

## New System Adds Fuel Efficiency, Power to Silverado, Sierra

by Jim Stickford

Thanks to eAssist technology, some lucky buyers of the 2016 Chevrolet V8 Silverado and the 2016 Sierra 1500 SLT crew cab 2WD model with the SLT Premium Plus package will have pickup trucks that offer a little more power.

GM spokesman Monte Doran said that to improve the vehicles' mileage, Chevrolet and GMC will offer on a select number of 2016 Chevrolet Silverados and Sierras a new kind of power package.

"We are calling the system a 'mild-hybrid' electrical system," Doran said. "It has a relatively small battery pack and electric motor that provides an extra 44 pounds of torque power to the truck."

This extra power, Doran said, is very handy in a couple of situations.

"For example, say you want to pass someone," Doran said. "The eAssist helps give you that little extra boost without consuming additional gasoline. It also allows the V8 engine to operate more often in its 4-cylinder mode, which saves gas as well."

And thirdly, Doran said, it integrates stop-start technology that lets the truck switch off the gas part of the engine at places like stop lights, also saving gas.

The new mild-hybrid electrical

system leverages many of the technologies and components from Chevrolet's lineup of electric vehicles – including battery cells from the Malibu Hybrid and software controls developed for the Volt. As a result, said Doran, Chevrolet can deliver a low-volume, affordably priced hybrid pickup that delivers uncompromised capability and up to 13 percent better fuel economy in city driving.

"Silverado already leads the full-size truck segment in V8 fuel economy," said Sandor Piszar, marketing director for Chevrolet Trucks. "For customers and small-business owners who use their trucks for more urban driving, the addition of eAssist can further reduce their fuel costs without sacrificing the utility they expect in a full-size truck."

The compact, lightweight system increases curb weight by approximately 100 pounds, and delivers an additional 13 hp and 44 lb.-ft. of torque, Doran said.

Compared with a comparable Sierra 1500 with a 5.3L/eight-speed powertrain, the Sierra with eAssist offers an EPA-estimated 18 mpg city – a 2-mpg improvement – while highway fuel economy improves 2 mpg to 24 mpg. The combined estimate improves 2 mpg to 20 mpg. The 5.3L eAssist V8 has a GM-estimated 355 hp and 383 lb.-ft. of torque,



2016 Chevy Silverado

said GM spokeswoman Kelly Wysocki.

The eAssist system pairs a compact lithium-ion battery pack with the Silverado's 5.3L EcoTech V8 and 8-speed automatic transmission to provide:

- Electric Power Boost: The on-board electric motor provides up to 13 hp and 44 lb.-ft. of supplemental power during acceleration and passing. The electric motor also enables the Active Fuel Management system on the 5.3L V8 engine to operate in 4-cylinder mode for longer periods, resulting in additional fuel economy benefits.

- Stop/Start capability: Added

fuel savings are achieved by seamlessly turning the engine off when stopped at a traffic light or in congested traffic and turning the engine back on when the accelerator is pressed.

- Regenerative Braking: By using the on-board electric motor as a generator, the energy recovered while braking is converted to electricity to recharge the on-board battery system.

These features deliver a 13 percent improvement in city fuel economy, based on EPA estimates, Doran said.

Power for the eAssist system is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Warren Company Seeking New Name For Future

Warren-based Universal Truck-load Services, Inc., an asset-light provider of customized transportation and logistics solutions, is seeking shareholder approval to change its name to Universal Logistics Holdings, Inc. at its annual meeting of shareholders on April 28, said company spokesman David A. Crittenden.

The proposed change is meant to reflect the evolution of Universal from an over-the-road trucking business into an asset-light provider of a host of customized transportation and logistics solutions throughout North and South America, Crittenden said. These services include transportation, value-added, and intermodal services.

The name Universal Logistics Holdings, Inc. was selected as an appropriate name for the parent company because it encompasses its current operations and provides a platform for future opportunities, Crittenden said.

"Our proposed name change to Universal Logistics Holdings, Inc. is a continuation of our efforts to rename and rebrand our enterprise," said Jeff Rogers, chief executive officer of Universal. "We want to emphasize the first word in the company's name, Universal."

## 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 dependability 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 5

## 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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Tech Center News

31201 Chicago Road South  
Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

Contact us:  
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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m.  
for the next edition of Monday

William Springer II, publisher  
Lisa A. Torretta, operations  
Jim Stickford, news

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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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Chevrolet Builds New Campaign Just for Internet Users

Chevy's latest ad campaign is speaking the language of the Internet generation.

In celebration of Facebook's new Reaction buttons, Chevrolet unveiled one of the first online videos to incorporate the new feature, said GM spokesman Craig Daitch.

The one-minute video, "Chevy Love," that appears only on Facebook pays homage to the extension of the Facebook "Like" button that gives people more ways to express themselves – and finally allows Chevrolet's customers to display their "Love" of the new 2016 Chevrolet Malibu.

Through a series of moments – a mother holding her newborn for the first time, a grandmother blowing the candles out on her birthday cake, a child's first day of school and taking ownership of a new car, Daitch said Chevrolet makes the case that the time is right to love.

"Timing couldn't be more perfect for Chevrolet to bring the all-new 2016 Malibu and Facebook's new Reaction buttons together,"

said Paul Edwards, vice president of marketing for Chevrolet. "The midsize segment has traditionally offered many options to 'like', but only the new Malibu inspires the emotion to 'love'."

Chevrolet continues to build on its strategy of "surprising and delighting" consumers in unexpected ways, Daitch said, from disrupting the pregame of the 2015 Super Bowl via its Blackout spot, to turning April Fools upside down through its real-time marketing campaign, #BestDayEver.

Chevrolet has even broken the fourth wall with its Sam Raimi-directed Chevrolet Malibu and Cruze cinema-exclusive movie trailer that's playing in more than 2,300 theaters nationwide, Edwards said.

"We have used Facebook to create so many important connections between our brand and millions of our customers," Edwards said. "To give them the opportunity to 'love' us through Facebook Reactions adds a new dimension of meaning that helps us grow closer to everyone who

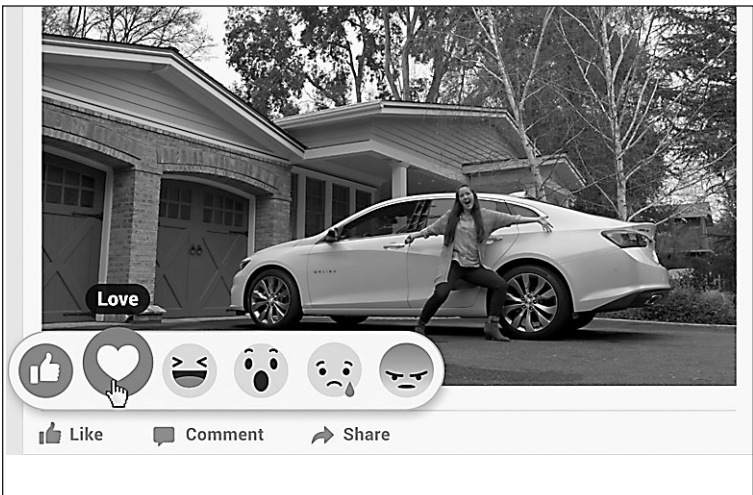
loves our cars and trucks."

Edwards said there are several reasons to "Love" the Chevrolet Malibu, including:

- Malibu Hybrid features a 1.8L hybrid engine offering a GM-estimated 48 mpg city.
- Teen Driver feature encour-

ages conversation about safe driving by letting parents monitor their teen's driving habits.

- Malibu enables Apple CarPlay and Android Auto that lets you interact with certain apps in your Malibu just like you're used to on your phone.



An example of a Chevy driver "loving" her car, Internet-style.

More Vehicle Recalls From Toyota

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 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.

The crash drew interest from Canadian regulators, who did crash tests in October and found that the belts could come in contact with a metal seat cushion frame in a severe crash. Trans-

port Canada, the Canadian auto safety regulator, presented its findings to Toyota, which did its own investigation and confirmed the problem, according to a Transport Canada statement.

"As a result of the department's investigation into this safety issue, lives will be saved in Canada and around the world," Canadian Minister of Transport Marc Garneau said in a statement.

The Canadian government said that Toyota Canada cooperated in the probe and was not aware of the safety issue until Transport Canada's investigation.

Included in the recall are 1.25 million RAV4s in the U.S. and Canada from the 2006 through 2012 model years and the RAV4 electric vehicle from 2012 through 2014. Toyota says dealers will add plastic covers to the frame at no cost to customers.

front-wheel or rear-wheel drive drivetrain configurations and it's capable of using more or fewer cells, based on power needs for each vehicle application.que from the electric motor.

The eAssist propulsion system, including the 8-speed automatic transmission, will be a \$500 premium over a comparably equipped two-wheel-drive Silverado 1500 crew cab in 1LT trim.

While only 500 Silverado eAssist trucks for the 2016 model year will be sold by California dealers only, Doran said, based on feedback from these initial customers, Chevrolet will adjust production for 2017 model year.

Wysocki said GMC will be selling 200 eAssist Sierras in the California market as well.

eAssist Adds Fuel Efficiency,  
Power to Silverado, Sierra

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supplied by a 24-cell, air-cooled 0.45 kWh lithium-ion battery pack located under the center console (or front bench seat) that uses the same battery cells as the Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid. It weighs nearly 15 percent less than the previous generation eAssist system, yet provides up to 15 kW of power to the electric motor.

A reengineered power inverter module is now liquid-cooled and moved underhood for improved packaging and performance, Doran said.

The software used to control the battery system is based off a modified version of the software for the Chevrolet Volt.

The compact induction motor, located on the accessory drive, provides peak regen capability of 15kW resulting from advanced software controls based off those used in the Volt. The motor, which features a stator design leveraged from the Volt and Malibu Hybrid, acts like an electric torque booster, providing up to 44 lb.-ft. and up to 13 hp of additional boost in high-load situations.

This new generation of eAssist is also more modular than the previous system, meaning it could be more easily used in

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Larry T. Nitz

## 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 responsible for all of General Motors' 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 transmission 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 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 presenter at SAE International events, CTI Transmission Symposia, Electric Vehicle Symposia, the Aachen Colloquium, FISITA Congress and the Vienna Motor Symposium.

Nitz received a Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering from Ket-

tering 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 president 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 in the auto industry, Read said.

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.

## 2017 Acadia Coming Soon

Pricing for the new 2017 Acadia will start at \$29,995 when it goes on sale this spring.

GMC announced the pricing information Feb. 16.

The base price is \$1,905 less than the 2016 base model and the new Acadia offers more standard equipment, including a new IntelliLink system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, said GMC spokeswoman Meg Soule. It also offers an expanded range of active safety features, including Front Pedestrian Braking, Safety Alert Seat and the Surround Vision camera system, Soule said.

"Acadia takes GMC's proven SUV experience to the heart of the midsize crossover segment with a compelling package of great design, the latest technologies and the brand's signature capability," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of GMC Sales and Marketing. "Building on the momentum of 2015's record sales, it will introduce Acadia to a new generation of customers."

The new Acadia is 700 pounds lighter than the 2016 model and offers three rows of seating on

most models, Aldred said. The premium Acadia Denali returns, along with a new All Terrain model offering enhanced off-road capability.

The lineup and starting at MSRPs include:

- Acadia SL FWD – \$29,995.
- Acadia SLE FWD – \$33,375.
- Acadia SLE AWD – \$35,375.
- Acadia SLT FWD – \$39,275.
- Acadia SLT AWD – \$42,375.
- Acadia All Terrain AWD – \$40,040.
- Acadia Denali FWD – \$45,845.
- Acadia Denali AWD – \$47,845.

The All Terrain model features an advanced AWD system with Active Twin Clutch. An SLE-based All Terrain model will be offered in the spring.

A new, 2.5L engine is standard and expected to offer an estimated 28 mpg highway for FWD models. EPA estimates are not yet available, Aldred said. Fuel economy estimates are based on GM testing. City fuel economy offered is GM-estimated at 22 mpg (FWD) and is bolstered with Stop/Start technology.

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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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# Mopar to Offer Teen Driving Class 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 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



Students learn driving techniques at ‘Mopar Road Ready.’

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. “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).

For more information on the NHRA Motorsports Museum and B.R.A.K.E.S., visit [www.nhra.com](http://www.nhra.com) or [www.putonthebrakes.org](http://www.putonthebrakes.org).

## French Car Maker Back in Black

PARIS (AP) – PSA Peugeot Citroen says it returned to profit last year on the back of higher sales and the impact of a multi-year restructuring plan to cut costs and fatten margins.

France’s largest car maker said Feb. 24 it made 899 million euros (\$989 million) last year, compared with a 706 million-euro loss in 2014.

Peugeot said revenue from its auto division rose 4 percent to 37.5 billion euros last year.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 de-

scribed 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 automakers.

“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 vehicles 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.



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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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<b>2015 GMC CANYON</b> 4WD • SLE • EXT CAB <b>WAS \$33,045 SAVE OVER \$5,400 OFF MSRP \$27,568*</b>  <p>Stock #8323-15 GM employee price plus tax of \$1744, plus title, lic &amp; doc.</p>		<b>ALL NEW 2016 BUICK VERANO</b> 1SG • FWD • CONVENIENCE ATTENTION LEASE CONQUEST CUSTOMERS <b>24 MONTH/8,702* Total miles LEASE FOR \$115*</b>  <p>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>	

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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.