Detroit Auto Scene®

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DECEMBER 26, 2016

Technology, Greening Grabbed Headlines in Year 2016



Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Brands for FCA, showed off the hybrid Pacifica at the 2016 NAIAS.



GM CEO Mary Barra introduced 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV at Consumer Electronics Show Jan. 6 in Las Vegas.

The year was a busy one.

In 2016, automobile products that had been talked about for years finally became a reality.

GM's Chevrolet Bolt EV, Fiat Chrysler's hybrid minivan Pacifica and Ford's technology-loaded Escape made the headlines.

Other major newsmakers were autonomous vehicles, the Volkswagen diesel emission scandal and the Takata airbag debacle.

Dan Nicholson, vice president of Global Propulsion Systems at General Motors, talked about the Chevy Bolt making it to market.

"The Bolt is the first mass-produced EV with the ability to travel distances so it eliminates the problem of driver range anxiety," Nicholson said.

And, Nicholson said, the Bolt hit the marketplace two years before Tesla's Model 3. That California automaker began taking orders for the vehicle in April, despite the fact that it told potential buyers the vehicle won't be ready to be sold until late 2017 at the earliest.

The Bolt was first unveiled as a concept car at the 2015 North American International Auto Show. GM began testing 50 Bolt prototypes at GM's Milford Proving Ground the following June.

GM CEO Mary Barra announced in January of 2016 at the Consumers Electronics Show (CES) that GM was putting the Bolt into production.

"The message from consumers about the Bolt EV concept was clear and unequivocal: Build it," said Alan Batey, president of GM North America, at the Chicago Auto Show in March.

GM delivered the first Bolts to customers on the West Coast just a couple of weeks ago, meaning the car went from concept to reality in less than two years.

But GM wasn't the only company making strides in green technology in 2016. Fiat Chrysler introduced the world's first hybrid minivan to the marketplace.

The 2017 Hybrid Pacifica began production at Windsor Assembly in early December.

The vehicle made its debut at the 2016 NAIAS. Patrick Keitz, product manager for the 2017 Pacifica, said the announcement was made in Detroit because that's where the minivan was created.

"What's great about the Hybrid Pacifica is that we didn't have to sacrifice interior space to make the vehicle possible," Keitz said at the time of its introduction.

"We put the batteries in the stow-and-go space below the seats so people don't lose cargo space. Thus, the Pacifica still has best-in-class interior cargo space."

The pivotal technology behind the new Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is its innovative electrically variable transmission (EVT), Keitz said. Patented by Fiat Chrysler, the device features two electric motors, which are both capable of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GMs' Environmental Efforts Add Up to \$1B in Savings

People may be dreaming about a white Christmas, but GM is proud of its green year.

General Motors achieved a record number of landfill-free facilities in 2016, exceeding its commitment four years early, said GM spokeswoman Becky

The Detroit automaker now operates 152 global facilities that recycle, reuse or convert to energy all waste from daily operations.

These 52 non-manufacturing sites and 100 manufacturing sites contribute to GM's top and bottom lines by driving efficiencies, generating revenue and saving money, Price said.

"We are committed to manufacturing cars and trucks for our customers in a safe and responsible way," said Alicia Boler-Davis, GM executive vice president, Global Manufacturing.

"While we continue to increase the reuse of byproducts, our vision is to eliminate waste by applying the most advanced manufacturing processes and technologies in our plants globally."

Whether it's recycling Flint water bottles into engine cover insulation or turning trashed tires from the Mississippi River into air-deflecting baffles, the company is working together with its suppliers to advance a more circular economy where materials are kept in use, Boler-Davis said.



Alicia Boler-Davis

GM champions matchmaking efforts, such as the Materials Marketplace, where one company's trash can be another's raw material.

Altogether, GM recycles or reuses 2 million metric tons of byproducts a year. If someone were to place that material into the beds of Chevrolet Silverado extended-cab pickup trucks and park them end to end, they would stretch around the world.

GM has generated up to \$1 billion from recycling in recent years, Price said. The company reinvests that money into the business, including the development of fuel-efficient vehicles and new technologies shaping the future of personal mobility. Landfill-free facilities result in greater operational efficiency and eliminate waste-hauling fees.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Mustang Power Attracts Women's Praise

The Ford Mustang has added yet another award to its trophy case – Women's Performance Car of the Year 2016.

Up against a field of 294 competitors, Mustang emerged as the top performance car in the Women's World Car of the Year awards, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones.

The awards are determined by 17 judges across 14 countries – the only vehicle honors in the world granted by a panel made up entirely of women.

Mustang's closest contender was the critically acclaimed Ford Focus RS, with just one point separating the two, Jones said.

The 2016 Mustang was created, in part, Jones said, by a group of women.

They included Susan Lampinen, Ford Chief Color and Materials designer, Melanie Banker, Ford Mustang Marketing manager, Michele Lubin Henning, Ford Vehicle Integration supervisor, and Marcy Fisher, Ford Vehicle Line director.

The judges posted opinions about the Mustang on the Women's World Car of the Year Facebook page.

"Ford Mustang is surprisingly loved by women who are after a sexy, sporty, masculine car that turns heads," said Juliet Potter, Women's World Car of the Year jury member from Australia.

"Combining the car's silverscreen celebrity status with reallife practicality, Mustang screams, 'I am in control!' and delivers the same behind the wheel with above-average grip and sus-



From left, Lampinen, Banker, Lubin Henning and Fisher

pension. The Mustang is a true joy to drive."

Maggie Barry of Scotland and Motoring editor, Media Scotland (including Daily Record and Sunday Mail), also had kind things to say about the Mustang.

"I think we had a really good lineup of winning cars this year from the practical to the utterly desirable," Barry said. "I love the look and sound of the Mustang – it's just so gutsy ..."

Marta Garcia Fernandez of Spain, motoring editor for *Quo* magazine, said that the Mustang was an iconic car that takes its heritage as a classic muscle car seriously, but the Mustang also comes with advanced technology and has a very good relationship between power and price.

Odiel Menink is from Holland and is the founder and test editor

for autoblog Femme Frontaal, which gives the female perspective on cars.

She wrote that the "new Ford Mustang is the most playful rear-wheel-drive car out there. Not only with the V8, but even with the four-cylinder Ford Mustang, you are driving in a bucket full of fun.

"The Ford Mustang is really a good-looking statement car. One with room for four people and in most countries also affordable."

Geraldine Herbert of Ireland is the motoring correspondent for *Irish Country Magazine* and a contributing editor for *The Sunday Independent*.

This is what Herbert had to say about the 2016 Mustang:

"It may have taken more than 50 years to find out, but it seems Mustangers really do have more for "

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Smart Fortwo Car Troubles Prompt Federal Action

DETROIT (AP) – U.S. safety regulators are reviewing eight complaints that the engines in tiny Smart Fortwo cars can catch fire

The investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covers about 43,000 of the two-seat cars from the 2008 and 2009 model years.

The agency says in documents posted Dec. 20 that in six cases, owners saw smoke, the check engine light, or heard an unusual noise before seeing flames. The other two fires weren't observed until the cars were stopped. All eight owners told the agency that flames rapidly engulfed the cars. No injuries have been reported.

In one of the complaints, the owner of a 2008 Fortwo from Dallas told NHTSA that he heard a loud pop from the rear engine compartment while driving on the North Dallas Tollway on Oct. 12. The owner pulled over to check the noise and saw flames coming from the engine.

Technology, Greening Grabbed Headlines in Year 2016

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driving the vehicle's wheels.

Green innovations weren't the only technologies reaching fruition in 2016.

Alisa Priddle, editor of the Detroit bureau of *Motor Trend* magazine, said that 2016 was the year that driver assistance, sometimes referred to as autonomous technology, became a reality.

"This tech really took off in 2016," Priddle said. "Companies really invested in ride safety and that technology has become standard in a lot of vehicles. Talk became reality."

Ford, for instance, in January announced that the 2017 Escape's available features would include:

• Adaptive Cruise Control with Collision Warning and Brake Support: Sensors detect when Escape is approaching a slow-moving vehicle and adjusts cruise control accordingly;

• Enhanced Active Park Assist: Provides automatic steering assistance to park the vehicle in a parallel or perpendicular parking spot, and pull out from tight parallel parking spots;

• Lane-Keeping System: The system includes lane-keeping assist, which alerts drivers when they drift unintentionally from their lane, and lane-keep aid, which provides steering assistance to guide an unintentionally drifting vehicle back in its lane;

• Driver Alert System: Using data from the lane-keeping system, Driver Alert detects signs of fatigued driving and provides a warning on the instrument cluster

In September, Ford accelerated its autonomous vehicle research at the new robotics lab at the University of Michigan. As a result of this, Ford became the first company to co-locate in an aca-

demic building as its engineers worked side-by-side with U-M researchers.

In early December, the state of Michigan passed legislation that greatly increased the ability of companies to test autonomous vehicles on public roads.

The Associated Press wrote, "companies can now test self-driving cars on Michigan public roads without a driver or steering wheel under new laws that could push the state to the forefront of autonomous vehicle development.

"The package of bills signed into law Dec. 9 comes with few specific state regulations and leaves many decisions up to automakers and companies like Google and Uber.

"It also allows automakers and tech companies to run autonomous taxi services and permits test parades of self-driving tractor-trailers as long as humans are in each truck. And they allow the sale of self-driving vehicles to the public once they are tested and certified, according to the state."

Within days of that announcement, GM declared that the company would be testing autonomous vehicles on public roads.

And Fiat Chrysler announced that the company had completed building 100 Hybrid Pacificas meant to be outfitted with fully self-driving technology being developed by Waymo (formerly known as the Google Self-Driving Car Project). These vehicles will join Waymo's self-driving fleet in 2017.

Other issues rolled over into 2016 from 2015. The Volkswagen diesel emission scandal continued to make news. In September of 2015, the company admitted to making and installing "defeat" devices designed to fool emission tests.

In September, James Robert



The 2017 Ford Escape now features lots of safety technology.

Liang, a VW engineer who worked in Oxnard, Calif., admitted as part of a plea deal with the Justice Department that the defeat device was purposely installed in VW diesels sold in the United States.

In October, a federal judge approved a final settlement that required VW to offer to buy back about 475,000 vehicles. The buyback values ranged from \$12,000 to \$44,000. The company also agreed to pay \$2.7 billion in environmental mitigation fees and another \$2 billion for clean emissions infrastructure.

The Takata airbag scandal also continued in 2016. The company makes airbags for most OEMs and, beginning in 2013, companies began recalling vehicles with Takata airbags because, under certain circumstances, airbags could deploy with so much force that flying debris could injure or even kill drivers and passengers.

In May of 2016, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) initiated a recall campaign affecting about 35 to 40 million vehicles.

Despite these efforts, a truck transporting Takata airbag parts was involved in a crash in Quemado, Texas, in August. The crash caused the cargo to explode, destroying a house and killing a woman inside.

Oakland Chief Info Officer Honored

Oakland County's Chief Information Officer Chris Burrows was named a 2016 Difference Maker by the SANS Institute during the group's Defense Initiative Training Event in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 15.

The SANS Institute was established in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization and provides cyber security training online and at 200 live events a year.

SANS, in a press release, stated that Burrows was honored for driving basic improvements to the county's cyber security, including elimination of unneeded administrative privileges. He was also cited for his volunteering time as a team leader in Michigan's Cyber Civilian Corps.

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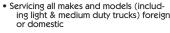
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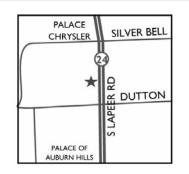




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Buick allows owners to check their driving with their devices.

GM's Temporary Closings Will Idle 10,000 Employees

DETROIT (AP) - General Mo- seating position and the ability tors will temporarily close five to haul things. Gasoline prices factories next month as it tries to reduce a growing inventory of cars on dealer lots.

The factories will close anywhere from one to three weeks due to the ongoing U.S. market shift toward trucks and SUVs, spokeswoman Dayna Hart said Dec. 19. Just over 10,000 workers will be idled.

The company's Detroit-Hamtramck factory and Fairfax Assembly plant in Kansas City, Kan., each will be shut down for three weeks, while a plant in Lansing, will be down for two weeks. Factories in Lordstown. Ohio, and Bowling Green, Ky., each will be idled for one week.

The factories make most cars in the General Motors lineup including the Chevrolet Cruze, Camaro, Corvette, Malibu, Volt and Impala; the Cadillac CT6, CTS and ATS; and the Buick Lacrosse.

At the current sales pace, GM dealers have enough Malibus to last for 84 days and enough Camaros to last for 177 days, according to Ward's Automotive. Normally, automakers like to have a 60-day supply on lots.

Last month, trucks and SUVs made up almost 62 percent of all vehicles sold in the U.S., a record

GM, like other automakers, was caught with too many cars on dealer lots as the shift continued, said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for the LMC Automotive consulting firm. Automakers have started discounting cars, but they need to cut production as the shift continues, he said.

"There's nothing that suggests a move back to cars," Schuster said.

He predicted strong December sales but said it won't be enough "to overcome some of this bloating of inventory."

Buyers are snapping up SUVs largely because they like the high

Palace Evacuated After Small Fire Breaks Out

A small fire broke out at the Palace of Auburn Hills last week, the city reported.

Firefighters were sent to the arena at 10:33 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20. No event was going on at the time, and employees were evacuated from the structure while they waited for firefighting personell to arrive.

According to Auburn Hills Fire Chief James Manning, no injuries were reported while the fire was

Manning said the conflagration came from a ventilation system that exends from the main kitchen.

Buicks Feature OnStar Smart Driver Tech

smart driver learn how to be a safer driver while saving money at the same time.

"With OnStar Smart Driver, your Buick can now work with you to develop better driving skills," said GM spokesman Phil Colley.

"This recently launched optin service is available for most 2015-17 model year Buick vehicles as part of the OnStar Basic Plan1 at no additional cost.'

OnStar Smart Driver is designed to help Buick owners maximize their vehicle's overall performance, reduce wear and tear, monitor fuel efficiency and become better drivers all factors that can help save owners money as well, Colley

Once enrolled, customers have online access via OnStar.com to information about their driving behavior, including:

- OnStar Smart Driver score calculated with driving data that can be sorted by day, week, month, year and lifetime.
- Historical OnStar Driver scores.
- Total number of hard braking events and where they took
 - Total number of hard accel-

Smart technology can help a eration events and where they took place.

 High-speed driving percent-· Late-night driving percent-

- age.
- Total miles driven. • Average MPG and MPH.
- Comparisons to the aggregate total of all other enrolled
- Helpful tips on how to become a smarter driver.

And OnStar Driver can pay off in other ways as well, Colley said. For example, customers may also choose to enroll in the Insurance Discounts Eligibility2 portion of the service, which is a risk-free way to see if their driving behavior qualifies them for discounts, without revealing any personal details to insurance companies.

Participating insurance companies currently include Progressive, Liberty Mutual and Nationwide, and good driving behavior can lead to potential savings of up to 30 percent on car insur-

The OnStar Basic Plan is available for five years from the delivery date of eligible 2015 model year and newer vehicles and is transferable

Basic Plan does not include emergency, security or navigation services; these and other services require a paid plan.

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Continental to Display at CES

Continental will demonstrate tal's Body & Security business the intelligence of modern vehicle access solutions at CES 2017 in Las Vegas in early January.

around \$2 per gallon have helped

the sales, but SUVs also have be-

come more fuel efficient in the

dealer lots at the end of November

stood at 874,162, up 26.5 percent

Workers at the plants will get

company supplemental pay and

unemployment benefits that add

up to most of their pay.

from the same time a year ago.

GM's inventory of vehicles on

past five years.

Through the combination of the keyless entry and start system PASE (Passive Start and Entry) and biometric elements, the international technology company with its North American headquarters in Auburn Hills is opening up new possibilities in the field of vehicle personalization and authentication, said Contintnental spokeswoman Mary Arraf.

"The integration of biometric elements brings our expertise in systems integration to the forefront, as we are linking our access control solution with other intelligent systems in vehicles to ensure increased comfort and safety for all passengers," said Michael Crane, head of Continenunit, North America.

"In addition, the access systems allow us to only control specific components as needed. This means that components are not required to operate continuously, which saves energy and increases efficiency."

Depending on the system configuration, Crane said that automotive manufacturers can introduce another level of security to their vehicles using biometrics.

Introducing a biometric element could mean, for example, that the presence of a valid key inside the vehicle is no longer enough to start the engine as the driver is also required to provide authentication using a fingerprint sensor. This process increases the vehicle's anti-theft protection measures.

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Mopar Brand Adds Engineers To Racing Team

The Mopar brand is adding horsepower to its support of amateur, non-professional NHRA Sportsman racers with a slate of new programs and resources for the 2017 season.

Initiatives include factorybacking for select Mopar and Dodge NHRA Sportsman teams, a new "Magneti Marelli Offered by Mopar Drag Pak Rewards" program, technical at-track assistance for grassroots racers and increased outreach and communication with Sportsman competitors, said Mopar spokesman Darren Jacobs.

Mopar will team up with the Dodge brand to provide factorybacked support for three supercharged, 354-cubic-inch Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak NHRA Sportsman machines that will carry the official Mopar and Dodge colors next year, Jacobs said.

In addition, the new "Magneti Marelli Offered by Mopar Drag Pak Rewards" program will provide monetary awards to the dedicated amateur racers who compete in the Mopar brand's modern-day package car, the Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak.

Also new for next season, FCA engineers will attend each of the 24 NHRA Nationals events to provide all Mopar-powered NHRA Sportsman racers with technical advice and guidance, Jacobs said.

Unlike professional drivers in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, amateur NHRA Sportsman racers often compete with little or no sponsorship, supporting their weekends at the dragstrip with their own

"Amateur Sportsman racers fuel our brand's involvement in NHRA competition," said Bill Harry, head of Marketing at Mopar. "In 2017, we're backing up those words with new initiatives that prove our commitment to our most dedicated and passionate brand ambassadors.

"We're also very excited to work more closely with the Dodge brand in providing select factory-backed support Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak drivers. This enhanced commitment, combined with our championship-winning relationship with Don Schumacher Racing in Funny Car and Top Fuel, demonstrates that we are focused on NHRA involvement that makes the most sense for the Mopar brand."

Michigan to See New Energy Laws, **Boost Renewables**

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a rewrite of state energy laws intended to boost the required use of renewable power sources and keep intact some competition in the electricity market.

The Republican governor signed the legislation Dec. 21 that was approved the previous week by the Michigan Legislature with bipartisan votes.

The measures long have been among Snyder's priorities at a time when many coal-fired power plants are closing.

The House GOP had been at an impasse on an energy overhaul.

Changes were made to mollify proponents of the "choice" program that gives competitors up to 10 percent of sales in the territories of utility giants DTE Elec-

tric and Consumers Energy. Snyder says the legislation will help meet energy needs, protect the environment and save customers money.

IIHS Says Family-Focused Pacifica Is 'Tops' in Safety

The 2017 Chrysler Pacifica is a vehicle built for families, which is why safety is such an important feature.

The Pacifica is the lone minivan among vehicles to earn a 2017 Top Safety Pick+ (TSP+) rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Eric Mayne.

The Dec. 8 announcement by the IIHS reprises the Chrysler Pacifica's 2016 TSP+ designation, and complements the five-star overall safety rating the Pacifica achieved in testing by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Every safety feature is relevant to every buyer," Mayne said, "but especially so for minivan buyers, and recognition like this will become an important buying tool for consumers looking for a vehicle for their fami-

"With more than 100 available safety and security features, everything from Forward Collision Warning to a 360-degree Surround View Camera to the ability to parallel park itself," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands - FCA North America, "the all-new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica is designed and built to check the box on key attributes many families value above all others safety and security.'

TSP+ status is contingent on achieving ratings of "good" in five IIHS crashworthiness evaluations. The Chrysler Pacifica achieves "good" - the highest possible rating - in each. The tests simulate:

- A side impact with a large SUV or pickup truck;
- A moderate-offset frontal im-

- A small-offset frontal impact;
- Roof-deformation consistent with a rollover; and a rear collision capable of inducing whiplash.

High-strength steel accounts for 72 percent of the Pacifica's body structure, 38 percent of which is Advanced High-Strength Steel (AHSS). Such material choice was a key contributor to the new minivan's crashworthiness, and advanced engineering contributed further.

Using an in-house process called Rapid Concept Development (RCD), FCA US engineers employed high-powered computers to identify optimal body-structure design. The computers help simulate vehicle performance and pinpoint strategies that best accommodate occupant protection.

In certain frontal impacts, these strategies include dividing crash energy between multiple components, such as frame rails and the vehicle's engine cradle.

While the new Pacifica aces the required crash tests, the best safety features are those that help drivers avoid collisions. The Chrysler Pacifica's Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) system earns a rating of "superior," the highest possible grade the IIHS awards for this technology another prerequisite to achieve TSP+ status.

The Pacifica's system is called Forward Collision Warning-Plus. It features sensor-fusion technology, which combines the particular attributes of radar sensors and cameras for greater preci-

The system only responds when camera and radar agree that a frontal impact appears imminent.





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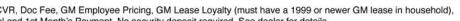
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CHEVROLET /



GMs' Environmental Efforts Add Up to \$1B in Savings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Repurposing waste into vehicle components or plant supplies means the company doesn't have to buy virgin material.

We view sustainability as a business approach," said John Bradburn, GM global manager of Waste Reduction.

"We look at ways we can grow and strengthen our business for the long term, and that often means reducing our environmental footprint while maximizing social benefit."

About a third of GM's total landfill-free sites are technical centers, warehouses and offices, Price said.

While in the midst of a major renovation at three Michigan facilities, GM partnered with Herman Miller and Green Standards to repurpose surplus office assets into \$1 million of in-kind donations to about 100 Michigan-based community organizations.

Landfill-free sites added this year in Michigan are:

- Powertrain plant in Romu-
- Warehouse in Flint;
- Aftersales operation in Madison Heights;
- Storage facility in Grand Blanc.

GM also added landfill-free sites in Asia, Africa, North America and South America:

- Engine, parts distribution center and stamping operation in Talegaon, India;
- Distribution center in Charlotte, N.C.;
- Parts distribution center and assembly plant in Quito, Ecuador;
- Two assembly plants and distribution centers in

Port Elizabeth, South Africa;

- Assembly plant in Cairo, Egypt;
- GM Canada headquarters in Oshawa, Canada;
- Foundry in Toluca, Mexico;
- An assembly plant, stamping plant, technical center, engineering facility and support office in São Caetano do Sul, Brazil;
- Assembly plant in Bogota, Colombia.

With the Toluca, Mexico, foundry now on the list - a site that melts and molds metal to make auto components - none of GM's manufacturing operations in Mexico send waste to landfills. All GM European Opel/Vauxhall manufacturing plants have been landfill-free since 2015.

MSU Getting New STEM Building

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) -Michigan State University is planning a new building that's designed to bolster the university's efforts to support growth in STEM-related fields with research.

school's Board The Trustees on Dec. 16 gave the university the go-ahead to proceed with construction of the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building. The project is expected to cost about \$100 million. Construction starts in August and is projected to be finished in August 2019.

The 170,000-square foot facility will play a key role in support of MSU's Global Impact Initiative and encourage research related to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields, known as STEM.

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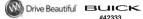
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