and lessees of new 2015 modelyear cars and light trucks. The study was fielded from February through May 2015.

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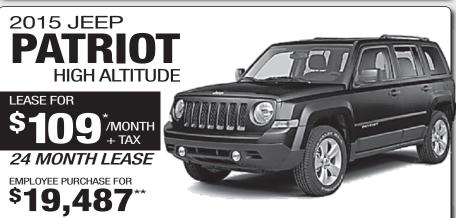




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