

## GM's Nitz Earns SAE's Award for Best In Automotive Engineering Innovation

It's been said that the future of the automotive industry depends on engineering. If that's the case, then General Motors has a winner.

The Society of Automotive Engineers International just named Larry T. Nitz, executive director of GM's Global Propulsion Systems as the winner of the Edward N. Cole Award for Automotive Engineering Innovation.

Nitz will receive the award during the SAE 2016 World Congress, to be held April 12-14 in Detroit.

"To be a recipient of the Edward N. Cole award is a great honor," Nitz said. "I'm accepting this award on behalf of all the men and women I've had the pleasure to work with, innovate with, and whose dedication and teamwork has transformed ideas into production vehicles."

"Automotive, and especially propulsion engineering, is one of the most diverse, dynamic and passionate fields of engineering and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunities I've been provided to make a difference throughout my career," he said.

Nitz leads GM's Global Transmission and Electrification team, with engineering operations in North America, Europe, South America and Asia. His team is re-

sponsible for all of GM's automatic and manual transmissions and electrified propulsion systems.

Nitz's career has spanned nearly 40 years with GM, allowing him to work on gasoline engines, manual and automatic transmissions, propulsion and vehicle controls, and hybrid and electric systems.

He was deeply involved in developing clutch-to-clutch trans-

mission controls for the Saturn Automatic and GM Allison transmissions used in Heavy Duty Trucks. His work in clutch-to-clutch control set the stage for other 6-, 8-, 9- and 10-speed transmissions at GM.

In electrification, Nitz contributed technically and led teams to develop the GM Allison

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Larry T. Nitz



Students learn driving techniques at 'Mopar Road Ready.'

## Mopar's Teen Safe Driving Program Begins in April

Parents of teen drivers and soon-to-be drivers rejoice.

The Mopar and Dodge brands are teaming up once again to help teach teens about the importance of being safe on the road.

The popular "Mopar Road Ready Powered by Dodge" teen defensive-driving program will return in 2016, with five two-day events scheduled at four different locations in the United States.

The early 2016 slate of "Mopar Road Ready Powered by Dodge" events will visit Indianapolis April 9-10; Englishtown, N.J.,

April 23-24; two stops at Center Line in Metro Detroit, April 30-May 1 and May 14-15; and Sarasota, Fla., May 21-22.

"We are excited to continue the 'Mopar Road Ready Powered by Dodge' program in 2016 and to assist in training even more teens on the skills they need to stay safe behind the wheel," said Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar), FCA - Global. "By teaming up with the Dodge brand and through sponsorship from the FCA Foundation, we are empowering new drivers with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Buick, Chevy Tops in Dependability Study

Some say manufacturing consistency is the foundation of strong automotive sales. General Motors agrees.

Buick was recognized in the J.D. Power 2016 Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS) released Feb. 24, coming in third overall with the Buick Verano outperforming all 2013 models as the industry's most dependable vehicle, said GM spokesman Stuart Fowle.

Sixty percent of the brand's 2013 models ranked highest in their respective segments, Fowle said. In addition to the Buick Verano topping the Compact Car segment, the Buick LaCrosse was recognized as the segment leader in the Large Car segment for the second year in a row. The brand's top-selling vehicle, the Buick Encore, ranked highest in the Small SUV segment.

J.D. Power editors gave the Verano top marks (five out of five) in all four of its dependability ratings categories - overall, powertrain, body and interior, and feature

and accessory dependability.

The Buick LaCrosse received the highest ratings in overall dependability and body and interior dependability from J.D. Power editors. It received four out of five in the powertrain and feature and accessory categories.

The Buick Encore received top ratings in body and interior de-

pendability and overall dependability measurements. It scored four out of five in feature and powertrain dependability measurements.

"Buick's ranking is a demonstration of our mission to provide the best in reliability, quality

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



The 2013 Buick Verano has proven to be very dependable.



Ford's new GoPark system at work in London.

## Fields: 'We Are on the Cusp Of a Revolution in Mobility'

Ford's SYNC 3 connectivity technology is heading to Europe.

And, Ford is committing to tripling its engineering investment in semi-autonomous vehicle technologies.

Both plans were made public when Ford CEO Mark Fields unveiled the new Kuga SUV in his Feb. 22 keynote address at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

Fields' speech focused on Ford's transition from an automotive company to an auto and mobility company through Ford Smart Mobility - the company's plan to be a leader in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, customer experience, and data and analytics, said Ford spokeswoman Sandra van Tongern.

Fields confirmed that FordPass, the company's new customer experience platform, will debut this year in Europe.

New partners for FordPass in-

clude BP and Mobile City, a leading mobile parking payment company. FordPass also will integrate Ford Carsharing, run with Germany's Flinkster Carsharing.

"As we look to the future, it is clear we are on the cusp of a revolution in mobility - from car sharing to autonomous driving to the customer experience," Fields said.

"Technology and innovation provide us with the opportunity to address these trends and to make people's lives better by changing the way the world moves."

Van Tongern said Ford is taking two distinct pathways toward vehicle automation. The automaker has a dedicated team developing driver-assist technology that is focused on delivering increasing levels of automation.

Traffic Jam Assist helps the driver with steering, braking and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Three Factors Can Cause Exploding Air Bags

DETROIT (AP) - Scientists hired by the auto industry have determined that multiple factors - including moisture and high humidity - can cause some Takata air bags to inflate with too much force and hurl shrapnel at drivers and passengers.

While humidity and ammonium nitrate have been discussed as factors, this is the first time scientists have determined all the factors that combine to cause the explosions.

The Independent Testing Coalition, which has been investigating the cause for the past year, announced its findings Feb. 23.

Air bags made by Japan's Takata Corp. have caused at least 10 deaths and 139 injuries worldwide. The exact cause of the problem has eluded investigators for more than a decade, although more recent probes have focused on Takata's use of a mixture of ammonium nitrate and other chemicals to create a small explosion and inflate the air bags in a crash.

The Virginia rocket science company Orbital ATK, which was hired by the coalition, determined that three factors, working together, can cause the air bags to explode. Takata uses an am-

monium nitrate compound without a moisture-absorbing substance, which increases the risk of an explosion after long-term exposure to high temperatures and moisture.

Orbital ATK also found that Takata's inflator assembly doesn't adequately prevent moisture from intruding in very humid conditions.

The coalition said its findings apply to around 23 million of the 28 million Takata air bag inflators that have been recalled by the U.S. government. All of those air

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## Detroit Auto Scene

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## TI Automotive Acquires Auto Supplier

TI Automotive, a global supplier of advanced automotive fluid carrying and delivery systems, has acquired Millennium Industries Corporation, a Ligonier, Indiana, producer of powertrain products for the automotive industry, said TI spokesman Adam Stogdill.

The acquisition helps TI in several ways, Stogdill said. It strengthens the company's powertrain product portfolio and expertise, and expands the company's manufacturing reach in the auto industry.

TI Automotive currently provides gasoline direct-injection rails and lines, diesel lines and turbocharger cooling lines to the global auto industry.

Stogdill also said that Millennium Industries provides fuel rails and lines to North American automotive light vehicles and the deal will expand TI Automotive's technical resources in its powertrain product line.

"Adding Millennium's successful powertrain products, operations and technical expertise increases our ability to do what we do best – develop and manufacture technology that helps improve fuel economy and performance, while reducing emissions," said Bill Kozyra, chairman, CEO and president of TI Automotive. "Furthermore, it expands our global reach within the rapidly growing powertrain field."

"Becoming part of TI Automotive is a perfect fit for our customers and the Millennium team members, as it creates great new expanded opportunities for both parties with a truly global powertrain supplier," said Gary Vollmar, president, Millennium Industries Corporation.

TI Automotive will retain the 150,000-square-foot Millennium manufacturing facility in Ligonier, Ind., Kozyra said, together with its approximately 500 employees, which will strengthen TI Automotive's technical and manufacturing capabilities, Stogdill said.

"This is another positive step in what has been an exciting and dynamic time for TI Automotive," Kozyra said.

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# SAE Honors GM's Nitz for Auto Engineering Innovation

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Parallel Hybrid for urban buses and GM's Two-Mode Hybrid for full size trucks.

He also led the development of the groundbreaking Chevrolet Volt propulsion system through two generations. For all electric vehicles, his team delivered the Chevrolet Spark EV and are now completing the first long-range electric powertrain for the Chevrolet Bolt EV.

Nitz is a member of SAE International and is a frequent presen-

ter at SAE International events, CTI Transmission Symposiums, Electric Vehicle Symposiums, the Aachen Colloquium, FISITA Congress and the Vienna Motor Symposium.

Nitz received a Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering from Kettering University and a Master's degree from Stanford University. He holds 44 U.S. patents and four GM Boss Kettering Awards for Engineering Innovation.

Established in 1978, the Edward N. Cole Award for Automotive Engineering Innovation

Award recognizes an SAE International member whose innovative design is described in an SAE International paper or whose lifetime of accomplishment is judged to be a significant achievement in automotive engineering.

Judgment is based upon the value of the work as an original innovative contribution, not upon the application of some development or invention already known.

The award honors the memory of Edward N. Cole, former presi-

dent and chief operating officer of General Motors Corporation, and the inspiration he provided to others in the engineering profession by his continuing search and drive for product development and innovation.

Past award winners include:

- 2013 – Prasad Kadle, Delphi Corp.
- 2012 – Hussein Dourra Ph.D., FCA US LLC.
- 2011 – John J. Moskwa, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2010 – Simon C. Tung, Industrial Research Laboratories.

## Fields: 'We Are on the Cusp of a Revolution in Mobility'

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acceleration in heavily congested traffic situations on motorways. Easily activated by pushing a button, the system helps keep the vehicle centered in the lane and brakes and accelerates to keep pace with the vehicle in front.

Fully Active Park Assist will help drivers by steering and controlling the transmission, throttle and brake to seamlessly pull into a parking spot at the touch of a button.

Further semi-autonomous technologies already introduced by Ford include Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection, a camera- and radar-based system that detects vehicles and people in the road ahead; and Intelligent Speed Limiter, which could help prevent drivers from exceeding speed limits, and potentially from incurring costly speeding penalties.

"The use of semi-autonomous functions such as Traffic Jam Assist and Fully Active Park Assist make driving easier and more enjoyable for our customers," said Ken Washington, vice president, Ford Research and Advanced Engineering.

As for the future, Ford also has a dedicated fully autonomous vehicle program in Aachen, Germany, Palo Alto, Calif., and Dearborn, with more than a decade of experience, van Tongern said.

Ford is seeking to deliver autonomous capability that does not require driver input described by the SAE International as Level 4 of automation. At this level of capability, autonomous vehicles likely will be offered first in climates that support optimal sensor performance and in areas that have been mapped in high-resolution 3D.

Already, Ford is the first automaker to test fully autonomous vehicles in winter weather, van Tongern said, including snow, and recently announced plans to triple the company's autonomous vehicle development fleet, making it the largest of all auto-makers.

"We are committed to making autonomous vehicles available for millions of people," Washington said. "Within well-defined areas and with favorable environmental conditions, we predict that fully autonomous driving will be possible within four years, and that autonomous vehi-

cles will play a significant role in making travel safer, more enjoyable, and more accessible."

FordPass, Fields said, features four elements: a marketplace offering access to mobility services and partners; trusted and knowledgeable FordGuides who are always there to help members to

resolve mobility challenges; appreciation, where members are recognized for their loyalty; and FordHubs, where consumers can experience new innovations.

Through FordPass, owners will be able to manage their vehicle, including scheduling maintenance services.

## GKN Demonstrating New System

GKN Automotive of Auburn Hills is currently demonstrating its new torque-vectoring electric-drive system at its Wintertest proving ground in Arjeplog, Sweden, said GKN spokeswoman Lori Petrelecan.

This new system, called eTwinstar, is designed to make hybrid vehicles more efficient and dynamic, Petrelecan said. It is part

of a range of new hybrid technologies the company is showcasing to customers.

The eTwinstar is a plug-in hybrid module that makes it simpler for vehicle platforms to offer electric all-wheel drive and torque vectoring, Petrelecan said. It's part of GKN's efforts to shift the balance of power from engines to batteries.

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### Aluminum and its Alloys – March 28 – 30, 2016

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– Class size is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. –

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Funding comes from the Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration.  
Eligibility and paperwork requirements must be completed prior to attending.







Mopar training class is as important as the driving course to teen drivers and their parents.

## Mopar's Teen Safe Driving Program Begins in April

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

education and experience that will last a lifetime."

"The Dodge brand wants all drivers to experience that visceral feeling that makes them fall in love with driving, and that includes making sure they feel comfortable in all driving situations," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America.

"The 'Mopar Road Ready Powered by Dodge' program gives new teen drivers the opportunity to learn important driving skills, gain valuable experience behind the wheel and fall in love with driving in the process."

"Mopar Road Ready Powered by Dodge" is sponsored by the FCA Foundation, Caporali said, in collaboration with the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Motorsports Museum and B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe), two nationally recognized nonprofit organizations that share similar missions of promoting the importance of safe and responsible driving.

The advanced driving program, designed to teach safe and defensive driving techniques, is available to teens between the ages of 15 and 19 with a learner's or driver's license and at least 30 hours of driving experience.

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

Each teen driver's participation in the training program will include a companion experience for a parent or adult guardian who also will actively take part in the exercise.

"Mopar Road Ready Powered by Dodge" sessions provide a brief classroom review of core driving topics, including proper seat positioning, hand positioning and basic vehicle dynamics.

Advanced behind-the-wheel training will then be provided to teens with on-track course sessions, including accident avoidance (slalom), distraction, panic stop, wheel drop and wet skid pad.

The program's classes are free of charge to registered teens and their parents or guardians. A \$99 refundable registration deposit is required to secure a spot and is returned after the session or can be donated to the B.R.A.K.E.S. organization to help support the continuation and growth of the program.

To register, visit [www.mopar.com/road-ready/register](http://www.mopar.com/road-ready/register).

## Chrysler Making Credit Cards Available

As the saying goes, give credit where credit is due.

Fiat Chrysler has launched a small-business credit card program with First Bankcard, a division of First National Bank of Omaha, designed to reward brand loyalty with two unique products:

- The Mopar Business Edition MasterCard program, which provides pricing benefits to independent repair facilities.
- The BusinessLink Business Edition MasterCard program, which offers points and rewards for small businesses with fleets.

Small businesses may now apply for either of the two Fiat Chrysler MasterCard credit cards at participating Fiat Chrysler dealerships or online at [www.FCAMasterCard.com](http://www.FCAMasterCard.com), said Chrysler spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

"We're introducing a new credit card program with our small-business customers in mind as a way to say thank you for their loyalty," said Jeffrey Kommor, vice president of Fiat Chrysler's U.S. Sales Operations, Fleet and Small Business Sales. "Whether you have an independent repair facility or a vehicle fleet for your small business, this new program will provide a positive boost to your operations."

Both card products have no annual fee; low introductory rate for the first six billing cycles; 10,000 bonus points after the first \$100 in purchases at FCA US dealers in the first three billing cycles; 4 percent back on all FCA US dealership purchases, including new or used vehicles, service contracts, and parts and accessories; and 1 percent back on all

other purchases. Percentage back is based on points earned, which can be redeemed on a future in-dealer purchase. Points expire on or after the third anniversary of when awarded.

"The successful results of the consumer card helped us build this small-business program for retailers and vendors loyal to FCA products," said Stephen F. Eulie, First Bankcard president. "Our partnership is built upon our ability to help FCA increase loyalty and value to its customers, whether they are small businesses or consumers. We are proud to expand this card program to help our partner build brand loyalty and sales while benefitting its customers."

Dealerships will invite customers to apply for the card

while they are in the dealership, Kisiel said. The Fiat Chrysler MasterCard has no annual fee and offers FCA US small-business customers a competitive annual percentage rate.

First Bankcard, a division of First National Bank of Omaha, is a leader in the credit card partnership arena, serving approximately 400 financial institutions, co-brand and affinity partners nationwide, Kisiel said.

## Toyota Recalls More Vehicles

DETROIT (AP) – An investigation by Canadian safety regulators into a crash that killed two people touched off a global recall of nearly 2.9 million Toyota SUVs, according to U.S. government documents posted on Feb. 25.

Last week, Toyota announced the huge recall because the rear seat belts can be cut in a severe crash. If that happens, the belts won't restrain passengers.

Canadian investigators found the problem in crash tests done after two rear-seat passengers died in a May, 2011, collision in Eastern Canada between a Toyota RAV4 and a Chevrolet Silverado pickup. The front-seat occupants survived.

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# Opel's New Concept Car Meant to Show Sports Car Future

General Motors, through its Opel brand, is looking to make a big splash at the upcoming Geneva Auto Show (March 3-13) by showing what the sports car of the future can look like.

The Opel GT Concept coupé will be on display at the Geneva auto show, said Opel spokesman Jean-Phillippe Kempf. "This dream car is meant to impress with both its exterior and its interior values," Kempf said.

Beyond its exterior, Opel designers have also created an interior that blends typical cues from a sports coupé and futuristic solutions for the human/machine interface, Kempf said.

Everything in the GT Concept is meant to demonstrate the pure pleasure of an exciting drive, said Kempf, so the two sports seats are designed to fit like a tailor-made suit.

The steering wheel and the pedals can be adjusted electrically down to the last millimeter and the low beltline of the doors enables a casual arm position.

The colors and shapes are meant to create a spatial feeling.

"However, nothing distracts the driver and the front passenger from the essential," Kempf said.

"The interior details are just as



Opel is showing off its GT concept car at the Geneva Auto Show.

important as the exterior. The instrument panel of the GT Concept made from brushed aluminum visually enhances the lightweight construction (the overall weight remains below 1,000 kg) and seems to float in front of the occupants.

"It is, however, a structural member between the slim A-pillars of the windshield – here structure becomes sculpture.

"The vehicle is meant to represent Opel's design philosophy, 'Sculptural artistry meets German precision,' in action."

Round monitors are embedded in the outer aluminum air jets

with the polished GT emblem. The monitors are designed to capture the vehicle's environment as well as replace side door mirrors.

The shining red seatbelt retractors are also intended as works of art and follow the design of the red front tires.

The steering wheel with its spoke design pays homage to the legendary Opel GT from the 1960s and 1970s, Kempf said.

Additionally, buttons cannot be found anywhere, Kempf said.

The sports car is operated purely by voice control and a central touchpad. Experts refer



The Opel GT concept car's interior will display futuristic designs.

to the control concept of the car as Human Machine Interface (HMI).

The Opel concept car comes with a revolutionary HMI, Kempf said. In the GT Concept, the adaptive system is waiting to get to know the driver and adapt to his or her needs.

The car thus adjusts itself to the driver and not the other way around, Kempf said.

This results in a dialogue during which the car answers in a voice and can, for example, choose the right music, route or temperature according to the situation.

The instruments also reflect the atmosphere in the Opel GT Concept. If the driver has had a stressful day and wants to surf through the menus without saying a word, he just needs to reach for the round touchpad on the center stack, from where he can operate all functions.

The two classically inspired round instrument pads are actually projection surfaces that can be backlit in different colors and display a variety of information three-dimensionally – a further development of the system shown in the 2013 Opel Monza Concept, Kempf said.

## Jeep Looking to Make a Big Splash at Geneva Show with New Products

Fiat Chrysler is continuing its efforts to expand the Jeep brand around the world with the introduction of several Jeep models at the 86th Geneva Auto Show, which will take place March 3-13.

Jeep is returning to the Geneva Motor Show with a stand "packed" with history and excitement, said Dante Zilli, head of Jeep Product Marketing Europe Middle East Africa (EMEA). The stand has models of yesteryear celebrating the brand's 75th anniversary.

More than just an important achievement, this is also a milestone on the brand's ambitious future faced with the same determination that made 2015 the third consecutive year of sales success for the brand in the EMEA region and the fourth consecutive globally, Zilli said.

"The Jeep brand continues to grow globally, and Europe is no exception," Zilli said. "A key driver for this growth is our rich heritage based on our 75 years of history."

The history of Jeep starts with World War II's 1941 Willys-Overland MB and the famous 1945 CJ-2A (Civilian Jeep), Gavilan

said, which created the modern mass production off-road vehicle.

Jeep also revolutionized the SUV segment with the introduction in 1984 of the Jeep Cherokee, the first SUV ever with a Unibody frame design, Zilli said.

To celebrate these and other Jeep milestones, Zilli said visitors to the Motor Show will be shown three outstanding classic models: a 1941 U.S. Army Jeep MB, a 1946 Willys Wagon and a 1963 Jeep Wagoneer.

As further confirmation of Jeep's path from past to present, the new 75th Anniversary special editions will be showcased on Jeep's display and available at dealerships across the region starting from the second quarter of 2016, featuring a new livery, celebratory badge and exclusive interiors and equipment.

Jeep is doing more at Geneva than celebrating its past, Zilli said. The brand is very strong in the EMEA region where it remains aspirational and has reached an extraordinary level of success last year, achieving the best year ever with volumes up by 55 percent.

In 2015, the EMEA region was the second-highest region in terms of sales after NAFTA, Zilli said. 2015 was also the third consecutive year of year-over-year growth in the EMEA region. Jeep sales in the EMEA region were led by the Jeep Renegade, which achieved an unprecedented success with 58,530 units accounted for.

The successful year accounted for 49.8 percent of the total brand's sales in EMEA.

In 2015, Zilli said Jeep was the fastest-growing auto brand in Europe, with an increase of 113 percent compared with 2014 and set its all-time annual sales record.

EMEA was also the first region to manufacture the Jeep Renegade. More than 215,000 units have been produced at the revamped Fiat Chrysler Melfi Plant in Italy, Zilli said.

Jeep is debuting the Cherokee Overland, the new top-of-the-range model that combines the brand's legendary off-road capabilities and even more sophisticated and elegant features.

"As a global brand, the models that you'll see in Europe are very similar to the ones you see in



Jeep will debut its 2016 Jeep Cherokee Overland model in Geneva.

North America," Zilli said. "In both regions, Jeep vehicles continue to offer a unique product proposition highlighted by best-in-class 4X4 capability. In Europe and other markets around the world, the Jeep lineup is also offered with diesel powertrains and in right-hand-drive configuration to fit market needs."

The exterior of the new Cherokee Overland features a polished bright front grille, new body-

color door cladding and wheel flares, new 18-inch polished bright aluminum wheels, standard HID bi-xenon headlamps and Overland badge on the tailgate, Zilli said.

Its looks are meant to be refined and are complemented by several premium enhancements, including a leather-wrapped instrument panel (optional), power front driver and passenger seats with four-way lumbar adjustment, a new steering wheel with wood inserts and anodized silver trim.

Jeep Cherokee Overland will be available in markets across Europe starting this summer.

In Geneva, Jeep will be presenting a new limited edition, Zilli said, of the fastest and most powerful Jeep ever – the Grand Cherokee SRT Night.

It features a stealth-like appearance with the front grille bezels, B and C pillars and side window surrounds all adorned in Matt Black.

The SRT Night is powered by a 6.4-liter V8 that delivers 468 horsepower (344 kW) and 624 Nm of torque. Performance includes 0-100 km/h acceleration in less than 5 seconds, quarter-mile (400 meters) in the mid-13-second range and a top speed of 257km/h.

The 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT and Jeep SRT Night come standard with exclusive Performance Pages that have been revised with an expanded array of performance timers and gauge readouts, while new drive modes allow Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT owners the ability to personalize their driving experience both on-road and on-track.

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## Indiana Looks at Ban of OEMs Selling Cars

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – A state Senate committee is expected to take up a measure to ban automobile manufacturers from selling directly to consumers in Indiana.

The House approved sending the proposal being considered Feb. 25 to a special study committee, but a proposed amendment would bypass the study and make the ban effective beginning July.

The Indianapolis Star reports the measure is backed by General Motors Corp. and could effectively shut down Tesla Motors Inc. in Indiana. Tesla currently sells its vehicles directly but its website says it has only one store in Indiana.

The company announced this month it will unveil a zero-emissions vehicle that would compete with an all-electric vehicle from GM.

GM argues state laws are unfair since it bans companies from selling directly if they have existing franchise dealerships.

## Alfa Romeo Sales Start Strong in the New Year

Alfa Romeo is driving into the new year with strong first month sales, new features for the 4C and new models on the horizon, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Ed Cardenas.

The Italian brand started 2016 with strong global sales, especially in Europe where Alfa Romeo saw a nearly 14 percent year-over-over increase in January, Cardenas said. Additionally, Alfa Romeo officials reported that the 4C Spider had its best sales month in January.

The company has also announced new personalization options to give the Italian-made 4C and 4C Spider additional racing-inspired features and performance, Cardenas said.

"Alfa Romeo has a lot going on," said Pieter Hogeveen, head of Alfa Romeo Marketing & Communications North America.

Options available for the hand-crafted 2016 4C models include a Carbon Fiber Trim package for the interior of the 4C and 4C Spider; a new Akrapovic dual-mode electronically controlled exhaust system and an all-aluminum 1750 direct-injection, intercooled, turbocharged engine that can take the car from 0-60 miles per hour in 4.1 seconds.

The new Giulia Quadrifoglio sedan, which made its North American debut at the Los Angeles Auto Show, should begin production on March 14, Cardenas said. The sedan, which can go from 0-60 mph in only 3.8 seconds with its Ferrari-derived V6 engine, is also the fastest 4-door production vehicle to run at the Nurburgring track.

Published reports also stated that Alfa Romeo will produce an SUV, the Stelvio, in the fourth quarter of 2016. Sales of the SUV would start in early 2017, the report added.

This announcement regarding the SUV follows January's 2014-2018 Business Plan Update by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V., which stated a mid-size UV could be expected in 2016/2017, Cardenas said.

Six other models, including additional utility vehicles and a hatchback, are planned through 2020, the plan stated.

"This is just the beginning of great things to come from Alfa Romeo," Hogeveen said.

Alfa Romeo returned to North America in 2014 with the debut of the 2015 Alfa Romeo 4C coupe at the New York Auto Show, Cardenas said.

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<b>2016 RAM CREW CAB 4X4 OUTDOORSMAN</b> <b>LEASE FOR \$112**</b> 24 Mo. \$1995 due	
<b>2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 BIG HORN</b> <b>LEASE FOR \$121**</b> 24 Mo. \$1995 due	
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# Buick, Chevy Tops in Dependability Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and customer service," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Global Buick.

"As we enter an exciting year of vehicle launches, we will show both new and returning customers that quality continues to be a top priority for the brand."

But Buick wasn't the only GM brand to score big in the study, Fowle said.

Chevrolet also scored big. Its winners included the 2013 Chevrolet Malibu in the midsize car category, with top marks in the overall and body and interior measurement.

It scored four out of five in the feature and accessory measurement and three out of five in powertrain dependability.

The 2013 GMC Yukon won the large SUV category, taking top marks in all four ratings measurements.

The 2013 Chevy Camaro was tops in the midsize sporty category, also taking top marks in all four ratings measurements.

The 2013 Chevy Silverado HD was best in large heavy duty pickup, scoring top marks in the overall dependability and feature and accessory measurements.

The vehicle scored three out of five in the powertrain dependability and body and interior measurements.

The 2013 Chevy Equinox scored the most in the compact SUV category, with top scores in the overall dependability and body and interior measurements.

It scored four out of five in powertrain dependability and feature and accessory dependability measurements.

"Chevrolet is delivering great performance, design, technology



2013 Camaro LT

and value across the entire vehicle lineup," said Brian Sweeney, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet.

"Being recognized by J.D. Power for having the most dependable vehicles in key segments is a tremendous honor and demonstration that Chevrolet is the brand that customers can truly count on."

The J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS) examines owner-reported problems in the past 12 months by original owners of 3-year-old vehicles, Fowle said.

With its most recent J.D. Power accolade, Fowle said the 2013 Buick Encore has now been recognized in all three studies for

which it is eligible, including awards in the Initial Quality Study (IQS) and the Automotive Performance Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study for the Sub-Compact CUV segment.

Last year, Buick ranked highest among mass market brands for the second consecutive year in the J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Customer Service Index Study, Fowle said.

The Fiat 500 won the best city car category.

Editors gave it top marks (five out of five points) in overall dependability, powertrain dependability and feature and accessory dependability. It got a three out of five in body and interior dependability.

## VW Sales in Europe Take Big Hit

MILAN (AP) – The marquee Volkswagen brand was hit in January by its biggest drop in European sales since the German carmaker was engulfed in its diesel emissions scandal, according to industry data released Feb. 16.

The European carmaker's association, ACEA, reported that sales of Volkswagen brand cars dropped 3.8 percent compared with a year earlier, putting a drag on deliveries for the group, which also includes the Audi, Porsche, Seat and Skoda brands.

Volkswagen group sales grew by just 0.8 percent, seriously lagging a European market that rose 6.2 percent for the 29th straight month of expansion.

Nonetheless, the VW group retained the largest market share of 24.2 percent, eroded

from 25.5 percent.

IHS automotive analysts said that beyond the emissions scandal, the brand was also hampered by the age of key models like the Polo, Golf and Tiguan.

ACEA said overall sales in Europe in January of over 1 million cars were "encouraging for the near future, as the upward market trend remains stable." Italy and Spain, hardest hit by the crisis that bottomed out European sales, drove the market.

Mass-market automakers Fiat Chrysler, Ford and Opel posted double-digit gains, with French competitors PSA Peugeot-Citroen and Renault lagging the market.

Premium manufacturers BMW and Daimler grew by 4 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively.

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# Three Factors Could Cause Takata's Air Bag Explosions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bags use specially formulated ammonium nitrate without a drying agent.

David Kelly, a former acting administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the coalition's project manager, said the design of the inflator is coming under more scrutiny than it has in the past.

Kelly said determining exactly what was causing the explosions was a critical step. Now, he said, investigators will focus on the performance of all of the inflators that are being used as replacement parts in ongoing recalls of Takata air bags. He said owners whose vehicles have been recalled should continue to get their air bags replaced while the investigation continues.

"If you don't have the root cause, you're just throwing stuff up on the wall," he said. "You may never get to a situation where you can have an end game."

Takata has given multiple explanations for the problem, including quality control problems at manufacturing facilities and exposure of the air bags to high humidity.

Frustrated by the numerous explanations and the slow pace of the investigation, 10 of Takata's customers – Toyota, BMW, Fiat Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Subaru – formed the Independent Testing Coalition and hired Orbital ATK in February of last year. Orbital makes rocket propulsion systems, small arms ammunition, warhead fuses and missile controls.

Kelly said he's not sure how long the next phase of the inves-

tigation will take. Scientists need to replicate the behavior of air bags over a period of several years, which will take time, he said.

In a statement Feb. 23, Takata said the coalition's results are consistent with its own testing. Takata said age and long-term exposure to heat and high humidity appear to be significant factors in cases where inflators have malfunctioned. The company said it is cooperating with the coalition and the U.S. government.

The faulty inflators are used in both driver and passenger-side air bags. Globally, about 50 million inflators are subject to recall. U.S. safety investigators have said that the number of recalls is certain to grow as more tests are done.

Analysts say there could be 50 million or more Takata inflators in U.S. cars and trucks that haven't been recalled yet. Takata must prove to U.S. regulators that the inflators are safe or all of them will be recalled starting in 2018.

## Reuss Joins Board At The Henry Ford

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – General Motors Product Development Chief Mark Reuss is joining the board of trustees at The Henry Ford.

The Dearborn history attraction announced Feb. 15 that Reuss has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the board.

He joins 20 other business and civic leaders that serve on the board.

Reuss said The Henry Ford is a "national treasure."

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<p><b>2015 GMC YUKON</b> 4WD • SLE</p> <p><b>\$46,995*</b> WAS \$56,600 SAVE \$11,600 OFF MSRP</p>  <p>22" Chrome Wheel Package Stock #8530-15 GM employee price plus tax of \$2919*, plus title, lic &amp; doc.</p>	<p><b>2016 GMC SIERRA</b> DEANALI • 1500 • 4WD • CREW CAB</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY \$439*</b> 10K PER YEAR</p>  <p>Stock #8876-16 • Deal #59517 \$1794 total due at signing. GM pricing plus tax, title &amp; lic. figured with lease loyalty rebate. <b>NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</b></p>	<p><b>2015 LACROSSE</b> BASE • 1SB</p> <p><b>\$26,440*</b> NOW WAS \$35,440 DEMO LOW MILES</p>  <p><b>24 MONTH BUICK EXPERIENCE LEASE</b> FREE Maintenance • FREE XM Radio • FREE OnStar Stock #6942-15 GM price plus tax of \$1889*, title &amp; lic. Must own '99 or newer Buick Lucerne, Verano, Regal or LaCrosse in household</p>	<p><b>2015 BUICK ENCORE</b> FWD • PREMIUM</p> <p><b>\$26,990*</b> NOW WAS \$32,390 SAVE \$5,400 OFF LIST PRICE</p>  <p><b>24 MONTH BUICK EXPERIENCE LEASE</b> FREE Maintenance • FREE XM Radio • FREE OnStar Stock #4320-15 GM price plus tax of \$1750*, title &amp; lic. Must trade 1999 or newer or new Non GM to qualify for lowest price</p>
<p><b>2015 GMC CANYON</b> 4WD • SLE • EXT CAB</p> <p><b>\$27,568*</b> WAS \$33,045 SAVE OVER \$5,400 OFF MSRP</p>  <p>Stock #8323-15 GM employee price plus tax of \$1744, plus title, lic &amp; doc.</p>		<p><b>ALL NEW 2016 BUICK VERANO</b> 1SG • FWD • CONVENIENCE ATTENTION LEASE CONQUEST CUSTOMERS</p> <p><b>24 MONTH/8,702* Total miles LEASE FOR \$115*</b> \$909<sup>97</sup> DUE AT SIGNING Sk. #4434-16 • Deal# 58593 8,702 Total miles allowed for lease term. GM pricing plus tax, title &amp; lic. Must have Non GM in household set to expire 365 days from delivery. <b>NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</b></p>  <p><b>24 MONTH BUICK EXPERIENCE LEASE</b> FREE Maintenance • FREE XM Radio • FREE OnStar</p>	

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# MORAN CHEVROLET

## PRESIDENTS' DAY SALE!

Monumental Deals All Month Long

<p><b>2016 EQUINOX "LT"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!</li> <li>• 2.4L DOHC VTEC Engine! • Rear Vision Camera!</li> <li>• 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio! • 17" Aluminum Wheels!</li> <li>• OnStar with 4G LTE with built-in Wi-Fi hotspot!</li> <li>• Remote Start and Entry!</li> <li>• Power Driver's Seat</li> <li>• 34 MPG on the Highway!</li> </ul>  <p>Stock #Q6029</p> <p>Was \$28,680 Sale Price \$21,999 Previous courtesy car. Approx. 2500 miles.</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE: \$129* OR \$129*</b> \$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p>	<p><b>ALL NEW 2016 MALIBU "LT"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!</li> <li>• 1.5L Turbo DOHC Engine! • Ambient Interior Lighting!</li> <li>• OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! • 17" Aluminum Wheels!</li> <li>• 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!</li> <li>• 8 Way Power Driver's Seat!</li> <li>• Rear Vision Camera</li> <li>• 37 MPG on the Highway!</li> </ul>  <p>Stock #G28287</p> <p>Was \$25,895 Sale Price \$22,133</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE: \$159* OR \$159*</b> \$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p>
<p><b>2016 TRAVERSE "LS"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!</li> <li>• 3.6L SIDI V6 Engine! • 6.5" Color Touch Screen Radio!</li> <li>• 8 Passenger Seating! • Power Driver Seat! • Remote Keyless Entry!</li> <li>• Bluetooth for Phone!</li> <li>• Deep Tinted Glass!</li> <li>• 24 MPG on the Highway!</li> </ul>  <p>Stock #G27620</p> <p>Was \$32,650 Sale Price \$25,834</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE: \$189* OR \$189*</b> \$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p>	<p><b>2016 SILVERADO "LT"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!</li> <li>• 4X4 DBL CAB</li> <li>• Ecotec3 4.3L V6! • Automatic Transmission! • GM Bedliner Included!</li> <li>• Color Screen MyLink Radio with USB Ports! • Aluminum Wheels!</li> <li>• OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi Hotspot!</li> <li>• Steering Wheel Radio Controls!</li> <li>• Power Locks &amp; Windows!</li> <li>• Remote Keyless Entry!</li> </ul>  <p>Stock #G26997</p> <p>Was \$41,815 Sale Price \$33,325</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE: \$149* OR \$149*</b> \$999 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p>

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\*Pictures may not represent actual sale vehicle. All applicable incentives including conquest and/or loyalty offers have been deducted from Sale Prices/Payments and are subject to change by the manufacturer without notice and are plus title, tax, plate and CVR fees and were valid at time of printing. GM Employee discount is required except where noted. Leases are 10,000 miles per year and a disposition fee may be required at lease turn in. Must have 1999 or newer non-GM lease for Competitive Brand offer. Amount depends on model. Trade-in guarantee of \$3500 (When you lease or purchase new Silverado) \$2500 (all others) is for 2004 newer vehicles with under 150,000 actual miles. No bad Carfax or branded titles. Certain restrictions apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 2/29/2016 @ 8:00PM.



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Stk. #SWMRXS Stk. #SXDZ56

LEASE FOR **\$129\*** 24 MO. \$0 DOWN

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Stk. #SRFQ7C Stk. #B460119

LEASE FOR **\$89\*** 24 MO. \$0 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR **\$19,599\***

**2016 BUICK LACROSSE 1SH**

Stk. #TBPROS Stk. #SOVNGJ

LEASE FOR **\$239\*** 36 MO. \$0 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR **\$29,206\***

**2016 BUICK CASCADA**

Stk. #SWVXT3 Stk. #SWVXT3

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PURCHASE FOR **\$32,881\***

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**2016 GMC YUKON SLE • 4WD**

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LEASE FOR **\$329\*** 36 MONTHS \$1,999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR **\$44,575\***

**2016 GMC ACADIA SLE-1**

Stk. #G561345 Stk. #SZPKG5

LEASE FOR **\$179\*** 24 MONTHS \$1,499 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR **\$29,714\***

**2016 GMC SIERRA 4WD • DBL. CAB**

Stk. #G560599 Stk. #G550500

LEASE FOR **\$159\*** 24 MONTHS \$1,499 DOWN

PURCHASE A 2015 4WD • REG CAB **\$27,589\***

**2016 GMC TERRAIN SLE-1**

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PURCHASE FOR **\$23,693\***

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**SILVERADO 4WD LT 2016**

Stk. #560640 Stk. #551387

LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS **\$99\*** \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE A 2015 4WD LT CREW FOR **\$29,995\***

**CRUZE LT 2016**

Stk. #460514 Stk. #460758

LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS **\$65\*** \$0 DOWN

PURCHASE A 2016 LS FOR **\$17,230\***

**IMPALA 2LT 2016**

Stk. #460597 Stk. #SSRSQF

LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS **\$259\*** \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE A 2016 LS FOR **\$22,625\***

**EQUINOX 2016**

Stk. #560418 Stk. #561065

LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS **\$79\*** \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE A 2016 LS FOR **\$21,204\***

**MALIBU 2016**

Stk. #460816 Stk. #460651

LEASE A 1LT 24 MONTHS **\$128\*** \$0 DOWN

PURCHASE A LS **\$19,434\***

**CAMARO LT 2016**

Stk. #460564 Stk. #460564

LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS **\$299\*** \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR **\$26,992\***

**TRAX LS 2016**

Stk. #561323 Stk. #561325

LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS **\$69\*** \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR **\$17,149\***

**TRAVERSE 2016**

Stk. #561183 Stk. #561183

LEASE A LS 24 MONTHS **\$178\*** \$0 DOWN

PURCHASE A LS FOR **\$26,419\***

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\*All applicable rebates including lease/conquest offers have been deducted from sale price/payment. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of active GM employee discount (unless otherwise stated). Equinox, Cruze, Malibu, Trax, Traverse, Impala, Silverado, and Camaro are 24 month leases. All leases are 10k miles per year w/ approved S Tier credit w/ \$999 due at signing. Prices & payments are plus tax, title, and plate fees with acquisition fee up front. Refundable security deposit required on certain vehicles - to be determined by lender. \*\*\$3500 trade-in is valid on 2003 or newer vehicles with under 115k miles in drivable condition, no branded titles, less reconditioning determined by appraiser. Deposition Fee may be required at vehicle turn in. Certain restrictions may apply, see dealer for complete details. Acquisition fee due upfront. \*\* Expiration Date - 2/29/16.

## Ford is Recalling 2015 and 2016 Transit Wagons

DETROIT (AP) – Ford Motor Co. is recalling 51,470 Transit wagons in North American because the rear seat belts may not latch properly.

The recall affects Transit wagons from the 2015 and 2016 model years. Most were sold in the U.S., but there are 1,781 in Canada and 699 in Mexico.

Ford says the rear seat belt buckles can be damaged if heavy objects are placed on top of them. Seat belts that don't latch properly can increase the risk of injury in a crash.

Ford says it's not aware of any accidents or injuries related to the defect.

Owners will be contacted and Ford dealers will repair or replace the seat belt buckles for free.

## Government Tax Cuts Help China's Car Sales Rise

HONG KONG (AP) – New car sales in China rose by more than 9 percent in January as strong demand for Sport Utility Vehicles offset a decline in sales of sedans, an industry group reported Feb. 19.

Sales of cars, SUVs and mini-vans in the world's biggest auto market totaled 2.23 million vehicles in January, up 9.3 percent from a year earlier, according to figures from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Total vehicle sales last month, including buses and trucks, rose by 7.1 percent to a total of 2.45 million.

Chinese automotive sales were hit by an unexpectedly sharp contraction in the summer, but government tax cuts on small-engine vehicles have helped sales rebound since that time.

The strongest demand is for inexpensive sport utility vehicles made by Chinese brand manufacturers, which is helping them claw market share away from long-dominant foreign brands such as Volkswagen and General Motors.

Sales of sport utility vehicles jumped 60.5 percent to 784,900 while the number of basic passenger cars sold dropped 9 percent to 1.1 million, the association said.

Chinese-brand auto sales rose 16.6 percent from the year before to just over 1 million.

The data is likely to be distorted by the Lunar New Year, with automobile buyers moving up their purchases before dealerships shut for the weeklong holiday, which this year fell in February.

"Normally it is always good in the beginning of the year" for auto sales, said Zhang Xin of Guotai Jun'an Securities in Beijing. "People get their annual bonus and the long vacation encourages their purchases," he said.

Zhang said he would wait for more data before making a judgment on the longer-term trend in sales.

Among individual brands operating in the Chinese market, Ford Motor Co. sales rose 36 percent last month to 130,832 vehicles.

The increase was attributed to strong demand by consumers for its SUV lineup as well as for the company's Mondeo and Escort models.

Growth in China's auto sales has waned since peaking at 45 percent growth in 2009 but remains high compared with developed markets. Last year sales rose by 18.3 percent to 21.1 million.