# **Tech Center News**

WARREN, MICHIGAN

VOL. 41 NO. 26

**Covers the Tech Center and the Immediate Area** 

general are flat or even down,

GM has posted gains in sales vol-

Record sales of crossovers,

large SUVs and pickups in Febru-

ary drove General Motors' retail

market share up more than one-

half percentage point versus a year ago, said GM spokesman

Average transaction prices, which reflect what customers

pay after sales incentives, also

set a February record, Cain said.

market strategy is delivering ro-

"Our retail-focused go-to-

ume and market share

Jim Cain.

MARCH 6, 2017



2017 Chevrolet Trax

**Tech Center's IT Staff Donate Time, Blood** 

by Jim Stickford

Sometimes seeing red isn't a bad thing. Just ask the folks at the GM Tech Center's Cadillac Building.

Cadillac Building held a Red Cross blood drive on March 2.

"This is the first blood drive we've held for 2017," said blood drive organizer Laurie Sweeney, who is an executive administrator for the directors who work in the building. "We hold drives quarterly. I've been the organizer since 2012. I can't even remember how I got the task. But I'm a big advocate for the tenants in things happen."

And Sweeney said that she especially likes to make things happen for a good cause.

'The Red Cross always needs Employees who work in the blood," Sweeney said. "It's great to help those in need and now that it's tornado season, the Red Cross really needs blood."

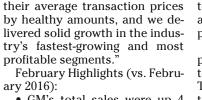
Sweeney said the she and her colleagues have been working with the Red Cross so long that setting up an individual blood drive is routine.

"The process goes smoothly," Sweeney said. "The Red Cross contacts me and sets the schedule for the year. I get the room

the building and I like to make ready where the blood will be donated the day for a particular blood drive. They come in and set up their equipment."

Sweeney sends out an announcement shortly before the actual drive and people can sign up to make a donation.

What's interesting, Sweeney said, is that it's done electronically these days. In the announcement, there's a code specific to the Cadillac Building blood drive. People interested in donating visit the Red Cross Web page and input the code and sign up for what time they would like



**February GM Sales Show Some Strength** 

U.S. vice president, Sales Opera-

tions. "All of our brands grew

At a time when auto sales in bust results," said Kurt McNeil,

• GM's total sales were up 4 percent to 237,388 units compared with an estimated 1 percent decline for the industry. This equates to a market share of 17.5 percent, an increase of 0.9 percentage points.

• Retail sales totaled 188,715 units, up 5 percent, compared with a flat industry. This equates to a market share of 17.7 percent, an increase of 0.7 percentage points.

• GM's average transaction prices (ATPs) rose \$570 per unit to \$34,900, a February record. Three years of J.D. Power PIN data show that GM has led the industry in ATPs in 35 of 36 months through February.

GM internal data shows that incentive spending was essentially

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Durrett after donating a pint of blood to the Red Cross.

## (\*\*) A Climate () ① 🏭 🖬 68° 3:34

Cadillac tech makes setting personal preferences easier than ever.

## **Cadillac Makes Customizing Personal Preferences Easy**

Technology now makes it pos- store, Martin said. sible for a car to be tuned to tastes and preferences of the driver.

With functionality that applies popular apps and smartphone practices in the vehicle, the new On Feb. 21 Cadillac unveiled user experience system provides

## **Chrysler Sees Monthly Ram Sales Increase**

Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 168,326 units, a 10 percent decrease compared with sales in February 2016 (187,318 units).

In February, fleet sales of 44,898 units were down 26 percent year over year as Fiat Chrysler continues its strategy of reducing its sales to the daily rental segment, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Ralph Kisiel. Fleet sales represented 27 percent of total company sales in February. Fiat Chrysler retail sales of 123,428 units were down 3 percent for the month, and represented 73 percent of total February sales.

Ram Truck brand sales were up 4 percent in February, compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said. Three Jeep brand vehicles topped February sales from a year ago, including



2017 Dodge Journey

Jeep brand's volume leader in February, were up 11 percent as well.

Grand Cherokee, the Dodge Journey's 55 percent sales gain. Sales of the Fiat 500 and the new Chrysler Pacifica minivan Three Dodge brand vehicles were up year over year as well.

experience system, which offers a more personalized, intuitive interface.

Cadillac spokesman Steve Martin said the new technology will debut in the Cadillac CTS, beginning with the 2017 interim model year, arriving at U.S. dealerships during the first quarter.

Cadillac plans to include the system in XTS and ATS sedans with the start of 2018 model year production. Cadillac's other product lines are scheduled to adopt the system in future model years, Martin said.

The next-generation Cadillac user experience is a dynamic platform that can be adjusted over time to meet a customer's evolving connectivity needs, leveraging the cloud to enable personalization, available connected navigation, and applications through the Collection app

the next-generation Cadillac user customers with easier access to the most common features, Martin said. The more intuitive operation includes a Summary View in which all key applications climate, audio, phone and navigation - are displayed on one screen.

> "Cadillac pioneered connectivity by bringing OnStar to market, and more recently we became the first luxury brand to enable Apple CarPlay and Android Auto across our product line," says Richard Brekus, Cadillac director of product strategy. "We have worked to improve overall system response in recent years, and now this next-generation user experience system delivers more improvements, focused mainly on intuitive control."

My Driver Preferences are personalized, cloud-based profiles the Jeep Renegade with an 11 recorded year-over-year sales inpercent increase. Sales of the creases in February led by the

## Ford Feeds Demand for Trucks and SUVs

**Overall Ford Motor Company** U.S. sales totaled 208,440 vehicles in February.

The represents a 4 percent decline versus a year ago, said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle.

Retail sales of 134,576 vehicles decreased 3 percent, while fleet sales were down 5 percent, with 73,864 vehicles sold. The fleet decline reflects a strong year-ago comparison, with customer orders front-loaded in early 2016.

Overall car sales were down 24 percent, while customers continue to shift to trucks and SUVs.

Ford brand SUV sales totaled 68,820 vehicles - record February

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

2018 Ford Expedition

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



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#### Trucks and SUVs **Dominate Chrysler Sales**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sales of the Ram pickup truck increased 5 percent year over year in the month. The brand introduced new special-edition Night packages for Ram 2500 and 3500 HD pickup trucks at the 2017 Chicago Auto Show in February, Kisiel. The new Night editions further expand the Ram factory-custom truck family from the half-ton Ram 1500 announced in September 2016 to the brand's three-quarter and one-ton models. Production of the 2017 Ram HD Night models began in early February.

The Dodge Challenger, Dodge Journey, and Dodge Viper each posted sales gains in February, led by the Journey's 55 percent year-over-year increase.

The Challenger turned in a 19 percent increase, while Viper sales were up 23 percent in the month. The Dodge brand unveiled the new 2018 Dodge Durango SRT at last month's 2017 Chicago Auto Show, Kisiel said

Three Jeep brand models recorded sales increases in February, Kisiel said. Both the Jeep Grand Cherokee - the brand's volume leader for the month and the Jeep Renegade posted 11 percent year-over-year sales increases. In addition, the Jeep Wrangler logged a 2 percent increase in February. Jeep brand retail sales were up year over year in February.

Sales of the Fiat 500 were up 1 percent in February, compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said. Sales of the new Fiat 124 Spider were up 26 percent compared with the previous month of January.

Sales of the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica were up in its second month of year-over-year comparisons, and increased 36 percent compared with sales in the previous month of January.

Alfa Romeo brand sales of 443 units were up 843 percent compared with the same month in 2016. Maserati brand sales of

## **GM's February Sales Show Strength in Tight Sales Arena**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

flat year over year, Cain said. This is in sharp contrast to recently published PIN estimates that noted an increase of 2.7 percentage points to 15 percent of ATP

Commercial deliveries were up 7 percent, driven by an 11 percent increase in pickup sales and a 75 percent increase in Chevrolet Malibu sales. It was the best February Commercial sales since 2008. Government sales were up 4 percent and daily rental deliveries were down 2 percent. Total fleet sales were up  $\overline{2}$  percent.

Small business deliveries, which are included in retail sales, were up 13 percent, driven by a 22 percent increase in full-size pickups and a 39 percent increase in large vans.

Cain said GM estimates the seasonally adjusted annual selling rate (SAAR) for light vehicles was approximately 17.5 million units.

Brand Highlights (vs. February 2016) show that Chevrolet had its best February retail sales since 2007 and its best February total sales since 2008. Crossovers deliveries set a February record for the brand.

Three Chevrolet models - the

Trax, Equinox and Volt – had their best February total and retail sales ever, Cain said. Traverse had its best-ever February total sales, and its best February retail sales since 2011.

Deliveries of the Chevrolet Bolt EV approached 1,000 units. The national rollout of the crossover is just underway.

The Chevrolet Suburban had

Buick had its best February retail sales since 2004, driven by the new Envision and the Encore, which set a February record.

GMC had its best February retail sales since 2002, with trucks and crossovers up 18 percent 15 percent, respectively. and Standouts include the Canyon, up 21 percent; the Sierra, up 19 percent; the Acadia, up 22 percent; and the Terrain, up 8 percent.

GMC Denali penetration, at 26 percent of GMC retail sales, was the highest for any February in history, Cain said. GM estimates that Chevrolet and GMC earned more than 40 percent of all fullsize pickup retail sales, with ATPs up nearly \$600 per unit.

Cadillac XT5 retail deliveries

were 6 percent higher than the SRX it replaced. Average transaction prices are 8 percent higher than SRX.

Cain said GM is optimistic that the company, and Chevrolet in particular, will continue to gain retail market share in an industry expected to remain at or near record sales levels.

"Looking ahead, we will stay focused on strengthening our brands, growing retail sales and share, reducing daily rental deliveries and maintaining our operating discipline," McNeil said.

'Our strong small business deliveries are a really clear sign of growing confidence in the economy."

### GM's IT Staff Holds a Blood Drive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to come in and make a blood donation.

"We get walk-ins as well," Sweeney said, "but most of the donations come from people who sign up online. We usually get about 40 people signing up and collect somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 or 35 units of blood. It's flu season and sometimes people who sign up these people are to be commended."

One of the donors was Elizabeth Durrett, an IT systems engineer in the Cadillac Building.

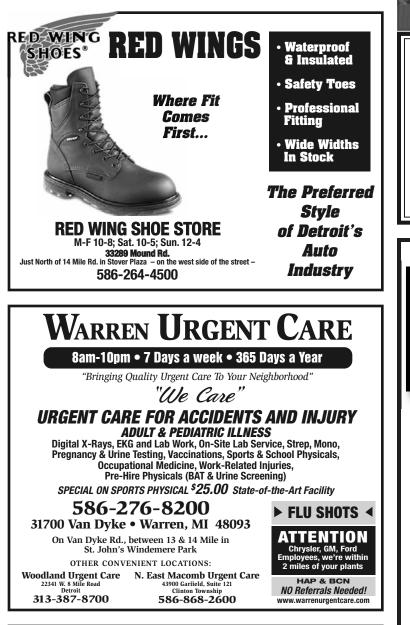
"I signed up because it's the right thing to do," Durrett said. "I like to give as often as I am able. I first gave blood when I was 18 and have been donating ever since then."

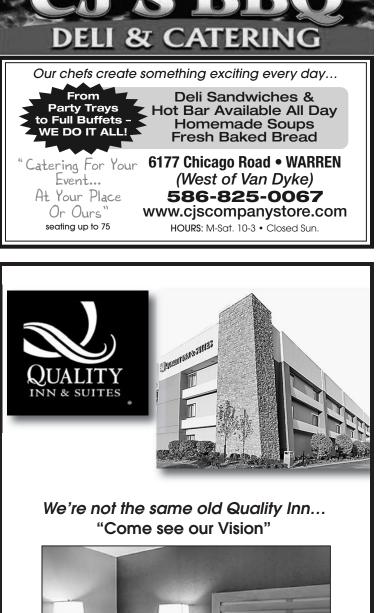
Durrett said that she's glad to donate and that it's not that big a deal.

"This is not hard," Durrett said. "It really doesn't hurt, it's helpful to people who need it and we get free snacks. What's not to like. And this time we donors got a little gift card from Amazon.'

#### its best February retail sales since 2008, and the Silverado had its best February total and retail sales since 2007.

are rejected after they fill out their questionnaires. That's why it's important to get as many people as we can to sign up. I see many of the same faces whenever we hold a driver and





1,087 units were up 49 percent compared with the same month a vear ago.

## Warren Library **Hosting Events**

The Warren public library is holding a couple of events this week that might be of interest to members of the public.

On Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the Civic Center Conference Room, physics professor Jesse Mason will present a program exploring the Big Bang Theory.

Weather permitting, attendees will have the chance to use telescopes to view the sky, said Warren librarian Jennifer Lund.

On Wednesday, March 8, the library will be holding an exploration of traditional Irish music with the band Monday's Supper, Lund said. It begins at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center library.

To reserve a spot for either event, call 586-574-4564.

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# **Tech Center News**

MARCH 6. 2017

COVERS THE TECH CENTER AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA

PAGE 3



It's now possible to read tablets via a Chevy's Wi-Fi capability.

## **Chevy is Turning Vehicles Into Moving Wi-Fi Spots**

vehicles with a lot of horsepower. But now vehicle power can be measured in a different way - gigabytes of data.

After using more than 4 million gigabytes of data in 2016, Chevrolet owners in the U.S. with an in-vehicle OnStar 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot will now have access to an unlimited prepaid data plan for only \$20 per month, said GM's available starting March 3, and Chevrolet will offer this groundbreaking plan enabled by AT&T across its entire retail lineup.

Chevrolet data usage has increased exponentially as owners have come to appreciate the ability to stream video on a tablet, send email on a laptop or play online using a gaming console in their vehicles, and now customers can utilize the full potential of their OnStar 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot without worrying about running out of data.

We have contractors bidding jobs in their Silverados, families streaming movies in their Suburbans and Malibus and everyone tapping into the cloud for music," said Alan Batey, president of GM North America and global head of Chevrolet. "With the most affordable unlimited 4G LTE data plan in the auto industry, the widest availability of Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and new connected services like On-Star AtYourService, our momentum can only grow.'

Last year alone, Chevrolet customers used nearly 200 percent more OnStar 4G LTE data in their vehicles compared to 2015, Cain said. In the second half of 2016, Chevy owners used almost as

Chevy makes some powerful passengers now can access all of their content and enjoy endless entertainment on the go."

> As the first automaker to offer 4G LTE connectivity across its entire retail portfolio, Chevrolet has sold more than 3.1 million OnStar 4G LTE-connected vehicles since June 2014 and has more vehicles on the road equipped with 4G LTE than any other automaker.

Today, along with the 4G  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{LTE}}$ connection enabled by AT&T, the OnStar Basic Plan comes standard on all new Chevrolet retail models, Cain said.

For more information on plans and pricing, visit the Web site OnStar.com.

## Warren Will House New Military Museum

The Warren Mayor's Office has tion efforts and for the breadth provided 12.5 billion rounds of announced that the Detroit Arsenal of Democracy Museum will be located in Warren. Final approval was given by City Council at its Feb. 28 meeting.

Recommended by Mayor James Fouts, the museum will be located at the city's Veterans Park at Martin and Campbell at no cost to the city. A timeline recommended by museum officials recommends construction starting in September.

This is a high honor for our city and most appropriate because the Tank Arsenal located in our city was the heart of the Arsenal of Democracy during World War II," said Fouts.

The construction, maintenance and the administration for the museum will be financed through a fundraising campaign from corporations such as Ford, Fiat Chrysler, GM and regional defense contractors.

The Big Three automakers all gained acclaim for their produc-

for 80-1200

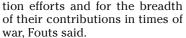
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Chrysler became known for tanks, while Ford focused on airplanes and the newly-designed four-wheel drive "Jeeps." Ford's Willow Run plant produced 300,317 military aircraft during World War II, including the B-24 bomber famously known as "the Liberator." General Motors manufactured light, medium and heavy tanks, tank destroyers, armored cars, amphibious vehicles, aircraft engines and propellers. Artillery shells were produced by Oldsmobile, a division of General Motors.

Over the course of the war, the automobile industry manufactured \$29 billion in war goods. It

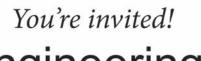
small arms ammunition, 245 million shells, and nearly six million guns. It is no wonder Detroit became known as the Arsenal of Democracy, said Fouts.

The vision for the new Museum is a place showcasing the history of contributions to national defense made by Michigan's industry and veterans.

The multi-functional museum will include a welcome center, a special events hall, a hands-on learning area and museum space featuring artifacts, vehicles, equipment and exhibits showcasing the contributions made by Michigan's industry.

The museum, previously based at 22960 W. Industrial Drive in St. Clair Shores.





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TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (lunch included)

LOCATION: Courtyard Downtown Detroit 333 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48226 (Room: Cascade Ballroom D)

much data as they had the previous 24 months since OnStar 4G LTE launched.

To put this data usage in perspective, Chevrolet owners and their passengers streamed the equivalent of more than 17.5 million hours of video in 2016.

"We're pleased to deliver this special unlimited data plan to Chevy owners," said Chris Penrose, president, IoT Solutions. AT&T. "Accessing the internet through AT&T's 4G LTE Wi-Fi,



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#### MARCH 6, 2017

## Ford Feeds Demand for Trucks and SUVs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sales - up 6 percent versus a year ago, Merkle said. Record Escape sales of 27.637 vehicles and a 48 percent increase in Expedition sales drove the gains.

Ford F-Series was up 9 percent, with 65,956 trucks sold. This represents F-Series' best sales since 2004, with new Super Duty retail gains coming from every region of the country.

"We continue seeing strong consumer demand for the highest-series Super Duty pickups and the all-new F-150 Raptor, plus greater availability of 2017 model year F-150s," said Mark LaNeve, vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service. "This drove a \$3,600 increase in average transaction prices for F-Series last month alone, Lincoln had a \$2,100 increase, ultimately deliv-

ering an overall company transaction price increase of \$1,900 per vehicle.'

Lincoln sales totaled 8,744 vehicles, a 9 percent increase. Lincoln MKC, up 12 percent, MKX, up 1 percent, and all-new Continental sales of 1,079 cars fueled the growth.

The Associated Press reported that automakers are also spending more because vehicles cost more. Consumers are rapidly shifting out of cars and into SUVs and trucks, which cost more money. Kelley Blue Book said the price people paid for a vehicle last month was up 2 percent from last February to an average of \$34,352

Ford's U.S. sales chief Mark LaNeve said cars made up 53 percent of new vehicle sales in 2010. In February, they were around 35 percent.

"It is structural and in some ways breathtaking," LaNeve said. "There's going to be a car market, but where it eventually gets to, we don't know."

Ford February sales highlights include:

• Ford Expedition sales went from 3,984 in February 2016 to 5,906 in February 2017, a 48.2 percent increase.

• Focus sales went from 18,620 in February 2016 to 12, 691 in February 2017, a 31.9 percent decline.

• Fusion sales went from 25,442 in February 2016 to 16,512 in February 2017, 35.1 percent decline.

• Lincoln MKZ sales went from 2,128 in February 2016 to 2,074 in 2017, a 2.5 percent decline.

• Lincoln MKT sales went from 234 units in February 2017 to 287 in 2017. A 22.6 increase.

## Cadillac Makes Customizing **Personal Preferences Easy**

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that allow users to customize the infotainment system to match individual preferences and take that same customized experience with them into any new Cadillac user experience equipped vehicle.

Features such as vehicle and display setting, contact favorites, navigation route preferences and recent destinations can be customized and follow a user's profile.

Each driver can create an individual account and personalize their preferences for the Cadillac user experience. Vehicle owners can manage their My Driver Preferences in the vehicle or via their myCadillac Owner Center on the Cadillac website.

The new Cadillac user experience features an available allnew navigation app with an intuitive interface and access to destination information via available cloud-based services.

This includes updated points of interest, live traffic information, fuel prices and parking information, Martin said.

Through simple input methods, such as enhanced voice recognition and an improved onscreen search function, users have access to more relevant search results.

Over time, this opt-in subscription-based system can learn a user's preferred routes and destinations, offering predictive suggestions based upon traffic and frequent destinations.

New Cadillac user experience equipped vehicles currently come standard with an available, opt-in 12-month connected navigation trial

The built-in OnStar 4G LTE en-

ables an active connection to the vehicle that, with customer consent, will allow Cadillac to remotely update a vehicle's features such as navigation and the newly launched Collection app store, after the vehicle in question is purchased and taken home by the consumer, Martin said.

The available 4GLTE Wi-Fi hotspot allows passengers to connect up to seven compatible mobile devices, smartphones, and tablets to high-speed wireless Internet. The new system supports use of two compatible phones concurrently via Bluetooth.

Users can access Apple CarPlay and Android Auto advanced smartphone integration through the Home screen.

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility are subject to their terms, privacy statements and data plan rates, and require a compatible smartphone, Martin said

Every new Cadillac currently comes standard with an available 12-month OnStar subscription at no additional cost, Martin said.

Among other benefits, this connectivity plan is that it features OnStar Smart Driver, an opt-in service designed to help owners maximize their vehicle's overall performance, reduce wear and tear, monitor fuel efficiency and improve their driving - all factors that add to the overall ownership experience, Martin said.

Owners can also use this technology to manage their Cadillac vehicles remotely with the industry-leading myCadillac mobile app via their compatible smartphones.

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**TECH CENTER NEWS - WARREN** 



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## **Proposed Sale of GM's Opel Meant to Create Auto Giant**

French carmaker PSA Group wants to create a "European car champion" with the purchase of General Motors' European car business and pledged to work with governments and unions worried over job cuts.

After reporting a near-doubling in 2016 profits, Carlos Tavares lauded the benefits of a deal that could reshape the continent's car market and leave PSA, the maker of Peugeot and Citroen cars, leapfrogging the Renault Nissan alliance to be second behind Germany's Volkswagen.

Speaking in Paris Feb. 23, Tavares said PSA's ambition to buy GM's loss-making Germany subsidiary Opel and its British brand Vauxhall is rooted in its remarkable financial turnaround. The company, which had to be bailed out by Chinese investors and the French government just three years ago, was able to announce Feb. 23 its first dividend payment in six years alongside the profit jump.

Tavares insisted that the potential deal is "nice to have" but "not a must" and laid out a string of reasons why he thinks it would be a good idea: it could improve Opel's bottom line, expand PSA's market, and keep both companies competitive globally.

He said a combined company, which would be Europe's No. 2 carmaker behind Volkswagen, could have volumes of 5 million cars. Detroit-based GM has been trying to boost prospects for its European business. It last made a full-year profit there in 1999.

"We believe there is an opportunity to create a European car champion, resulting from the na.

PARIS (AP) - The chairman of combination of a French company and German company and without forgetting our U.K. friends," Tavares said.

"Opel has making red ink for 10 years, and burning approximately 1 billion in cash every year," he said. "We believe we can help."

He insisted that Opel would remain a German company, in part to benefit from Germany's strong reputation for car engineering.

He said PSA would respect existing labor agreements, though he didn't explicitly rule out job cuts. Tavares has spoken with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and met with Opel employee representatives since the takeover discussions were announced last week.

"The best way ... is to have unions and governments on your side," he said.

Jobs are an especially sensitive issue in what is election year in both Germany and France. The German and French economy ministers discussed the potential deal at a meeting in Paris on Feb. 23.

Opel employee representatives and union leaders in Germany say they will push to keep current jobs and factories, and Britain's biggest trade union has demanded that the government protect Vauxhaull, as Britain prepares to leave the EU and PSA considers the buyout.

While revenues last year were largely stable, PSA's group income was 1.7 billion euros last year, up from 899 million in 2015, attributed in part to a fasterthan-expected cost-cutting.

Beyond Europe, Tavares acknowledged that PSA is frustrated with lost market share in Chi-

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PAGE 8



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