GM's New \$1 Billion Investment Brings 1,500 Jobs to U.S.

on Jan. 17 about how the company will invest an additional \$1 billion in U.S. manufacturing operations.

These investments follow the

General Motors revealed plans \$2.9 billion announced in 2016 and more than \$21 billion GM has invested in its U.S. operations since 2009, said GM spokeswoman Joanne Krell.

The new investments cover

multiple new vehicle, advanced technology and component projects. A combination of 1,500 new and retained jobs are tied to the new investments. Details of individual projects will be an-

nounced throughout the year, Krell said.

"These investment decisions have been in the works for quite a while," Krell said. "You just don't decide to do something like

this in a short period of time." GM will begin work on insourcing axle production for its nextgeneration full-size pickup trucks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Detroit Auto Scene

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

VOL. 85 NO. 2

ESTABLISHED 1933 AS NEW CENTER NEWS AND 1983 AS OAKLAND TECH NEWS

JANUARY 23, 2017



GM, not Commissioner Gordon, shined the Bat-Signal on its HQ building.

Chevrolet and Lego Build **Batmobile for Auto Show**

There's an old saying – often the difference between men and boys are the price of their toys.

Well, GM has developed a toy that will appeal to men and boys.

Chevrolet, along with students from Detroit's Cody Rouge community, A World in Motion and FIRST LEGO League, unveiled its life-size LEGO Batmobile Jan. 14 at the North American Interna-

Black-Tie NAIAS Charity Preview Raises \$5.2 M

tional Auto Show, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

Measuring 17 feet long and featuring exclusive stud shooters, LEGO Batmobile from the Chevrolet was designed to strike fear in the heart of any villain, Farah said. The vehicle was inspired by Batman's Speedwagon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Dodge Demon to Haunt Muscle Car Fans

The Dodge Demon is supposed to be a new kind of performance car, so its introduction is using a new kind of media campaign.

Dodge shocked the performance world when it launched the most powerful and fastest muscle cars in the world - the Challenger SRT Hellcat and Charger SRT Hellcat, said Dodge spokesman Dan Reid. Now, two years later, Dodge is raising the bar again, he said, with the Dodge Challenger SRT Demon.

"Most cars attempt to be everything to everybody," said Tim Kuniskis, FCA North America head of Passenger Car Brands.

"Then there are the rare few that revel in a single objective, rendering them totally irresistible to a subculture. The Dodge Challenger SRT Demon is conceived, designed and engineered for a subculture of enthusiasts who know that . . . a half-second is your reputation." Leading up to the New York re-



The Dodge Demon name is back. This 1971 version was a hell-raiser.

veal later this year, Dodge is tent and gain insight into the SRT launching its first-ever pre-debut video teaser campaign, including a new website www.ifyouknowyouknow.com, where fans and followers can get weekly updates, download shareable con-

Demon's engineering prowess, Kuniskis said.

The Demon name has a storied history. According to the Web

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2018 F-150 Takes Next Step in Ford Plan

Ford truck lovers received some good news at the 2017 NAIAS last week.

Joe Hinrichs, president of North American Operations, said that coming this fall is a refreshed version of the company's best-selling F-150 pickup truck.

"It's always big news when Ford announces something new about the F-150," Hinrichs said.

"We are driven to make people's lives better. When we launched the new F-150 on this very stage in Joe Louis Arena three years ago with aluminum body parts, some called it a risk, but our mission is to always go further.'

Todd Eckert, Truck Group Marketing manager at Ford, talked about just what Ford has done for the 2018 F-150, which will be on sale in the fall.

"When we talk about taking the F-150 to the next step of our plan, we always meant to refresh the truck in about three years when we announced its launch three years ago. And this 2018 is the next step in that plan."

Eckert said that this version of the F-150 can be described as tougher, smarter and more capable

"Toughness is represented by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Todd Eckert



Detroit's celebration as the epicenter of all things automotive, including the heart of the automotive industry, was again demonstrated Jan. 13 as nearly \$5.2 million was raised for children's charities at the 2017 North American International Auto Show's (NAIAS) Charity Preview at Cobo Center.

As the largest annual singlenight fundraiser in the world, Charity Preview has raised more than \$111 million for southeastern Michigan children's charities since the Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA) established the gala 41 years ago.

In all, 12,881 people attended the black-tie Charity Preview, presented for the second consecutive year by Axalta Coating Systems.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 Friday the 13th was not bad luck for charities as the automotive elite came out for the 2017 NAIAS Charity Preview.

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More Automakers Recalling Flawed Takata Air Bags

DETROIT (AP) - Thirteen automakers are recalling more than 652,000 vehicles in the U.S. in the latest round of dangerous Takata air bag inflator recalls.

Automakers with recalls posted Jan. 19 are Audi, Nissan, Jaguar-Land Rover, Subaru. Daimler Vans, Tesla, Mitsubishi, BMW, Ferrari, Mercedes, Mazda, McLaren and Karma. All the recalls are to replace front passenger inflators.

Takata inflators can explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and sending shrapnel into the passenger compartment. Sixteen people have died worldwide and more than 180 have been hurt due to the problem.

The recall is among the latest round of Takata recalls covering 5.7 million vehicles involving 19 automakers in the U.S. In total, it's the largest auto recall in U.S. history, affecting 69 million inflators and 42 million vehicles. About 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide.

The Detroit-based media had the chance to see the new Fiat Chrysler Portal concept vehicle last week during the 2017 NAIAS press preview.

"This is a concept vehicle," said Cindy Juette, a Fiat Chrysler interior designer who worked on the Portal. "We are still learning what people think of the vehicle. We want to know what features are best-liked, so that we might consider putting them in future cars. Just because this is a concept vehicle doesn't mean that it will be built in the future."

The thing to remember about the Portal, Juette said, was it was designed with the idea that cars are fashion for some drivers and others like the utility aspects of a vehicle.

"We have a control panel with a steering mechanism, not steering wheel, that retracts during the vehicle's autonomous driving phase," Juette said. "That's because we focused on the allocation of space. As autonomous technology becomes more common and more sophisticated, the idea is to be able to stow away the steering mechanism for more space up front."

And, Juette said, the Portal's door on the side is five feet wide, making it larger than any liftgate used by minivans or SUVs.

"The thinking is that it should

be easy to get either people or cargo into the vehicle," Juette said. "As we get feedback, we will adapt the best features for future vehicles

And, Juette said, the autonomy technology used for the portal is at level three. As the technology improves up to level five, the vehicle was designed and built so that it could be updated as tech improves.

"I know we've taken some hits for saying the Portal was a vehicle designed by the Millennial generation for the Millennial generation." Juette said. "But. first. it got people talking and that's not a bad thing. But most importantly, we designed it with that 30year-old who has just started his or her business in mind.

"That person might only need one seat so that Portal can be used to haul cargo. If that person gets married, more seats can be added for the spouse and any future children.'

People she has spoken to like that idea of flexibility, Juette said.

"When you work on a project like this from the inside out," Juette said. "You want to hear what people think of your work. And when we designed the Portal, we wanted to know how people actually use their vehicles, as opposed to how we tell them

January Brings Real Chili Weather

Are you looking to spice things up this weekend? Head on over to Blake's Hard Cider Co. on Saturday, Jan. 28, for their second Annual Chili Cook Off. Tickets are \$14 if pre-purchased and \$16 at the door on the day of the event.

Each purchase will include two tickets to redeem two 12-ounce glasses of hard cider or beer and 10 tickets to redeem for 10 4ounce tastes of chili at the cookoff.

Chili will be served from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Judging and winners will be announced from 3:30 to 4 p.m.

Live music will take place in the tasting room from 1 to 9 p.m. Blake's Hard Cider Co. is locat-

ed at 17985 Armada Center Road in Armada. For more information, call 586-784-9463.





Juette shows off some of the Portal concept vehicle features at NAIAS.

how to use their vehicles. That's the idea behind using different modules in the design. The vehicle can be adapted to the user, as opposed to the user adapting to the vehicle.'

Juette said they thought about the seats. They mounted the seats on a narrow pedestal so

that people have room for their feet underneath the seat.

"We went for an open look, but if we hear from people that the Portal is too open and they feel vulnerable, we can always make changes. That's the beauty of a concept vehicle like our new Portal.'

Local Companies Help with Portal

Detroit-based Adient, the global automotive seating supplier, has collaborated with Fiat Chrysler to produce a vision of the future of seating for the automaker's Chrysler Portal concept vehicle.

The Chrysler Portal is a forward-thinking interpretation of the "fifth generation" of family transportation targeted at the said generation, Adient spokeswoman Mary Kay Dodero. The vehicle was unveiled by Fiat Chrysler at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas earlier this month.

The seat was also displayed at Adient's booth at the 2017 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit's Cobo Center last week.

Designed with supplier partners such as Adient, the interior of the Chrysler Portal concept, said Dodero. offers the driver and passengers a "third space" an open and serene atmosphere that provides an alternative environment between work and home.

"We took great pride in collaborating with FCA US on the seat

for this visionary vehicle," said Richard Chung, vice president of innovation for Adient.

"Our advance engineering team worked closely with the FCA US team to develop the innovative features of the Chrysler Portal seat, which addresses trends such as urbanization and autonomous driving."

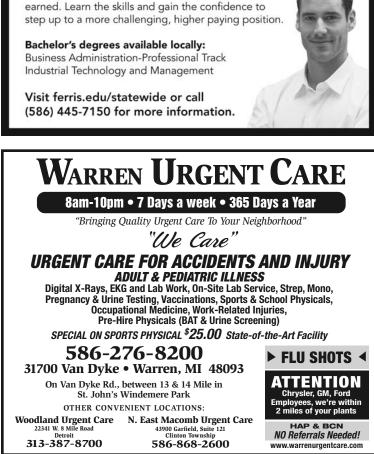
Chung also said Chrysler Portal's seat concept is a thin seat that folds flat, folds up and slides fore and aft on a track system for ultimate flexibility.

The seats mount to tracks embedded in the floor, enabling the seats to move the full length of the vehicle and, if needed, to be removed easily from the rear of the vehicle.

The seat sits on tracks on a narrow pedestal design that has multiple embedded functions. For example, the pedestal includes a release handle for easy adjustment when the seat is in a stadium flip-up position.

The Chrysler Portal vehicle seat also offers a new approach to reclining, which includes a proprietary relationship to cushion adjustment.

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Detroit Auto Scene

JANUARY 23, 2017



Mary Barra, center in leather jacket, with students and journalists at the Detroit Auto Show last week.

GM Shows Support for Student Journalism

second annual Discover Your Drive diversity journalism program Jan. 7-11, hosting 13 college students and nine journalists from across the country at Detroit's North American International Auto Show.

Students from diverse backgrounds participated in the program, which promotes diversity in automotive journalism and news coverage, said GM spokesman Margarita Bauza.

Discover Your Drive ended Jan. 11 with an awards presentation recognizing students for their work at NAIAS as well as their social media presence during a scavenger hunt through Detroit, Bauza said.

Students used the new, awardwinning all-electric Chevrolet Bolt EV, named 2017's NAIAS Car of the Year, and OnStar technology to find their way around the city. They posted about their adventures on Twitter, tagging @GM_Diversity using the hashtag #DiscoverYourDrive.

'We were blown away by the talent and creativity of these fearless students," said Leslie Gordon, senior manager, GM Diversity Communications.

"Many of them had not been exposed to automotive journalism, had never been to Detroit or seen snow. But they brought with them the right amount of curiosity required to cover an event as massive and complex as the North American International Auto Show and they did so with grit and class."

One student demonstrated that drive by chasing a face-toface interview with GM Chairman

General Motors launched its to believe that automotive news is a possibility for my future."

The students took part in a journalism workshop led by Ray Suarez, former host of NPR's Talk of the Nation, Bauza said. They also heard a panel on the state of diversity in newsrooms.

The panel, moderated by award-winning journalist Ed Gordon, featured fashion critic Michael Quintanilla, formerly of the Los Angeles Times and San Antonio Express News; political iournalist Patricia Guadalupe, a contributing writer to NBC Latino; Walter Middlebrook, Detroit News assistant managing editor; and Salvador Rodriguez,

Inc. magazine's tech reporter.

Students attended news conferences and vehicle reveals, explored the auto show floor and interviewed auto experts. The professional journalists mentored the students and helped them produce news stories and presentations. The program ended with a ceremony at GM's Heritage Center in Sterling Heights.

"As a diversity and business reporter, it's really great to see GM put its money and weight behind discovering and helping young journalists of diverse backgrounds get started with their careers," said Inc.'s Rodriguez, also a mentor.

Detroit Named FIRST Home For Robotics, STEM Contests

profit founded to inspire youth interest in science and technology, will be holding its international FIRST Championship event – a global robotics competition and celebration of STEM - in Detroit in 2018, and will return each year until at least 2020.

FIRST rallied support for STEM education in Detroit through an event at the 2017 North American International Auto Show, where Gov. Rick Snyder and Ken Morris, vice president of product integrity at General Motors, welcomed FIRST founder Dean Kamen to Detroit.

"FIRST is an outstanding program that is helping to equip the next generation of innovators with the skills needed to build our nation's future," Snyder said. "The state of Michigan will continue to be a strong supporter of FIRST as we get ready to host the FIRST Championship here in Detroit, and we're excited that our talented FIRST students will have an opportunity to compete on a world stage in their home state. We're also looking forward to welcoming visitors from around the world to Detroit and giving them a chance to see the city's comeback for themselves.³

FIRST Championship Detroit is a four-day competition and expo where more than 30,000 attendees will cheer on students ages 6-18 as they participate in game-

FIRST, an international not-for- format challenges with their custom-built robots.

> Detroit, thanks in large part to the automotive industry, is a hub for STEM innovation and will be hosting this global event beginning in 2018.

> The 2018 event will take place April 25-28 with activities at both Cobo Center and Ford Field. There are currently 60 FIRST teams in the city of Detroit and nearly 1,700 in Michigan. Historically, FIRST Championship has made a \$30 million economic impact on its host city.

> "(Our support of FIRST) is not a donation. It is an investment in our future," said Morris. "It's crucial to our success, and that of the auto industry - locally and across the country – to attract more STEM-focused students to our workforce in the years to come. That's why we at GM encourage and challenge our colleagues in this industry, whether other OEMs or suppliers from all tiers, to support FIRST."

> FIRST fosters students' interest in STEM fields by providing them access to resources and professional mentors, Morris said. This is especially important as STEM occupations continue to grow 1.7 times faster than non-STEM careers. FIRST alumni are twice as likely to major in STEM, and more than 85 percent express more interest in doing well in school and going to college.





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and CEO Mary Barra on the auto show floor, Bauza said.

Another coaxed GM North America President Alan Batey into a video that won the program's top prize: an all-expensepaid trip to a national journalism conference, Bauza said.

Students Rushawn Walters and Nia Muhammad, both of Howard University, and Sarah Rahal, of Wavne State University, won the prize with "Jammin' with GM," a video story told through carpool karaoke, focusing on the new Chevrolet Cruze and tech such as Apple Car Play, Android Auto, Teen Driver, Rear Seat Reminder and the car's fuel economy.

"As an aspiring student journalist from Detroit, getting the opportunity to learn more about what's in my backyard was a priceless gift," said Rahal.

"This program gave me a network of people that are proficient in the industry and the knowledge to use it in the field. Discover Your Drive allowed me

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Black-Tie NAIAS Charity Preview Raises \$5.2 M

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Charity Preview follows on the heels of five days of total mobility immersion at NAIAS, including the inaugural AutoMobili-D that continues to generate social media buzz and discussion among automotive, business and tech industry executives worldwide.

Vice President Joe Biden joined in that conversation with a visit to NAIAS Jan. 17 – his second to NAIAS as vice president of the United States.

"The past five days at NAIAS have exemplified the transformation that is reshaping the auto industry as we know it," said 2017 NAIAS Chairman Sam Slaughter. "Tonight's Charity Preview continues with the theme of transformation in that the monies

raised in this one single night will help in some way to transform the lives of children and families in our local community."

Proceeds from Charity Preview directly benefit a wide range of children's charities. Funds raised will support services for children of all ages from birth to 18.

Beneficiaries of NAIAS Charity Preview include:

• Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan;

• Boys Hope Girls Hope Detroit;

• Children's Center;

• Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation;

Judson Center;March of Dimes Metro De-

troit;

• Detroit PAL;

• DADA Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Dodge's Demon Roaring Back To Marketplace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

site DodgeDemon.net, the first Demon came out in 1971. It had a 108-inch wheelbase, and was a two-door fastback based on the Dodge Dart platform.

The 1971 Demon came with two trim levels and its logo featured a cartoon devil. (The Web site didn't "sit well" with some religious groups at the time.)

The vehicle was priced at \$2,343 and came standard with choice of the 198-cubic-inch Slant Six or the 318-cubic-inch V8. Buyers also were offered the Demon 340 featuring Chrysler's 340 small block engine rated at 275 bhp.

The Web site states that the Demon returned for 1972 with minor changes, including the grille, the interior and a switch to more generic side marker lights shared by all Dodge A-bodies. The Dodge Demon 340 also continued into 1972 with the only major change being that the 340 V8 was now rated at 240 bhp SAE Net, as opposed to the previous year's 275 bhp SAE Gross. Dodge produced 8,700 Demon 340s for 1972. Dodge would rename the Demon the Dart Sport for 1973 and the Demon 340 became the Dart sport 340. This year's first video of the teaser campaign, "Cage," which debuted Jan. 12, showed that the ferocious animated Hellcat is back, Kuniskis said. Fans are encouraged to watch the 90-second "Cage" video multiple times at www.ifyouknowvouknow.com for clues to follow the story of what's next. The final chapter arrives when the SRT Demon is revealed in New York City, before the New York International Auto Show April 14.

Batmobile Makes Visit to Auto Show Thanks to Chevrolet, LEGO Movie

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

featured in "The LEGO Batman Movie," which hits U.S. theaters Feb. 10.

In this new animated LEGO adventure, Batman, DC's Super Hero "who famously prefers to work alone" must learn to cooperate and connect with others to save Gotham City from The Joker, Farah said.

'To work on the LEGO Batmobile with Warner Bros. is an absolute thrill for us at Chevy," said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet Marketing.

"Many of the themes in 'The LEGO Batman Movie,' like imagination, family and community, align perfectly with our Chevy brand values and add to the value of the partnership.'

And as part of the promotion, GM has been flashing the Bat-Signal onto the side of its headquarters in downtown Detroit at night. People looking up can see the Bat-Signal morph into the Chevrolet logo as they look at the Renaissance Center's middle building.

The LEGO Batmobile from Chevrolet will also appear in the next variation of Chevrolet's "Real People, Not Actors" campaign, Farah said. In the new spot, real LEGO Minifigure figurines discuss what kind of person would drive the all-new LEGO Batmobile.

To learn more about all the options available on the LEGO Batmobile, visit Chevrolet.com.

LEGO Batmobile Fast Facts: • It's 83 inches (6.92 feet) high, 204 inches (17 feet) long and 111 inches (9.25 feet) wide.

• Total weight is 1,695.5 pounds. Each tire is just over 100 pounds.

• The interior frame is made from more than 86 feet of square tube aluminum and weighs 282.5 pounds.

REPUTATION IS EVERYTHING

of LEGO • Total number bricks used to build the Batmobile: 344,187.

• The LEGO Batmobile took 222 hours to design and 1,833 hours to build.

• The LEGO Batmobile was designed and assembled in the LEGO Model Shop in Enfield, Conn., by LEGO Master Builders.

Ford's 2018 F-150 **Bringing Power**, **New Technology**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new styling and a new grille with a new front fascia," Eckert said. "It's a a two-bar grille, which we've borrowed from the Super Duty. (The pickup) has bigger headlamps and will be a visually wider vehicle.

"It has grown, but it is more planted and has a wider, more solid look. Our truck guys love it. The tailgate is more sculpted and the tail lamps have been changed up as well. You can actually see the F-150 stamp at the bottom of the truck gate.³

Smarter, Eckert said, is represented by new features, including pre-collision assist technology and the uses of cameras and radar to enable the driver to have a better sense of what's ahead.

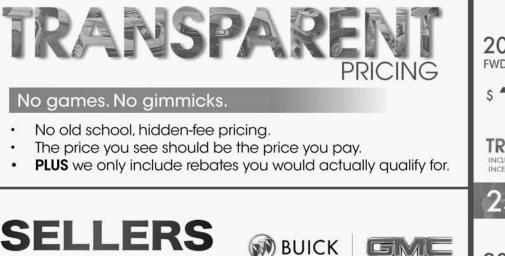
"The truck will give an audible warning to the driver if something is up ahead and the brakes will activate automatically if the driver doesn't respond to that warning," Eckert said. "Also, the 2018 F-150 will have adaptive cruise control, a segment first."

As to being more capable, Eckert said that's pretty straightforward – it's the best towing F-150 ever, Eckert said.



DETROIT AUTO SCENE





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DETROIT AUTO SCENE

JANUARY 23, 2017



– NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY FOR OIL CHANGES –



CHEVROLET

PAGE 7

GM's New \$1B Investment Brings 1,500 Jobs to U.S.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- including work previously done in Mexico - to operations in Michigan, creating 450 U.S. jobs, Krell said.

"As the U.S. manufacturing base increases its competitiveness, we are able to further increase our investment, resulting in more jobs for America and better results for our owners," said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra.

"The U.S. is our home market and we are committed to growth that is good for our employees, dealers, and suppliers and supports our continued effort to drive shareholder value.³

The details of the plan will not be released to the public at this time. Krell said.

"There is no timeline for when we will share the details, but they will be released to the public as the plans come close to being put into action," Krell said.

GM's announcement is part of the company's increased focus on overall efficiency over the last four years. Barra said.

With a strategy to streamline and simplify its operations and grow its business, GM has created 25,000 jobs in the United States - approximately 19,000 engineering, IT and professional jobs and 6,000 hourly manufacturing jobs - and added nearly \$3 billion in annual wages and benefits to the U.S. economy over that period.

At the same time, General Motors reduced more than 15,000 positions outside the United States, bringing most of those jobs to America, Barra said.

During that same period of time, the company moved from 90 percent of its IT work being

outsourced to an insourced U.S.based model.

"We will continue our commitment to driving a more efficient business," said Barra, "as shown by our insourcing of more than 6,000 IT jobs that were formerly outside the U.S., streamlining our engineering operations from seven to three, with the core engineering center being in Warren, Michigan, and building on our momentum at GM Financial and in advanced technologies. These moves, and others, are expected to result in more than 5,000 new jobs in the U.S. over the next few years.

GM has also been facilitating its supplier base to do the same, Barra said.

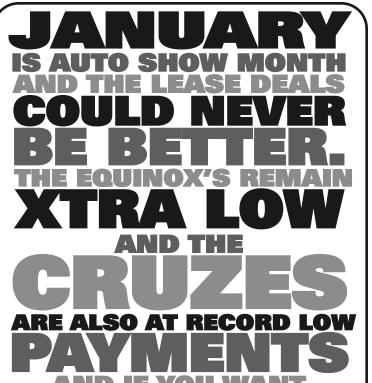
The company has been executing a strategy to create supplier parks adjacent to its United States manufacturing sites (already accomplished at GM's Fairfax Assembly Plant in Kansas, Spring Hill Assembly Plant in Tennessee, Fort Wayne Assembly Plant in Indiana, and Lordstown Assembly Plant in Ohio), and will continue to expand this effort, she said.

Supplier parks locating near assembly facilities result in significant savings from reduced transportation costs, higher quality communications and continuous improvement activities as suppliers are located closer to the final assembly location, Barra said.

In addition, General Motors is confirming that another supplier has committed to make components for GM's next-generation full-size pickup trucks in Michigan.

This action will move about 100 supplier jobs from Mexico to the United States.







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