

GM Warren Transmission Site Goes Green with Solar Panels

by Jim Stickford

GM unveiled a solar project at its Warren Transmission site on Oct. 28 that's good for the environment. The GM Foundation also presented grants that are good for the surrounding community.

The solar project is part of a larger effort by GM and DTE Energy to increase the use of renewable energy. Solar panels are placed on GM property and the energy produced is fed into the larger DTE electrical grid, said Frank Niscoromni, DTE program manager for Renewable Energy. GM and DTE have already placed solar panels at GM's Hamtramck and Orion assembly plants.

"These projects are part of a pilot program DTE initiated in 2009," Niscoromni said. "Here at Warren Transmission and those two other GM sites, we lease the property where the panels are placed from GM. One reason we picked the Warren facility is because it's near our Mound power grid distribution site. The power generated at Warren Transmission is sent to the Mound junction and feeds the surrounding area."

Niscoromni said that the energy generated at Warren Transmission should be enough to power about 155 normal-sized homes and is GM's largest solar array in Michigan.

"We are bullish on renewable energy because it reduces costs and reduces the impact on the environment," said Rob Threlkeld, GM global manager of Renewable Energy. "I also want to say that this facility is landfill-free. So think about it. When you take a bag of trash to the curb to be picked up, you are putting more trash in a landfill than the entire Warren Transmission facility. We owe it to not only our generation, but to future generations to fight climate change. This site is a part of that effort."

And GM is working toward



GM and DTE have installed solar panels at Warren Transmission.

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Buick Gets Domestics' Reliability Nod

by Jim Stickford

Consumer Reports' latest reliability study results have been released – and the big winner is Buick.

The results were announced to the Automotive Press Association at the Detroit Athletic Club Oct. 24.

Jake Fisher, director of Automotive Testing for *Consumer Reports*, said the Buick brand has become the first domestic brand in more than three decades to

earn a place in the top three most reliable brands survey conducted by *Consumer Reports*. Lexus and Toyota were No. 1 and No. 2, respectively.

He also noted that Honda's popular Civic model earned a "much-worse-than-average" reliability rating.

"Buick's achievement is commendable and sure to be a wake-up call to other manufacturers," Fisher said.

"One reason why the brand has been able to leapfrog others

in the General Motors stable has been its limited vehicle lineup – with none of the pickups and truck-based SUVs that have negatively impacted Cadillac and Chevrolet."

Fisher said Chevrolet saw gains, moving up five spots since 2015.

"The brand was helped in particular by the stellar reliability of the redesigned 2016 Cruze, which topped all compact cars,

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2016 Buick LaCrosse



Dignitaries and soldiers inspect prototype of new Stryker Carrier.

New Stryker Carrier to Give Soldiers Unfair Advantage

by Jim Stickford

The first prototype of the new U.S. Army Stryker Infantry Carrier military vehicle was rolled out at General Dynamics' Land Systems headquarters in Sterling Heights Oct. 27.

"Not only does this provide improved firepower, it also enhances vehicle survivability while providing stand-off against potential threat weapons," said Maj. Gen. David G. Bassett, the Army's program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems. "This symbolic event illustrates the Army's commitment to meeting the needs of our soldiers in harm's way – ahead of schedule and on budget."

The vehicle is outfitted with a 30mm cannon for increased lethality, said Col. Glenn Dean, Stryker project manager. This is the first of eight prototype vehicles upgraded with significant

lethality capabilities to address an emerging capability gap in the European theater of operations.

Last July, the Army approved a Directed Requirement to increase lethality for 81 Stryker vehicles for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment to provide Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs) with direct fire support to its mounted and dismounted infantry, Dean said.

This led to an accelerated acquisition effort to integrate an unmanned turret with a 30mm cannon on to a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle. The Army expects this vehicle to be in the field by 2018.

"Future operations will take place concurrently in the air and on the ground, increasingly in urban settings, integrating capabilities from the domains of sea, space and cyberspace," said

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3Q Earnings Mixed for Detroit 3

GM

Profits Double From Last Year

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors doesn't seem too worried about slowing U.S. auto sales or economic troubles in Europe. If third-quarter numbers are any indication, the company has numbers to back that up.

The Detroit automaker reported a record profit on Oct. 25 that doubled results in the third quarter a year ago. And the automaker put a little more swagger behind its full-year guidance, predicting pretax earnings at the high end of previous forecasts of \$5.50 to \$6 per share.

GM earned \$2.77 billion, or \$1.76 per share, compared with \$1.36 billion, or 84 cents per share a year ago. Revenue hit a record \$42.8 billion.

The performance is largely because the company shunned low-profit sales to rental car companies in the U.S., keeping prices and profits high. GM also made \$500 million off its Chinese joint venture and reduced losses by about \$100 million each in Europe and South America.

"Very much on track to deliver the performance that we promised at the beginning of the year, which is higher profit, higher margins," Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said. "In essence, another record year."

The numbers came despite sales falling 4 percent through

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FIAT CHRYSLER

Net Profits Up To \$659 Million

by COLLEEN BARRY
AP Business Writer

MILAN, Italy (AP) – Fiat Chrysler Automobiles on Oct. 24 increased its 2016 earnings forecast for the second time this year after strong results in North America helped it return to a profit in the third quarter.

The company reported an adjusted net profit of 606 million euros (\$659 million), compared with a loss of 387 million euros in the same period last year. Revenues were flat at 26.8 billion euros, with deliveries down marginally to 1.12 million units.

The group raised its profit forecasts for this year to above 2.3 billion euros from above 2 billion euros, while confirming net revenues of above 112 billion euros.

North America accounted for two-thirds of revenues and 85 percent of the profit in the third quarter, notwithstanding an 8 percent decrease in shipments as the carmaker realigns its product offer in favor of Jeep and Ram.

Shipments in the United States were down 45,000 units, mostly reflecting reductions to production of the Chrysler 200 and Dodge Dart. CEO Sergio Marchionne told an analyst conference call that the production lulls wouldn't be fully offset by the transition to SUVs and trucks until 2018.

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FORD

Income 56 Percent Less Than 2015

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – Troubles in Ford Motor Co.'s home market – including a massive recall and the difficult launch of new heavy-duty pickups – are hurting the company's bottom line.

Ford said Oct. 27 its net income plunged 56 percent to \$957 million in the third quarter, down from \$2.2 billion in the July-September period a year ago.

The earnings, of 24 cents per share, compared to earnings of 55 cents per share in the July-September period a year ago. Adjusted earnings of 26 cents per share – which exclude one-time items – beat Wall Street's forecast of 20 cents, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

North America, with its record-setting U.S. sales and love affair with profitable SUVs and pickups, has been Ford's cash cow in recent years. But as U.S. sales peak, Ford is feeling the effects. Ford's North American sales were down 11 percent in the quarter, and revenue dropped 8 percent. The company has already announced temporary closures of four North American plants this month to bring production in line with demand.

"What's happening to the company is really about what's happening in North America," Ford Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks said.

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Tech Center News®

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Warren, Michigan 48093

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

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www.TechCenterNews.com

Air Bag Troubles
Forcing More
Vehicle Recalls

DETROIT (AP) – Toyota is recalling about 5.8 million vehicles in Japan, Europe, China and other countries to replace potentially deadly Takata air bag inflators.

The company says it knows of one person injured in a crash involving one of the vehicles, but a spokesman didn't know where the crash happened. Toyota says it hasn't determined if the injury was caused by a ruptured inflator.

The vehicles have inflators that can rupture and spew shrapnel. U.S. vehicles with the same inflators are already under recall.

Toyota says the recall brings to 23.1 million the total number of vehicles it has recalled worldwide to fix inflators.

Authorities say as many as 16 deaths worldwide have been linked to Takata. Seventeen automakers are recalling about 69 million inflators in the U.S. and 100 million worldwide.

The latest recall covers four models with faulty driver air bag inflators: The Hilux pickup, and the Corolla, Etios and Yaris cars.

Models with defective passenger inflators include the Corolla, Corolla RunX, Corolla Axio, Corolla Fielder, Corolla EX, Belta, Ipsum/Picnic, Auris/Blade, Alphard/Vellfire, Vios, Noah/Voxy, Corolla Rumion, Etios, Probox/Succeed, Gaia, Brevis, Mark 2 and the Vitz/Yaris.

Another Fatality
Linked to
Takata Woes

DETROIT (AP) – A 50-year-old woman who died after a car wreck last month in California is the 11th U.S. victim of Takata Corp.'s defective air bags.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration confirmed the woman's death on Oct. 20 but didn't release her name. She is the 11th known U.S. victim. Up to five people also may have been killed by the air bags in Malaysia, bringing the number of deaths globally to as many as 16.

The agency said the woman died Sept. 30 in Riverside County, Calif., near Los Angeles. Honda Motor Co. confirmed the woman's death and said she was driving a 2001 Civic.

"Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with the family of the driver during this difficult time," the automaker said in a statement.

Takata air bags can inflate with too much force, which causes their metal interior to rupture and spew shrapnel into the vehicle. Tokyo-based Takata, unlike other manufacturers, uses the chemical ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion that inflates air bags in a crash.

But the chemical can deteriorate when exposed to prolonged high heat and humidity, burning faster than designed. That can blow apart a metal canister designed to contain the explosion.

2017 Chevy Silverado 2500HD Concept Joins Carhartt

Chevrolet decided to clothe the 2017 Silverado 2500HD Carhartt concept vehicle in something a little different.

The is a truck built to tackle the toughest jobs while integrating the rugged aesthetics of hard-working lifestyles, reflected in the resiliency and versatility of the iconic work jackets, which is why the brand has teamed up with clothing company Carhartt, said GM spokesman Randy Fox.

"Chevrolet HD trucks are designed for hard work, and just like your favorite Carhartt, their functionality transcends the workplace to become a style statement," said Sandor Piszar, Chevrolet Truck marketing director.

"This concept vehicle mirrors the lifestyles of countless Chevy truck owners, demonstrating the personal connections with the tools of their trades."

Connecting two American brands that help their owners earn a living, often simultaneously seems as natural as unloading drywall from the bed of a Silverado 2500HD at a chilly worksite while wearing one of the renowned Carhartt work jackets.

"Thousands of people go to work every day and earn their paycheck in a Chevy truck while wearing a Carhartt," said Piszar. "Those products' durability and versatility earn respect and loyalty that's passed on – and that's exactly what this concept explores."

Durability is expressed in the texture of the concept vehicle's distinctively trimmed Jet Black interior, which features Carhartt's signature duck brown garment material on the seats, armrests and door panel inserts, with triple-stitched seams just like the jackets, Piszar said.



The 2017 Silverado 2500 HD is teamed with Carharrrt, the clothing firm.

The Carhartt logo is laser-etched on the headrests, while antique nickel-finish trim is used on the doors, center console and instrument panel.

"When Carhartt and Chevy started working together on this concept truck, we quickly realized that our mutual respect for hardworking people and the utility they expect from our brands would equal the ultimate truck for anyone who works and plays in the rugged outdoors," said Tony Ambroza, senior vice president of marketing at Carhartt.

"For more than 127 years, Carhartt has designed workwear by solving for the needs and practical ways hardworking people use every product we make, and that's the same kind of thinking we applied to this collaboration."

Carhartt's tough fabric is also used for a custom concept tonneau cover.

A number of Chevrolet Accessories and concept parts enhance the truck's appearance and functionality.

The Chevrolet Accessories include:

- Trailering mirrors with camera system;
- Black bowtie emblems;
- All-weather floor liners;
- Assist steps;
- Perimeter bed lighting;
- Bed-mounted toolbox and swing-out tool chest (associated accessories).

The additional concept and custom equipment includes:

- 20-inch LED light bar;
- Electrical outlets in the bed;
- Antique nickel accents on the grille, mirror caps, tow rings and 20-inch aluminum wheels;
- Carhartt gold pinstripe graphics.

The Silverado 2500HD Carhartt concept features a unique, two-tone Carbon Flash exterior finish, with a matte finish above the beltline and high-gloss black on the bottom half.

The concept is powered by the new, next-generation Duramax 6.6L V8 turbo-diesel engine offered in the 2017 Silverado HD lineup. It delivers more horse-

power and torque than ever – an SAE-certified 445 horsepower and net 910 lb.-ft. for easier, more confident hauling and trailering.

Along with a 19 percent increase in max torque over the current Duramax 6.6L, the new engine's performance is quieter and smoother, for greater refinement. It also advances the Duramax's legacy of low-rpm torque production, offering 90 percent of peak torque at a low 1,550 rpm and sustaining it through 2,850 rpm.

"With nearly 2 million sold over the past 15 years, customers have forged a bond with the Duramax diesel based on trust and capability," said Dan Nicholson, vice president of Global Propulsion Systems. "The new Duramax takes those traits to higher levels."

Models equipped with the new Duramax 6.6L incorporate a unique induction system that draws air through a bold intake scoop on the hood.

The Carhartt concept will join approximately 20 additional Chevrolet models at the SEMA Show Nov. 1-3 in Las Vegas.

Follow the action at ChevySEMA.com, #CHEVYSEMA, @ChevroletPerformance on Instagram and Chevrolet Performance on Facebook.

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Jake Fisher of Consumer Reports relates survey results at D.A.C.

Buick Tops Domestics In Latest Reliability Study

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and the Corvette, which moved up to average," Fisher said.

"Cadillac has two models with below-average reliability, the Escalade and the small ATS sedan. While the CTS and XTS sedans were average or better. GMC dropped, hurt by its versions of the same large SUVs and pickup trucks that haunt Chevrolet."

Big trucks and SUVs tended to do poorly, Fisher said. The reason is that transmissions with more ratios and advanced drive-trains continue to be a challenge for a number of brands, he said.

While the Acura and Jeep Cherokee have seen improvements in the reliability of their nine-speed automatics, he said, earlier models are still problematic. And, he added, Ford's dual-clutch automatic transmission continues to afflict the Fiesta and Focus, which is one reason they are among the lowest-scoring models.

Fisher noted that Fiat Chrysler has some troubles, but that the Chrysler 300, Dodge Grand Caravan and Jeep Patriot managed to have an average or better score.

He said *Consumer Reports* gathered information from its subscribers who have collectively owned or leased over half-a-million vehicles from model years 2000 to 2016, with a smattering of 2017s. This survey covered more than 300 models. Vehicle reports had to have enough of a history to measure, so new vehicles like the Chrysler Pacifica weren't rated.

One of the trends discovered, Fisher said, was that vehicles with new, complicated transmissions proved less reliable. That was a major reason he cited for the decline in the Honda Civic.

"It takes time for the bugs to be ironed out when talking about new technology such as the more sophisticated transmissions that car companies are putting in vehicles," Fisher said.

The same holds true for infotainment systems and in-car electronics, he said.

"We're seeing more problems with these sophisticated systems," Fisher said. "But the OEMs are learning. The days of seeing 20 percent problem rates are going down to 5 percent. But so many vehicles are in-fleet with these systems, so we're seeing a lot more electronics, which means more problems."

When asked how problems were rated, Fisher said they do weight problems so an engine problem was rated in a more serious way than a problem with a USB port. He added that *Consumer Reports* also didn't factor

in recall issues unless a respondent's vehicle actually experienced the problem the vehicle was being recalled for.

Overall, Fisher said, the Buick brand was in the highest category of "more reliable," while Ford and Chevrolet were rated to the middle category of "reliable."

Buick brand spokesman Stuart Fowle said, "We didn't have an indication of where Buick would land. I think the results show that Buick provides great quality across the board. When we survey customers, they cite quality consistently as one of the top three reasons they buy a Buick."

Fowle also said the survey shows that Buick doesn't have a model that is head-and-shoulders above the rest of Buick's output because all the models are high quality.

Nick Richards, a GM spokesman, said Cruze topping its category is the result of talking with customers and finding ways for people to improve their product.

Fisher said the success of the Cruze shows that when Detroit puts its mind to something it can make great vehicles. He said that the Cruze is not unprecedented.

"The Cruze is not the first time Detroit made a vehicle more reliable than the Japanese," Fisher said.

"When you think of small cars, you think of the Japanese, but the previous version of the Ford Focus used to beat the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord. This quality can be done if car companies bring in technology in a methodical way and try not to amaze people by overloading vehicles with new technology."

Warren Plant Goes Green with Solar Panels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting the electricity needs of all its global operations with 100 percent renewable energy by the year 2050, Threlkeld said.

"This goal is part of the company's overall approach to strengthening its business, improving communities and addressing its impact on the climate," Threlkeld said.

GM also took the opportunity to present \$100,000 in grants to support 10 Warren-area non-profit organizations.

Jackie Parker, president of the General Motors Foundation, presented grants. She said the \$100,000 given to Warren-area groups is just part of larger effort by the foundation to help the communities in which GM operates.

"This year the GM community Grants program will provide nearly \$2 million in funding to hundreds of organizations in 47 communities where GM employees live and work," Parker said.

"Through these community grants, the GM Foundation is building stronger communities and enriching the lives of its neighbors."

The 10 groups receiving grants were:

- Family Youth Interventions;
- Winning Futures;
- Big Brother/Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit;
- Macomb Science Olympiad;
- The Judson Center;

Warren Offering Residents Help With Water Bills

The city of Warren has joined Great Lakes Water Authority Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) to assist low-income households with their water bills.

Thomas Pawelkowski, head of the city's water department, said that people should call Warren's Water Customer Service operation at 586-759-9200 to get information on WRAP.

"You'll be provided with the contact information needed for assistance," Pawelkowski said. "All referrals must be initiated through the Water Division Customer Service operation. Warren residents will be restricted to receive financial assistance from WRAP only for the usage portion of their water bill."



GM's Rob Threlkeld explains benefits of solar panels at Warren plant.

- The Clinton River Watershed Council;
- The Detroit Downriver A. Philip Randolph Institute;
- The Urban League of Detroit and Southeast Michigan;
- The Motor City Symphony Orchestra (formerly known as Warren Symphony Orchestra);
- Advancing Macomb.

"These grants have been given to a wide variety of organizations to provide the support needed to improve education and the quality of life in these communities," Parker said.

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New 2017 Ford Fusion’s Design is Tech-Friendly

As consumers look for new ways to tap into the ever-growing digital world, the number of people using multiple digital devices on a regular basis has grown.

In response, Ford has redesigned the interior of its 2017 Ford Fusion to offer drivers and passengers more storage, increased connectivity, and an open, airier feel throughout, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones.

“People love the look and feel of Fusion, but there are always things we can do to make it better,” said Kelly Whetstone, Ford vehicle architecture supervisor for Fusion. “So we looked at customer feedback, and then we honed in on the storage capability of the car.”

Roughly one in three Americans, Jones said, own a smartphone, a computer and a tablet – a 140 percent increase over the last three years, according to Pew Research Center.

Among U.S. adults today, 68 percent have a smartphone, up from 35 percent in 2011, while tablet computer ownership has edged up from 3 percent to 45 percent. Research also finds some 14 percent own a portable gaming device, while around 19 percent have e-book readers.

To accommodate all of these devices, Jones said Ford engineered 59 percent more storage into the Fusion console, adding easy-to-reach bins throughout, including a new phone pocket and area for coins. To provide a 4-liter increase to the main console storage area, the armrest has been lengthened about 3 inches, and a clamshell design has been incorporated for the upper compartment to make the space more accessible and user friendly.

The revamped media bin at the front of the console, under the 8-inch touch screen, sees the addition of a lighted USB port for increased connectivity on the forward wall. A narrow new storage slot behind it is perfect for a cellphone and other small items, Jones said.

The rearrangement provides room for more efficiently designed cord storage space, so cords don’t tangle, droop or snag. The new USB port allows for easier phone connection, so customers can enjoy the full functionality of SYNC 3 and AppLink.

A sleek rotary gear shift dial replaces the traditional shifter found in previous models. The new shifter serves both form and function, says Hani Badawi, Ford Fusion ergonomics engineer. Not only is its less intrusive form aesthetically pleasing, the design frees up valuable real estate on the console.

“Without the larger base of the traditional shifter, there was much more room for us to add features that are important to the Fusion customer, like storage and connections,” says Badawi.

“We were able to shuffle around the driver-assist controls to the base of the shifter, along with the electronic brake, for a more intuitive arrangement for the customer, as well as providing a longer armrest for significantly improved elbow comfort for drivers.”

The change in size and placement of the shifter also allowed the cupholders to be repositioned, Whetstone said. Previously side by side in the middle of the console, they now sit fore and aft – closer to the passenger side.



Ford’s pedestrian-assist technology is here today and already has proven it can save lives.

Ford Taking Human Error Out of Driving

Human error, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, accounts for more than 94 percent of vehicle accidents.

And, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones, collisions can be caused not just by distracted driving, but, increasingly, distracted walking. Every eight minutes, a pedestrian is injured in a motor vehicle crash, according to a recent report from NHTSA. This rise is linked to a global influx of “petextrians” – people walking while texting.

Ford’s new Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection can predict the movement of pedestrians to help reduce the severity of – and, in some cases, eliminate – frontal collisions altogether.

Debuting in North America as an available technology for the 2017 Ford Fusion, the system has been developed to help recognize pedestrians using more than 240 terabytes of test data – equal to 20.4 trillion books, or 600 Libraries of Congress with 34 million books each.

“Since we are trying to avoid a collision that hasn’t happened yet, prediction of the future is an inherent part of the puzzle,” said Scott Lindstrom, Ford driver assist technologies manager. “Having a huge cache of data – based on real-world driving conditions – helps our system be smart enough to determine what may happen in a second that has not yet even occurred.”

Cities around the world are tackling the increasing problem of “petextrians” and distracted walking. A theme park in Chongqing, China, painted smart-phone lanes on 30 meters of sidewalk in an effort to combat the problem. And officials in Seoul plan to expand similar signage across South Korea next year. Pedestrians crossing the tram tracks in Augsburg, Germany, are now warned by a strip of blinking red LED lights mounted on the ground. The tiny town of Rexburg, Idaho, took a different approach, passing a law in 2011 against texting while crossing the street and slapping a \$50 fine on anyone who does.

Ford Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection uses combined radar and camera technology to scan the roadway ahead for collision risks. If one is detected, the initial response from the vehicle is to provide a visual and audible warning to the driver and temporarily mute the audio system. If the driver doesn’t react to the warning, the technology can automatically apply up to the vehicle’s full braking force to help reduce the severity of, or even eliminate, a frontal collision.

Aaron Mills, Ford safety engineer, says the more test data was gathered and then used to develop the vehicle’s algorithm to help it recognize a wide variety of human sizes and shapes. “We were startled to see how obli-

ous people could be of a 4,000-pound car coming toward them,” he said. “It was a real eye-opener to how distracted people are today.”

Working in daylight and clear weather conditions at speeds up to 50 mph, Ford’s system processes information collected from a windshield-mounted camera, which has been taught to classify different vehicle and pedestrian scenarios, along with radar near the bumper to pick up shape reflections.

The technology then combines both data streams using a unique Ford algorithm that calculates the risk of a collision. While the system may be especially helpful in unexpected situations, it does not replace the driver.

Ford is testing advanced features for future vehicles that could allow the system to operate at night, in low and harsh lighting conditions, and when vehicles and cyclists move in different directions.

Using 12 vehicles, Ford conducted 500,000-plus miles of development testing in Europe, China and the United States, racking up more than one year – 473 days – of data logging.

In just 15 weeks in North America alone, the technology recorded more than 3 million scans of roadside objects, vehicles and pedestrians across roughly 70 percent non-highway and 30 percent highway miles.

Other driver-assist technologies available for Fusion include lane-keeping assist, Blind Spot Information System with cross-traffic alert, adaptive cruise control, and hands-free parallel and perpendicular parking.

Karmanos Invests In Pontiac Plan to Revive Downtown

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) – Businessman and Hockey Hall of Fame member Peter Karmanos is hoping to boost efforts to revive downtown Pontiac with new investments.

The *Detroit Free Press* reports the chairman and co-founder of MadDog Technology announced Oct. 27, along with co-founder Mark Hillman, that they’re moving three of their companies to the historic Riker Building in the Michigan city.

Karmanos said that they “see Pontiac emerging as a technology center in southeast Michigan.”

The newspaper said the companies will occupy a 15,000-square-foot space and plan to hire more than 100 professionals to work there over the next three years.

Karmanos co-founded software development company Compuware and in 2003 helped bolster Detroit’s revival efforts by moving the company’s headquarters into a new building in downtown Detroit.

Karmanos also owns the NHL’s Carolina Hurricanes.



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Fiat Chrysler Net Profits Up To \$659 Million

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Results in Europe and Asia and for luxury brand Maserati showed improvements, said Marchionne.

The launch of the Maserati Levante SUV helped boost the luxury brand's profits to 103 million euros from just 12 million euros in the same quarter last year.

The profit margin rose from 2.3 percent to 11.8 percent in the period.

Fiat Chrysler shipped 5,000 Levantes in the third quarter and has taken 18,000 orders worldwide, Chief Financial Officer Richard Palmer told analysts.

In Europe, volumes rose 18 percent to 295,000 vehicles, boosting revenues 10 percent to over 5 billion euros.

Group sales in Asia were up 27 percent to 61,000 units, giving a 2 percent nudge to revenues of 861 million euros.

Fiat Chrysler's Latin America sales continued to be penalized by a weak market in Brazil, with a 17 percent drop in sales volumes leading to a 2 percent decline in revenue, to 1.5 billion euros.

Ford Income Falls To 56 Percent Less Than 2015

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And it's likely to keep happening.

Ford has said it still expects a full-year pretax profit of \$10.2 billion, but that's down from its initial forecast of \$10.8 billion because of the recall.

Ford has said its profits will likely fall next year before rebounding in 2018.

Dearborn-based Ford had some big one-time costs in the third quarter.

The company spent \$600 million – \$40 million less than it initially projected – to replace faulty door latches on 2.4 million cars and trucks.

It is also launching its first new Super Duty pickup in 18 years, with all-aluminum sides that required a complete revamp of its Kentucky truck plant.

Ford's overall revenue fell 6 percent to \$35.9 billion. Automotive revenue was \$33.3 billion, which matched Wall Street's expectations.

Worldwide sales fell 4 percent to 1.5 million vehicles worldwide.

They were down in every market except Asia.

That's down from its previous forecast of \$10.8 billion because of the recall.

It's also down from Ford's record-setting profit of \$10.8 billion in 2015.

Ford's North American pretax profit declined 55 percent to \$1.3 billion.

The company also lost \$295 million in South America and \$152 million in the Middle East and Africa.

Europe eked out a \$138 million profit, its best third quarter since 2007.

But Shanks warned that Ford faces a \$600 million charge in the region in 2017 because of the Brexit vote.

The vote will cost Ford \$200 million this year.

Ford also earned \$131 million in its Asia Pacific region, where its sales and market share grew.

Ford's operating cash flow was negative \$2 billion for the quarter; Shanks said it would be positive again in the fourth quarter.



Warren Assembly employees work on a 2016 Ram 1500 engine.

FCA Warren Truck Assembly Granted WCM Bronze Status

The Fiat Chrysler Warren Truck Assembly Plant has been awarded bronze status for its efforts in implementing World Class Manufacturing (WCM).

It becomes the 20th North American facility to reach the milestone and brings to seven the number of plants that have been designated bronze in 2016, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

The 78-year-old suburban Detroit truck plant earned bronze after receiving a minimum of 50 points in 10 technical and 10 managerial pillars following a two-day independent audit held Oct. 24 and 25, Tinson said.

The plant demonstrated clear WCM know-how and competence through employee-conducted pillar presentations and a review of projects implemented across the shop floor. The designation recognizes the long-term commitment of a workforce to making significant changes that can secure the future of a facility.

"Reaching bronze is a significant achievement as it confirms the workforce's understanding of the WCM methodology and its dedication to implementing best practices that will make our facilities the best in the world," said Brian Harlow, vice president – Manufacturing, FCA North America.

"At Warren Truck and across our global manufacturing footprint, our employees now have the tools and resources to eliminate waste by improving processes, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety, while at the same time

putting dignity into the workplace.

"Our Warren Truck workforce is to be commended for embracing WCM as a way of life," said Harlow. "Together with the support and involvement of our UAW partners, we will ensure that the company meets its long-term business goals and provides a secure future for all employees."

WCM was first implemented by Fiat in 2006 and introduced to Chrysler Group as part of the alliance between the two companies in June 2009. The methodology engages the employees to provide and implement suggestions on how to improve their jobs and their plants, promoting a strong sense of ownership.

Plants awarded for their efforts also have a role in accelerating the implementation of WCM throughout the organization as coaches and mentors.

During an audit, zero to five points are awarded for each of the 10 technical pillars, which include safety, workplace organization, logistics and the environment, and for each of the 10 managerial pillars, such as management commitment, clarity of objectives, allocation of people, motivation of operators and commitment of the organization.

A score of 85 would indicate that a facility has earned a World Class designation. Currently, there are three North American plants at a silver status, having been elevated from bronze after receiving a minimum of 60 points during an audit.

Hyundai, Kia to Pay \$41.2M

DETROIT (AP) – South Korean automakers Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Motors Corp. will pay \$41.2 million to 33 states and the District of Columbia to settle an investigation into their fuel economy ratings.

The fine is the latest in the ongoing fallout from misstated mileage numbers on more than 1.2 million vehicles in the United States.

In 2012, Hyundai and Kia restated the mileage on one-quarter of their 2011-2013 model year

vehicles after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) questioned their mileage numbers.

The companies deny they violated the law, and instead cite lack of clarity in EPA test procedures.

The companies paid \$300 million in penalties to the U.S. government in 2014. They say they have also reimbursed around 75 percent of customers.

A class action lawsuit remains subject to an ongoing appeal.

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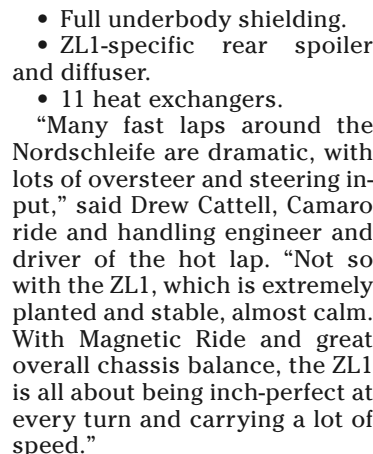
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There is evidence, however, that one day Musk could be proven to be right. While currently there is little data showing that fully autonomous cars would reduce deaths, there are studies that show computer controls can cut fatalities. The Insur-

Musk disagrees, saying the term has been used in aviation to describe a system that assists pilots.

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New Stryker Carrier to Give Soldiers Unfair Advantage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, the Army's vice chief of staff.

"This environment will place a premium on unmanned systems, lethal technologies, and rapid maneuver capabilities that this Stryker system exemplifies."

The new Stryker is a refit of the older Stryker ECP. It will be getting a 450 hp engine, improved power pack thermal management, suspension upgrades and improved lethality with the addition of a 30 mm gun, Dean said, while still maintaining the ability to transport a nine-man squad.

Additionally, the base vehicle and weapons systems can easily be upgraded to include additional capabilities.

The refitting process, Dean said, will begin at the Army's Anniston, Ala., facility.

The refurbishing and refitting is part of a joint government/General Dynamics project. The Strykers will be stripped and then sent to the Army's Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio.

Once there, they will be refitted and sent to the GDLS facility in Sterling Heights, where employees will add the wheels, suspension system, new turrets and gun.

The whole process should be completed no later than Dec. 31 of this year, Dean said.

Once all that work is done, the vehicles will be tested and finally sent to Europe where they will be manned by the Army's Second Calvary Regiment in Germany.

Overall, more than 4,000 Strykers will be refitted and improved, Dean said.

Bassett said the development of the new Stryker was done in a very short period of time.

The call for a new vehicle went out in July of 2015 and the first prototype was unveiled on Oct. 27.

"This is not a sport for the faint of heart," Bassett said. "This work was done by professional engineers who brought their A game every day."

GM Enjoys Strong Quarter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

September in the U.S., GM's most lucrative market, and market share dropping almost a full percentage point year-over-year to 16.9 percent. And it came despite worries about increased competition in the U.S. with automakers fighting over a slightly smaller pie.

Sales have hit a post-recession plateau after last year's record of 17.5 million.

But at GM, revenue rose 10 percent over a year ago largely because it's getting stronger prices for cars and trucks in North America. Pickup sales are still healthy, and the company rolled out strong new vehicles such as the Chevrolet Malibu midsize car and the Cadillac XT5 SUV, Stevens said.

Although overall sales dropped, Stevens said GM raised its U.S. share of the more profitable retail sales to individual buyers by 0.5 percentage points. He expects pickup sales to remain strong but says the company will balance supply and demand.

It all fueled a record North American pretax profit of \$3.5 billion, giving the region an 11.2 percent profit margin. The margin is the percent of revenue that the company gets to keep.

Stevens said prospects are good, too, because GM is rolling out important new vehicles. "We're entering the heart of our

Gary L. Whited, president of General Dynamics Land Systems, said getting the new Stryker project done so quickly was like bending steel and was a miracle of military acquisition.

Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, vice chief of staff for the U.S. Army, said that the Army has 180,000 soldiers based around the world in 140 locations.

"We are a busy army that must maintain a relentless pace," Allyn said. "We in the U.S. Army have thought long and hard about the future."

"The battlefield of tomorrow will be complex and often in an urban setting. Fighting in such an environment will require leaders of character capable of being agile. A premium will be placed on unmanned systems and rapid maneuver."

That's where the new Stryker comes in, Allyn said.

It will still be able to move troops around while providing excellent firepower to back them up.

The new Stryker, Allyn said, was in response to a review of Army needs after the Russians invaded the Ukraine.

He said that while the U.S. was occupied in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Russians upgraded their capabilities, and their military actions in the Ukraine showed just what they could do.

One of the Army's responses was to order a new Stryker vehicle for its soldiers.

"This upgrade to support dismounted troops without hurting the maneuverability of the vehicle is quite an accomplishment," Allyn said. "It was done through leadership and teamwork. And it was delivered in near record time."

He said the United States Army never wants to get into a fair fight, and the new Stryker is helping them maintain that objective.

Among the guests at the unveiling were Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Congressman Sander Levin, whose district is home to GDLS.

product launch cadence," he said, adding that within the next 18 months, GM will replace its compact and midsize crossover SUVs in the hottest part of the U.S. market.

Excluding a 4-cent benefit from an unspecified ignition-switch recall recovery, GM earned \$1.72 per share. That soundly beat Wall Street estimates of \$1.46 per share.

"...on track to deliver higher profit, higher margins."

—Chuck Stevens, GM CFO

Jefferies analyst Philippe Houchois said he's concerned that the company pulled fourth-quarter sales forward. He has a "Hold" rating on the stock with a \$33 one-year price target on concerns that sales have peaked in North America.

GM also said it completed a \$5 billion stock buyback a quarter early during the July-through-September period. Stevens said the company will start on its second tranche of buybacks worth \$4 billion in the fourth quarter.

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Tesla Surprises World by Making Profit

DETROIT (AP) – Electric car maker Tesla Motors posted its first quarterly profit in three years on Oct. 26, giving investors reason to cheer after months of doubt.

Tesla's shares have fallen since the summer as some investors questioned the company's proposed merger with solar panel maker SolarCity Corp. Goldman Sachs recently downgraded Tesla's shares from "buy" to "neutral" and lowered its price target, saying the potential merger could delay the release of Tesla's much-anticipated Model 3.

But Tesla CEO Elon Musk said in a letter to investors that the third quarter showed Tesla could meet its goals while keeping one eye on opportunities for future growth.

Musk also reiterated that Tesla shouldn't need to raise cash to support the Model 3, and doesn't expect a capital raise through the first quarter of next year.

There had been some questions about the company's ability to proceed without raising more money, but Tesla ended the quarter with positive free cash flow of \$176 million.

"Things are looking good," Musk said in a conference call with analysts and media. "It's not to say there could be some darkness ahead . . . (but) it's overall looking quite promising."

Tesla reported net income of \$21.9 million, or 14 cents per share, up from a loss of \$229.9 million in last year's July-September period.

Revenue more than doubled to \$2.3 billion. That included \$149.7 million in non-automotive revenue – up 78 percent from last year – in part because of growth in Tesla's energy-storage business.

Tesla, which went public in 2010, has had only one other profitable quarter – the first quarter of 2013. But the company said it expects to report net income in the fourth quarter of this year.

Tesla delivered 24,821 vehicles during the quarter, an increase of 72 percent over the same period last year.

The Palo Alto, Calif.-based company said it still expects to deliver just under 80,000 vehicles worldwide this year.

That sales number is up from the 50,500 delivered in the year 2015.

Oakland County Declines Palace Purchase Plan

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) – Suburban Detroit officials say they rejected a \$384 million offer in June to buy the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Oakland County said in a statement Oct. 24 to *The Detroit News* it was "acting in a fiscally responsible manner on behalf of taxpayers" when it rejected the proposal.

If Oakland County had decided to make the purchase, it would have allowed the home of the Detroit Pistons to be leased back to the team.

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson told WWJ-AM he was "not real happy" with the risk of owning a stadium "and not owning the team."

The Palace and Pistons are both owned by Tom Gores' Platinum Equity group.

There has been talk for some time about the possibility of the Pistons moving from Auburn Hills to downtown Detroit.

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