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"My name is Foley and I'm gonna help people," this puppy seems to say.

GM Engineers Donate Time, Money, Effort To Build Bikes for Kids in Pontiac Area

by Jim Stickford

Some engineers at GM's Global Propulsion Systems (GPS) in Pontiac are getting their hands dirty building bicycles for kids in the greater Pontiac area through the "Bikes for Kids 2017" pro-

"This is the third year we've done this," said Elizabeth Dallacqua, a Design Release engineer at GPS, who organized the event.

"We get volunteers from GPS and they donate their time and their money building and restoring bikes for kids in the area. This is a team building and networking exercise that fosters relationships between GPS engineers and the local Pontiac community.

The way it works, Dallacqua said, is that volunteers donate \$30 and in late April get together and restore and build bicycles.

"We go out and solicit people to donate bicycles," Dallacqua said. "Families who give us their bikes range from people whose kids have grown up to folks who have really good bikes that have been put away in a garage for 20 years.'

The engineers get together and restore the bikes so that they are as good as new, Dallacqua said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Chrysler's Social Campaign Assists Dogs Needing a 'Job'

Fiat Chrysler is going to the awareness campaign that helps dogs. And that's not a bad thing.

Chrysler brand is launching a new online social initiative in partnership with Canine Companions for Independence, the largest nonprofit organization for assistance dogs in the U.S., said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Diane Morgan.

The initiative will help raise awareness and support for the training and placement of Canine Companions for Independence assistance dogs under the organization's "Give a Dog a Job' campaign, a fundraising and

place them with adults, children and veterans with disabilities.

Consumers first had the chance to meet Canine Companions puppy Foley, a Golden Retriever/Labrador cross (and the Chrysler brand's first official PacifiPuppy!) through various social media outlets on March 13, Morgan said.

They will be able to follow him as he goes through his formal training with his recently assigned puppy raiser. Fans can

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



GPS engineers show off some of the bikes they built or restored last year for kids in the Pontiac area.

AAM's New Quantum Axle Technology Reduces Weight, Increases Power

thrown out the bath water and kept the baby - well, actually, reinvented the baby.

In this case, the "baby" is American Axle & Manufacturing's Quantum system, introduced at a media demonstration at its Detroit headquarters on March

our systems lighter and more power dense as vehicles become smaller," said Phil Guys, AAM vice president and chief technology officer.

In response to the needs of its OEM clients, Guys said, AAM developed the Quantum family of

A major auto supplier has packaging, all while reducing sys- several years - technology that tem weight.

> "To do this, we threw out the blueprint for axle design and started over.'

> Guys said AAM has developed completely new, significantly improved axle technology with its Quantum driveline system.

It is scalable across a wide "We realized we had to make range of vehicle segments, he said, and provides substantial advantages regardless of vehicle size - reduced mass, increased power density, improved noise vibration and harshness, and efficiency gains in a more compact system package.

AAM CEO Mike Simonte said axles that "yield significant gains the company has been developin efficiency, performance and ing this technology for the past

will shift AAM from a traditional Tier I auto supplier of the past to a tech company of the future.

Guys said after several years of benchmarking non-automotive products, spending countless development hours, running arduous hardware tests and securing more than a dozen patents, AAM engineers redesigned virtually every component of the traditional axle. What resulted is the Quantum family of axles that yield significant gains in efficiency, performance and packaging, all while reducing system weight.

'The numbers are amazing," said Guys. "Quantum's 20 percent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



On-the-Go H2O idea is finalist in technology awards category.

Ford Idea: Oasis in Your Car

Sometimes a watered-down reading a document that deidea is the best idea possible.

selected as a finalist in both the Transportation and Developing-World Technology categories as part of Fast Company's 2017 World Changing Ideas Awards.

The awards showcase 12 winners and nearly 200 finalists, honoring businesses, policies, projects and concepts that offer innovative solutions to the issues facing humanity, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

On-the-Go H2O was developed by Ford engineers Doug Martin and John Rollinger, Hall said. The pair brought the concept to life after an idea struck: what if cars could be a source of water?

The system collects condensation from vehicle air conditioners, then filters and pumps the fluid into a faucet located inside the car to provide drinking water.

"A couple of years ago, I was

scribed a billboard in Lima, Peru, Ford Motor Company's On-the- that condensed water out of thin Go H2O is in the spotlight - air in this dry environment," said

"It made 2,500 gallons of water in three months. They dispersed the water to residents who didn't have access to clean water. I thought, cars go through air, too, and why not do something with cars like that billboard."

Martin said he believes this system is important.

"I do see this as a benefit in developing countries," Martin said.

"If all their cars have this, and there's a shortage of clean water, they can run their water through this system and have clean water. That would be a very good benefit to have.

"I think this would be pretty exciting to see this system go into production somewhere and make a difference in people's lives."

The project will appear in Fast Company's April issue, which will hit the newsstands on March 27.



From left: 2014 Jeep Trailhawk, 2015 Ford Escape, 2016 Jeep Cherokee tested EcoTrac in Upper Peninsula.

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Auburn Hills Firm Sells Some New Robot Technology

ABB has sold its first robot manufactured in the United

The IRB 2600 robot is the first to be produced at the ABB Auburn Hills facility, and was sold by ABB Value Provider, CIM SYSTEMS, INC. to Hitachi Powdered Metals USA, said ABB spokeswoman Melissa London.

The compact robot, which is painted with special commemorative red, white and blue paint, will be used for material handling of in-process engine component parts at the Hitachi Greensburg, Ind. facility, London

It's the 180th ABB robot at the Hitachi plant, which installed its first ABB robot in 2005.

The sale of ABB's first robot produced in the U.S. to Hitachi is a tremendous milestone in the development of our manufacturing presence in the Americas," said Sami Atiya, president of ABB's Robotics and Motion divi-

"It is a major step toward our goal of providing local customers with delivery schedules and technical support that are far superior to other robot manufacturers.

"Hitachi is honored to receive the U.S. manufactured ABB robot," said James Adams, Chief Engineer of robots and automation at Hitachi. "It will be prominently positioned on our plant floor to showcase the essential role ABB robots have in our operation, and our passion to keep production in the U.S." company of our size, the volume of robots we have is unprecedented. I truly believe that if we didn't have robots in our facility, we wouldn't be in business

London said that in May 2015, ABB announced that it would begin producing robots at its Auburn Hills facility, making it the first of the major industrial robot companies to fully commit to an American manufacturing footprint.

The delivery of the first U.S.manufactured robot is consistent with the production schedule announced at the factory opening, London said.

In addition to the IRB 2600, ABB will begin manufacturing other popular robot models in Auburn Hills later this year, Lon-

By 2018, he said, it's planned that 75 percent of all the models delivered to North American end-users will be manufactured in the United States. Previously, ABB robots sold in the Americas were made in Sweden and in China.

'We are proud to be involved in the placement of the first ABB robot manufactured in the United States," said Dave Fox, president of CIM Systems Inc. "We have already seen a reduction in lead times since the Auburn Hills plant opened, and it has helped us get some business that was directly related to improved delivery turnaround."

Chevrolet's New Trucks Combine Duramax, Allison Tech

General Motors' new Chevrolet Class 4/5 commercial truck will be powered by a Duramax engine and Allison transmission – a combination that has powered close to two million trucks, said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Shamoun.

Chevrolet made the announcement on March 14 at The Work Truck Show 2017 in Farmington

The brand also announced that the truck is on track to launch in 2018. It is being jointly developed by Chevrolet and Navistar.

"Our new Chevrolet mediumduty will be the flagship of our truck portfolio for fleet and commercial customers, and we believe the strength of Duramax/Allison powertrain combination will be able to tackle various jobs - from general contracting to urban delivery to bucket loaders wreckers," said Schwegman, U.S. director of Commercial Product and Medium Duty for GM Fleet.

"To win customers, we're marshalling the best diesel and heavy-duty transmission engineers in the world and offering more choices than any other manufacturer."

Allison Transmission, based in Indianapolis, is the largest designer, developer, manufacturer and distributor of medium- and heavy-duty fully automatic transmissions, and is a leader in hybrid-propulsion systems, Kass-Shamoun said.

"Their designs have been used in a variety of applications, including refuse, construction, fire, distribution, bus, motorhomes, defense and energy," she said.

"They have helped drive Chevrolet's trucks since the

The first Duramax diesel engines were introduced in Chevro- back, which offer up to an EPA-



A Duramax employee assembles a diesel engine in Moraine, Ohio.

let and GMC trucks in 2001, and they have accumulated more than 100 billion miles of realworld experience, Kass-Shamoun

Since then, the engines have been continually refined, introducing first-in-class technologies such as aluminum cylinder heads, the quick-start system and the Venturi Jet Drive Oil sep-

Technical specifications for Chevrolet's new medium-duty truck, including cab and frame dimensions, horsepower and torque, Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR), Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), payload and other ratings, will be released close to launch, Kass-Shamoun said.

Chevrolet's portfolio of diesel-powered vehicles also includes:

- The 2017 Silverado HD with a newly redesigned Duramax 6.6liter V8 turbo-diesel, the most powerful engine ever installed in a GM pickup truck with 910 lb.-ft. of torque and a class-leading 445
- The Cruze sedan and hatch-

estimated highway mileage of 52 mpg - the highest highway fuel economy of any non-hybrid/non-EV in America and an estimated range of up to 702 highway miles.

- The Equinox compact crossover, available this summer, which is expected to achieve a GM-estimated 40 mpg on the highway (EPA estimates are not yet available).
- The Colorado mid-size pickup, which is the industry's most fuel-efficient pickup, according to the EPA's fueleconomy.gov web-
- The Express full-size van, which is available in both passenger and cargo variants, with either the short or long wheel-
- The Low Cab Forward commercial truck, which offers two turbodiesel engines.
- A 3.0-liter engine paired with a 6-speed double overdrive transmission is available in 3500HD models. Larger 4500HD, 4500XD, 5500HD and 6500XD models are available with a 5.2L

Chevrolet announced a return

to the medium-duty commercial vehicle segment in June of 2015, with sales of six new Chevrolet-badged trucks beginning in

The vehicles are to be built by Japan-based Isuzu Motors. Chevrolet dealers will offer the Chevrolet 3500, 3500HD, 4500, 4500HD, 5500, and 5500HD models, all based on the Isuzu N-Se-

Each truck will be offered only in regular-cab and crew-cab body

In a statement made in 2015, Ed Peper, U.S. vice president of GM fleet and commercial sales, said, "Bringing low-cab-forward trucks back to our portfolio strengthens Chevrolet's commitment to providing commercial customers with more choices and provides customers with a versatile lineup of trucks, vans and crossovers.

"This addition helps our dealers satisfy their commercial customers' needs all in one place."

The trucks will be offered with 6.0-litre V8 gasoline engines with 6-speed automatic transmissions, a powertrain that Isuzu sources through GM and will continue to do so, or Isuzusourced 3.0-litre and 5.2-litre turbo-diesel engines.

The Chevrolets will be the only low-cab-forward trucks on the North American market to offer a gasoline-powered powertrain, Peper said.

Isuzu has truck production fain Charlotte, Mich., cilities where the trucks fitted with gasoline engines will be built. The others will be imported from Isuzu's facility in Fujisawa, Japan.

The trucks will have chassis lengths of 109-212 inches, with body-type compatibility that includes refrigerated boxes, stake/flatbed and service bodies.

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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" **MARCH 27, 2017**



Foley and friends will be busy learning new skills to provide help to those who need it.

Chrysler Providing Dog-gone Good Help

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engage with Foley with the #RaisingFoley and #FoleyFriday hashtags on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Canine Companions for Independence, the Chrysler brand is able to help bring awareness to its 'Give a Dog a Job' program through our new online social initiative," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Cars, Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and Fiat - FCA North America.

"As we follow Foley through his journey, fans will get a firsthand look at watching him grow and learn, from puppy training to becoming a fully trained assistance dog, and also gain an understanding of the huge amount of time and resources it takes to train these amazing dogs."

partnership 'Our Chrysler Pacifica, BraunAbility and our 'Give a Dog a Job' campaign brings our mission, the stories of our remarkable graduates and the adventures of Canine Companions puppy Foley to a whole new audience across the country," says Paul Mundell, CEO of Canine Companions for Independence

'We are deeply grateful for the commitment made to us by these two leaders in adapted vehicles. The upfitted Chrysler Pacifica provides greatly enhanced independence for people with disabilities, especially those who utilize wheelchairs.'

Fans will be able to follow Foley (named in honor of actor Scott Foley, an ardent supporter of Canine Companions for Indeperson with a disability, includ-

puppy raiser's home, including new sights and sounds.

- Grooming, cradling, playing with feet, ignoring food on the ground.
- Celebrating important days "Through our partnership with like #NationalPuppyDay (March 23), Veterans Day (Nov. 11), and Canine Companions National Graduation Days (May 5, Aug. 4 and Nov. 3).
 - Learning early commands, including "shake," tracking his growth (against a growth chart in the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica
 - Adventures to the park and play dates with other Canine Companions puppies.
 - · Visits to the vet and vaccina-

• First field trips and learning basic commands at puppy class.

"Because of highly trained assistance dogs like my dog Mork, people like me are able to lead more full and independent lives,' said Wallis Brozman, corporate marketing assistant, Canine Companions.

"Mork was trained by Canine Companions' professional instructors in 40 spoken commands and has since learned American Sign Language and approximately 15 new com-

This campaign is educating the public on the unique contributions our service dogs make in the lives of adults, children and veterans with disabilities.'

State Honors Magna for Local Hires

Global tier I supplier Magna International Inc. was recognized with a Michigan Works! Association Impact Award for its commitment to hiring Michigan talent for its \$56 million assembly plant in Lyon Township, said Oakland County spokesman Steve Huber.

The award was given to Magna International and its wholly owned subsidiary, Cosma Body Assembly of Michigan, by the Michigan Works! Association last month.

"I congratulate Magna on receiving this recognition," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "The company has long been an industry leader and remains an important employer and valuable corporate citizen in Oakland County.'

Magna, which has its U.S. pendence) as he starts his path headquarters in Troy, has rein life to being matched with a ceived more than \$845,000 in Skilled Trade Training Funds from the state since 2014 to train Getting acclimated to the existing and new workers for the

Lyon Township and other facilities. The company partnered with the Oakland County Michigan Works! to recruit employees using social media and shared postings with Pure Michigan Talent Connect and its regional partners including colleges, universities, nonprofit organizations and the Michigan Works! system.

'Magna is proud of its partnership with Oakland County Michigan Works! and the entire Michigan Works! system," said Paul Myles, Magna senior manager, government workforce development and training programs.

GM Global Propulsion Finds Way to Keep Kids Biking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I put together this event beginning two years ago when I was trying to find an event that was local and could use the skills of engineers and give back to the local community.

"I heard about other bike builds, but this one is funded totally by donations of participants.

"There are no matching funds from the GM Foundation or other groups. It's all us.

"And the engineers like it because they get to get their hands dirty building bikes and they get to use their critical thinking skills."

The bikes will be given out to children who need them on Thursday, May 4. The kids are affiliated with three organizations - Dream Center of Pontiac, The Baldwin Center of Pontiac and Micah 6.

These groups focus on helping at-risk youths, Dallacqua said. Dream Center has several chapters around Detroit, and the GPS engineers will be building and restoring bikes for the kids affiliated with the Pontiac chapter.

Dallacqua said they will use the \$30 participation donations to purchase bike kits from KLM Bike & Fitness in Rochester

"These guys are great," Dallacqua. "They will also be lending

their expertise in putting the bikes together from the kits we purchase.

"Auto engineers do like to get their hands dirty, but it really helps to have advice from people who are experts in putting bike kits together."

The bikes will be restored and built at the GPS' gym the week before they are given out to the children partipating in the program, Dallacqua said.

The event has become more popular every year, she said. Her records show that in 2015, 31 engineers participated. In 2016, the number was 60.

This year, she is hoping to get between 75 and 100 engineers and GPS staff to volunteer their time and money.

In 2015, they assembled nine bikes and restored four. In 2016, they built 12 new bikes and restored 20. This year, Dallacqua said, they are aiming to build between 20 and 30 bikes and restore 30.

"This is a good cause and any engineers interested in getting involved should contact me, said Dallacqua.

"I also want to thank my fellow GPS engineer Louis Begin. He has been my right hand for the past two years. He's the one who coordinates how many bikes we have and the donations we receive. He deserves a big shout-





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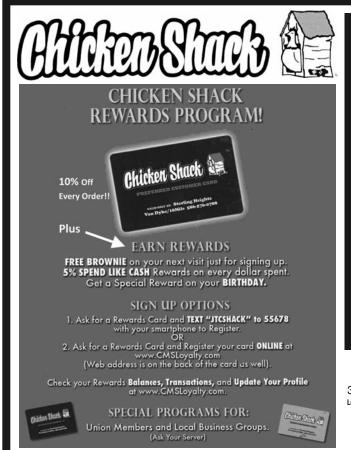
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SRG Global Opens New Innovation Center in Taylor

SRG Global, a Guardian company, has completed its Innovation Center located in Taylor.

The Innovation Center opened on March 20 and is designed to encourage creativity and advancement. The space features areas for prototyping, testing and scale-up experimentation, as well as an inspiring area for coinnovation, said SRG spokeswoman Nuncha Marañon.

The 6,460-square-foot Innovation Center is strategically located across the street from the company's 63,000-square-foot Advanced Development Center.

investment reinforces our commitment to customers and society by expanding our research and development footprint," said David Dunford, vice president of Global Engineering & Innovation.

The Innovation Center enables us to focus on creating value through innovative products and processes by allowing us to experiment, disrupt the status quo and discover the unmet needs of our customers."

Dunford added that the Innovation Center complements the SRG Advanced Development Center by fusing the ideation, concept development and product validation processes seam-

"This new facility will help us expand our global R & D capabilities from a strong base of chemical, mechanical and industrial engineers to material scientists, physicists and electrical and lighting engineers," said James DeLaHoussaye, global director of Innovation at SRG Global.

'This will support our vision of providing innovative engineering solutions and our goal of value-added functional integration."

Deep in the Heart of Dallas, Ram Debuts Laramie Longhorn

Pickup trucks are more popular than ever in the United States, and nowhere is that more true than in Texas. So it makes sense that Ram unveiled a "Texas" truck at the Dallas Auto Show on March 22.

Ram Truck revealed a new exterior color shade for its "luxurious and capable Laramie Longhorn line of pickup trucks," said Ram spokesman Nick Cappa.

The color - RV Match Walnut Brown - will serve as the model's new two-tone contrast color, replacing White Gold, Cappa said.

"The Ram Laramie Longhorn has deservedly become the world's benchmark for upscale, capable pickup trucks," said Mike Manley, head of Ram Brand, FCA - Global.

"The Laramie Longhorn has earned the title, 'Luxury Truck of Texas,' from the Texas Auto Writers Association and there's no better place to show off these updates than at the Dallas Auto Show.'

The luxurious Laramie Longhorn-edition model is available across the Ram pickup truck lineup, including 1500, 2500 and 3500 Heavy Duty models, Cappa said.

With more than 30,000 pounds of trailering capability, Ram Heavy Duty Laramie Longhorn editions have become a popular choice among buyers who rely on their truck to tow a camper or recreational vehicle.

"In fact, the new RV Match Brown was chosen to closely match or complement a shade of brown that is frequently used in the exterior design of RV travel trailers, including premium fifthwheel models," Manley said.

"Ram Laramie Longhorn edition models are known for distinctive exterior badges. A chrome metal Laramie Longhorn edition badge with painted accents is mounted to the tailgate

Roseville

while eye-catching, model-specific (1500, 2500 or 3500) Laramie Longhorn edition badges adorn the doors.

Ram's RV Match Walnut Brown lower-body two-tone, wheel flares, painted front and rear bumpers and running boards complement a bright chrome grille and painted tow hooks, Manley said.

Two-tone Ram 1500 Laramie Longhorn editions are equipped with 20-inch polished aluminum wheels with brown-colored pockets, while monochromatic versions roll on polished silver aluminum wheels. Ram 2500 and 3500 (single rear wheel) models get 18-inch polished aluminum wheels with brown-colored pockets, while monochromatic versions roll on polished silver aluminum wheels. Twenty-inch wheels are optional. Ram 3500 duallies get polished silver aluminum wheels with Laramie Longhorn edition-badged center

RV Match Walnut Brown is



2017 Ram 1500 Laramie Longhorn pickup

available as a two-tone combination with nine exterior colors, including Black Forest Green, Bright Silver, Bright White, Brilliant Black Crystal, Delmonico Red, Granite Crystal, Maximum Steel, Pearl White and True Blue, Cappa said.

Ram Laramie models will con-

tinue to be offered in an optional Bright Silver two-tone contrast, but for 2017 will also be available in two-tone RV Match Brown color. Non-two-tone paint is standard on Ram Laramie models.

Ram RV Match Walnut Brown models will go on sale in the second quarter of 2017, Cappa said.

Fiat Chrysler Wins Manufacturing Award

Fiat Chrysler has been selected as a winner in the 2017 Manufacturing Leadership Awards by corporate growth consulting firm Frost & Sullivan.

The annual awards recognize manufacturing companies and individual manufacturing leaders that are shaping the future of global manufacturing, said Fiat spokeswoman Jodi Chrysler

Judged by a panel of industry experts, Fiat Chrysler was recognized in the Operational Excellence Leadership category for its implementation of World Class Manufacturing.

WCM is a manufacturing methodology that focuses on eliminating waste, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety in a systematic and organized way, Tinson said.

First implemented by Fiat in 2006 and introduced to the former Chrysler Group as part of the alliance between the two companies in 2009, WCM engages the workforce to provide and implement suggestions on how to improve their jobs and their plants.

WCM has become the driving force behind the improvements in all Fiat Chrysler facilities worldwide, Tinson said, including those in North America where four plants have reached silver status and 16 have been designated bronze for achievements earned in the global lean manufacturing program.

"On behalf of all the hard-working men and women who come to work every day to build award-winning products, we are humbled to receive this award,' said Brian Harlow, head of Manufacturing, FCA - North America.

"The human element is at the center of WCM and has become a way of life for all of our employees around the globe. WCM resides in the employees' hearts, heads and hands to imagine the future and create a better way to run the business.

"The company's success depends on their involvement and we could not succeed in implementing WCM without the cooperation of our unions worldwide. It's truly a team effort."

Fiat Chrysler will be recognized at the 13th Annual Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala, which will be held as part of the Manufacturing Leadership Summit June 12-14 in Huntington Beach, Calif., Tinson

Patterson Appoints Forzley As Head of Health Services

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has appointed Kathleen Forzley to be the next director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Forzley will be the first woman to lead the department, which oversees the county's Health Division, Homeland Security Division, and Children's Village, said Oakland County spokesman Bill Mullan. She replaces George Miller who retires April 28.

With a focus on population health improvement, Mullan said Forzley has worked to align comto address complex health issues through numerous collaborative efforts, including the creation of Energizing Connections for Health and Human Services.

Healthier Oakland (ECHO). She also has served in leadership roles for health initiatives on a regional and statewide level through her participation on the Michigan Public Health Advisory Commission, Mullan said.

"Kathy Forzley will do an outstanding job as director of the Health and Human Services Department," Patterson said.

"Her leadership overseeing more than 40 public health programs as the county's health officer has not only garnered many national and statewide awards munity partners and resources but also has bolstered Oakland County's reputation for excellence in public health."

Forzley said she welcomes the Oakland County's health im- challenges that go with being diprovement initiative known as rector of the Department of





Mopar Drag Team Starts Season On Strong Note

The streak continues. A Mopar-powered Top Fuel dragster raced to the winner's circle on March 19 for the third consecutive NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series event to start 2017, as eight-time champion Tony Schumacher won the prestigious NHRA Gatornationals for the fifth time in his career.

The win is Schumacher's 83rd overall. His Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) U.S. Army Top Fuel Dragster defeated Antron Brown from the left lane in the final round with a pass of 3.703 seconds at 329.26 mph after a reaction time of .066.

Brown turned in a lap of 3.764 seconds at 322.65 mph paired with a .034 reaction time to keep the race in doubt until Schumacher turned on the win light. Schumacher started from the No. 1 position after setting an elapsed-time track record during round two of qualifying on March 17 with a pass of 3.682 seconds at 328.22 mph.

Schumacher defeated Smax Smith in the first round and took down Clay Millican in the second to set up a showdown with Steve Torrence in the semifinals. Torrence overpowered the track and slowed, allowing Schumacher to reach the final round.

Meanwhile, two Mopar Hemipowered Dodge Charger R/T Funny Cars advanced to the semifinals. Matt Hagan, already a two-time race winner in 2017, defeated Dave Richards in the first round to earn the right to face his DSR teammate Ron Capps in the second. Hagan beat Capps for the third time this season after the 2016 Funny Car champion was disqualified for a wild ride in which he crossed the center line. Hagan went on to face young driver Jonnie Lindberg, where he smoked the tires mid-track.

Tommy Johnson Jr. bested Cruz Pedregon in the first round in his Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger R/T, then defeated fellow Dodge driver Jim Campbell in the second round even as he struggled to find traction.

Johnson ultimately lost to eventual event winner John Force after smoking his tires again. Fellow DSR teammate Jack Beckman just edged Tim Wilkerson in round one, before being bested by John Force after Beckman's Infinite Hero Dodge Charger R/T went up in smoke during the second round of eliminations.

VW Emissions **Scandal Hits Silverdome**

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) - The city of Pontiac is suing the owners of the decaying Pontiac Silverdome in suburban Detroit for violations of building, safety and zoning codes.

The Oakland Press of Pontiac reports complaints were filed with 50th District Court after a parking lot was used to store Volkswagen cars amid the automaker's U.S. emissions scandal.

Pontiac says car storage needs city approval.

Triple Investment Group of Toronto bought the Silverdome in 2009

Patrick Lennon, a representative for Triple Investment Group, says it hasn't admitted responsibility to any of the allegations, but they're hoping to reach an

agreement with the city. The Silverdome opened in 1975. The Lions played football there until 2002, and the Detroit Pistons spent a decade playing

basketball in the stadium. Plans call for it to be demol-

ished.



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AAM Creating New Technologies to Meet New Standards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

power density increase comes with a minimum 30 percent mass reduction at the same torque ca-

"For a heavy-duty pickup, Quantum provides more than 100 pounds of vehicle weight savings. It is significantly more efficient without any reduction in performance.

"Its new design is centered on using traditional axle components in new ways. Bearings are arranged more efficiently and gears are set in optimal positions. AAM's engineers utilized system innovation to eliminate weight by combining functions of many components and developing proprietary lubricants that would increase system efficiency and durability.

"In a traditional axle, shims are used to ensure an axle's hypoid gears are installed precisely for optimum durability and NVH. Because of Quantum's smart design, engineers were able to eliminate the need for shims while still providing up to a five-decibel improvement in NVH perform-

Scalable across vehicle segments, Quantum can be adapted for use on virtually any size truck or passenger vehicle, Guys said.

AAM initially designed a Quantum lightweight beam axle for rear-wheel-drive (RWD) vehicles such as pickup trucks but has expanded Quantum technology to include RWD and all-wheel-drive passenger vehicles, crossovers and SUVs.

Scalable across vehicle segments, Quantum can be adapted for use on virtually any size truck or passenger vehicle, Guys said.

The next step for AAM, Simonte said, is developing eSystems for hybrid and electric driveline systems. By 2018, should be hitting the market-

"AAM is well-positioned to benefit from the global trend toelectrification," Simonte

AAM has invested \$140 million in research and development in 2016 alone, Simonte said.

Chris Son, director of Marketing and Communications at AAM, said that technology leadership is the key to AAM's growth. He said the company, which was created in 1994, has depended heavily on its legacy core business of making drive axles.

When SUVs used rear axle drives in the 1990s, business was great, said Simonte, but starting in 2005, OEMs began the shift toward making front-wheel-drive SUVs.

Combined with the recession of 2008, AAM sales hit \$1.6 billion in 2009. Since then, AAM has recovered and project sales for 2017 will be more than \$4 billion.

Son said the development of AAM's EcoTrac technology was a big reason for the improved sales.

"We got serious about developing front-wheel-drive architecture," Simonte said. "It's still the largest part of our sales. It's an industry first - a disconnecting all-wheel-drive system that dramatically increased efficiency, safety and performance when it was introduced.

"Now, the second-generation EcoTrac will further this mission with even greater efficiency and packaging gains."

Guys said when originally launched on the 2014 Jeep Cherokee, AAM's EcoTrac Disconnecting AWD gives drivers the performance of an AWD vehicle with the fuel economy of a front-wheel-drive vehicle by automatically and seamlessly

the company's first e-product using only the front wheels when AWD is not required.

> The EcoTrac AWD system disconnects at the power transfer unit (PTU), so that the driveshaft stops spinning and power is no longer sent to the rear wheels. Less spinning means less fuel consumption and fewer emissions. When the EcoTrac system senses that road conditions necessitate AWD, EcoTrac automatically reconnects the PTU and rear drive module to seamlessly provide AWD.

> Launching next year, the second-generation EcoTrac is even more efficient, said Guys.

> It reduces the system drag of a typical AWD system by more than 90 percent, as compared to 80 percent for the first generation.

> Furthermore, AAM was able to reduce the size and weight of the EcoTrac system without affecting safety and functionality.

> "AAM's EcoTrac was a groundbreaking technology that significantly increased fuel economy, vehicle handling and off-road capability," said Guys.

"We have raised the bar with our next-generation EcoTrac. It's lighter and smaller with increased torque density. This



Phil Guys

means drivers will see further fuel economy improvement while the reduced packaging footprint will allow our customers the flexibility to incorporate other vehicle systems.

"When you add a traditional AWD system to a vehicle, it increases safety, but it also decreases fuel economy by one to three miles per gallon.

"AAM's system offsets that fuel economy penalty but still allows drivers the safety and functionality of an AWD system. It's a win-win for people who are looking for fuel-efficient AWD."

Oakland Seeks Health Nominations

The Oakland County Health Division Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is seeking nominations for its 3rd Annual Breastfeeding-Friendly Place

Awards will honor Oakland County pediatrician offices, employers, and businesses that are taking extra steps to support breastfeeding mothers, said Kathy Forzley, Health Division manager/health officer.

Those interested should complete an online nomination form nounced Aug. 9.

at oakgov.com/health. Award nomination entries are due Friday, April 28, at 5 p.m.

"Businesses, employers, and pediatrician offices that support breastfeeding mothers by providing a comfortable, welcoming environment send a clear message that breastfeeding is a normal and accepted way to feed babies," said Forzley.

"They are helping to develop healthy children."

Award winners will be an-

French Find More **Evidence in Emissions Fraud**

PARIS (AP) - French investigators say they have found evidence of possible emissions fraud in Fiat, Renault, Peugeot-Citroen and Volkswagen cars sold in France, but have found no proof of fraud in Opel vehicles.

The Finance Ministry announced in a statement March 20 that its consumer fraud agency has closed its investigation into Opel, having found no "facts constituting an infraction of fraud."

The ministry said the agency has handed documents to French courts in recent months showing "evidence of fraud" in emissions controls concerning Volkswagen, Renault, Fiat Chrysler and Peugeot Citroen.

The ministry did not specify whether investigators found cheating software, or so-called defeat devices, to trick emissions tests.

Now it's up to the French jussystem to determine whether to send the companies to trial.

The ministry said investigations into other carmakers are still under way, prompted by the 2015 discovery that Volkswagen used software to cheat on U.S. diesel emissions

Investigators and regulators have cracked down on emissions cheating in response to the scandal.

Renault denied a report last week that its vehicles are equipped with similar software. Renault recalled 15,000 cars last year over excessive levels of harmful gases, but the company insisted there was no intentional wrongdoing.

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New Technology? - In 1930, It Was Motorola's Car Radio

by Jim Stickford

Automakers using wireless technology to make their automobiles more attractive is nothing new. The tradition goes as far back as 1930, when the first radios were built in cars.

According to PCMag, in 1930, Paul and Joseph Galvin, along with William Lear, developed the first automobile dashboard radio and named it the "Motorola," or motorized Victrola - and demonstrated the 5T71 prototype in a Studebaker.

And, Car&Driver magazine reports that the first car radios weren't cheap. It cost \$130 at a time when a Ford Model A Deluxe Coupe cost \$540.

The problem was overcoming the difficulties in vacuum tube technology. Around 1920, vacuum tube technology had matured to the point where the availability of radio receivers made radio broadcasting viable.

A technical challenge was that the vacuum tubes in the radio receivers required 50 to 250 volt direct current but car batteries ran

Voltage was stepped up with a vibrator that provided a pulsating DC that could be converted to a higher voltage with a transformer, rectified, and filtered to create higher-voltage DC.

Motorola went on to sell millions of car radios, and later, two-way radios for police and fire departments, home stereo systems, and televisions before moving into transistors, solidstate electronics, and semiconductors.

And, according to writer Bill DeMann in an article written for the mental-floss Web site, the reaction to the new technology



First Motorola car radio

wasn't without its own difficul-

DeMann wrote that in 1930, laws were proposed in Massachusetts and St. Louis to ban radios while driving.

DeMann added that, according to automotive historian Michael Lamm, "Opponents of car radios argued that they distracted drivers and caused accidents, that tuning them took a driver's attention away from the road, and that music could lull a driver to sleep.'

Even the Auto Club of New York agreed. In their 1934 poll, 56 percent deemed the car radio a 'dangerous distraction." Arguing the other side was the Radio Manufacturers Association, who said car radios could be used to warn drivers of inclement weather and bad road conditions, as well as keeping them awake when they got drowsy.

By the early 1930s, built-in Motorola radios were standard features in cars, DeMann wrote. Later in the decade, push-button tuning and presets helped drivers to select stations without taking their eyes off the road.







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Ana Wagner

Learn If Your Car is Recalled

More than 1.8 million vehicles on Michigan roads have unfixed safety recalls, according to annual research on auto recalls from Carfax. That's an alarming 21 percent increase from 2016.

Now, better than one out of every five vehicles in the state is affected, said Carfax spokesman Chris Basso.

Carfax has identified ten places in Michigan where people are most likely to have a car with unfixed recalls:

- Detroit. An estimated 26 percent of vehicles, totaling 88,962;
- Southfield. An estimated 24 percent of vehicles, totaling 27,449;
- Kalamazoo. An estimated 23 of vehicles, totaling 27,297;
- Grand Rapids. An estimated 23 percent of vehicles, totaling
- Sterling Heights. An estimated 23 percent of vehicles, totaling 23,723;
- Warren. An estimated 21 percent of vehicles, totaling 24,484;
- Ann Arbor. An estimated 21 percent of vehicles, totaling

- Muskegon. An estimated 20 percent of vehicles, totaling 20,910;
- Lansing. An estimated 20 percent of vehicles, totaling 25,548.
- Saginaw. An estimated 18 percent of vehicles, totaling 18,553.

Basso said that people can learn more about this problem across the country by visiting the Web site www.carfax.com/recall for an interactive recall map for all 50 states, an open recall infographic and helpful tips about recalled vehi-

One reason for the surge in unfixed recalls, Basso said, is that people often are unaware that a recall has been issued for their vehicle.

To help, Carfax offers members of the public a free website and mobile app service called myCarfax.com, Basso said.

Users enter their license plate or VIN to see current open recalls, and get alerts from my-Carfax on their mobile device for up to five vehicles when new recalls are issued for them.

Dow Automotive Manager Says Networking, **Career Mentoring Are Extremely Important**

by Jim Stickford

Networking and seeking a mentor can be very important factors in moving up in the auto industry, said Ana Wagner, Global Strategic Marketing manager for Dow Automotive in Auburn

Wagner was one of the "Latina Leadership" panelists at the recent Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers conference held last week in Detroit.

A few women from other companies, as well as herself, talked about their experiences and the role Latina women can play in the engineering field, Wagner said. Questions revolved around issues such as how women can progress in the auto industry.

"My answer is that I didn't have a super formal process," Wagner said. "Mentors have played a big role in my career and I tell people that mentors don't always have to come from the company where they are currently employed.

"A mentor doesn't have to be a boss. The mentor can be a colleague who gives you a very different perspective.'

Wagner said networking is also important. That's why she speaks at conferences put on by organizations such as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. It's a way for her to meet others in her field and to net-

Getting to her position at Dow Automotive began in her home country of Colombia, Wagner said.

"I've always found engineering fascinating," Wagner said. "Industrial engineering in particular. I love the way things are put together. I went to school in Bogata

at Xavier University. It's a Jesuit school. I later got my MBA at Michigan. I've lived here for 22

Wagner first came to Michigan to participate in a six-month industrial engineering program.

"I met someone who would later become my husband and I hung around," Wagner said. "I heard that Ford was looking for someone with industrial engineering skills. I couldn't believe

The company that was founded by Henry Ford, the father of industrial engineering with the invention of the production line, was looking for someone like

Ford liked what they saw when she applied and she was hired.

Through the years she has worked at several different companies. One of them would become Eastman Chemical. It was there that she met Jay Pyper, a man who became a mentor to

"Jay believed in me," Wagner said. "He let me own my own role in the company and was a real sounding board. We still talk. And that's one thing I like to say. A mentor doesn't have to be a

"Jay is a big supporter of women moving up in the auto business. There are a lot of people like that. Steve Henderson, president of Dow Automotive, is also such a person.'

Having mentors and networking are important to being successful, Wagner said. But she also tells people that being happy in one's work, liking one's job is also important.

"Look, I understand that no one is happy with their job 100 percent of the time," Wagner said. "There will be bad days. But I do believe that in order to be good at your job, to be successful at your job, you should like what you're doing at least 70 percent of the time. If you hate your job, you won't be pleasant and you won't be very good at it.'

Wagner said she would like to see more women reach the upper ranks of the auto industry.

"I recently attended an IHS conference, and I'd say that only 10 or 15 percent of the audience were women," Wagner said. "I just don't think that's enough women. But with Mary Barra, we have a woman CEO at GM. I hope that's a catalyst for the rest of the industry.'

Wagner said that many women do graduate with engineering degrees. They do well at the try level, but not that many move up into middle management.

"I can't put my finger on why that happens," Wagner said. "But I believe it's important that we get more women into middle and upper management.'

Wagner and her husband Jim are the parents of two children, ages 11 and 13. She said that she's been able to manage family and a job because men - like her husband – these days are chipping in with household duties.

"It's a true partnership," Wagner said. "When one of us travels, the other picks up the load by picking up the kids."

Wagner has been at Dow for six years. She has moved away from the engineering side of things and has been in marketing since

"I'm hoping to continue to make a difference at Dow," Wagner said. "I love mentoring people myself, especially young female engineers.'

Mound Road Proposal Sees New Progress

The executive committee of the Innovate Mound public-private partnership has been named between local governments and business executives.

Commitee members are looking to work together to ensure success of Innovate Mound.

The Mound infrastructure project calls for the transformation of nine miles of Mound Road into a state-of-the-art corridor, said Macomb County spokesman John Paul Rea.

The estimated investment needed for this project is \$217 million, a large portion which will be sought through federal funding, Rea

A critical component of competing for federal funding is demonstrated stakeholder support.

Mound is a great model for intergovernment and public-private partnership," said County Executive Mark A. Hackel.

The cities of Warren and Sterling Heights, together with Macomb County, are thrilled to have such an impressive list of professionals representing many of the leading companies located along Mound

Having an established relationship with these representatives also allows the project to collect company-specific input on the design and build of the project, Rea said.

For example, engineers from the U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal, home of the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, will provide input related to current entrance and exit chal-

collaborative effort shown with Innovate Mound by including the Army in this dialogue ensures we remain rele-



Local businesses and governments want to upgrade Mound Road.

vant to our mission while participating in positive changes here in Warren and Macomb County," "The team behind Innovate said Alan Parks, garrison manager for the Arsenal.

Here is a list of the current executive committee members:

- AM Specialties, Inc. Ron Klinger;
- BAE Systems, Angela Lommen; • Casadei Steel, Inc., Bruno
- Casadei: • Chardam Gear Company, Mike Brzoska;
- City of Sterling Heights;
- City of Warren; • Conti Corporation, Warren Wintermantel:
- Defense Corridor Center for Collaboration and Synergy, Ron Lamparter;
- Fiat Chrysler, Thomas Lindquist;
- Ford Motor Company, Brad Simmons; • General Dynamics Land
- Systems, Gary Whited; • General Motors, Kenneth L. Kelzer;
- Macomb County;
- Metro Wire & Cable Corp., Nate Tallman;

- Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Melanie Davis;
- U.S. Army at Detroit Arsenal, Samuel Hillhouse.

Innovate Mound officially kicked off in December 2016, Rea

The design considerations tentatively in place for this project include complete roadway surface reconstruction, widening north of 17 Mile Road, landscaping, lighting, signs, driveway controls, additions of non-motorized facilities, 10-foot-wide safety path along the bike trail or corridor, connections to trail network and improvements to transit stops.

This corridor could also be equipped with smart-street technology to include computerized traffic signal systems, real-time traffic speed monitoring, cameras, communications to signals and more, Rea

This technology would be able to increase emergency management and enhance safety and mobility, he said.



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MCC Innovation Fund Finds Three Companies to Help

program has just planted three entrepreneurial seeds in southeast Michigan.

Three early-stage companies from Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties will receive \$75,000 in funding from the Innovation Fund Macomb Community College, Powered by JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Since July 2015, the Macomb Innovation Fund has awarded \$1.475 million to 27 companies, said MCC spokeswoman Jeanne Nicol.

The Innovation Fund is a \$2.7 million effort to stimulate economic development and job growth among promising Detroitarea entrepreneurs and nextstage companies with highgrowth potential, Nicol said.

Funding is provided by Ma-Community College's Strategic Fund and JPMorgan Chase, as part of the company's \$100 million commitment to Detroit's economic recovery. The unique initiative provides mentoring and capital to early-stage businesses, as well as learning opportunities for Macomb Community College's students.

"In addition to enhancing southeast Michigan's entrepreneurial ecosphere, the Macomb Innovation Fund is providing unique educational experiences to our students that extend classroom learning," said college President James Jacobs.

'More than 400 Macomb Community College students have directly interacted with the emerging economic drivers of our community, positioning them with distinctive learning experience."

Three companies will receive \$25,000 awards, which are de-

A Macomb Community College signed to support early-stage businesses taking the initial steps in market introduction.

They are:

- Alchemie Solutions (Troy/ Oakland County). Alchemie Solutions has developed a mobile learning technology for higher education, combining gamebased and interactive video with machine learning. Designed for college gateway courses in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), with chemistry the first subject area of focus, the interactive app is tied to an analytic platform to help both students and their instructors create a deeper understanding of a subject's core concepts.
- iServe (Northville/ Wayne County). iServe has invented a soft-serve dessert-making system for the home. The system's concept is like that of a Keurig coffee maker, combining a softserve ice cream with single-serve dispensing and pod technology. The ice cream is dispensed in under 10 seconds, and the machine requires no preparation or cleanup.
- MySwimPro (Ann Arbor/ Washtenaw County). MySwimPro is a fitness application for swim training. The mobile app features instructional video content, as well as personalized training and tracking through a free subscrip-

The premium subscription, which involves a monthly fee, unlocks advance work content and analytics.

"Investing in entrepreneurial young people is a great way to create economic opportunity that spans beyond Main Street," said Chauncy Lennon, head of Workforce Initiatives for JPMorgan Chase.



Chrysler's WCM principles are learning by building children's toys in a controlled environment.

Chrysler's New WCM Site Open for Business

It's finally become a reality. With the mission of cultivating, planting and growing its Indiana workforce, Fiat Chrysler on March 21 officially celebrated the opening of two new training facilities in the Hoosier state during a ceremony at the World Class Manufacturing Academy housed inside the Tipton Transmission Plant, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

Via a live feed linking the Tipton location with a second training site at the UAW-Chrysler National Training Center (NTC) in Kokomo, Tinson said the company showcased the state-of-the-art technology and unique hands-on curriculum that was developed to meet the needs of the 8,200 local powertrain employees.

The company's head of Manu-

joined by UAW Vice President Norwood Jewell, Indiana Secreof Commerce tarv Jim Schellinger and Ivy Tech President Dr. Sue Ellspermann, told the audience that investments in buildings and equipment are crucial, but nothing is more important than having an educated and well-trained workforce.

"World Class Manufacturing has fueled a true cultural change at our company, because its goal of continuous improvement depends on engaging people at every level in planning, executing and problem solving," said Harlow. "The Academy was developed in order to accelerate the pace at which we implement the World Class Manufacturing system and take it to higher levels."

World Class Manufacturing (WCM) is a methodology that focuses on eliminating waste, and improving quality and safety in a systematic and organized way. WCM engages employees to provide and apply suggestions on how to improve their jobs and their plants, promoting a sense of ownership, Tinson said. It was first implemented by Fiat in 2006 and introduced to Chrysler Group as part of the alliance between the two companies in June 2009.

Supported by a \$2.1 million investment from FCA US and the UAW, Tinson said the goal of the Tipton and Kokomo training sites is to transfer WCM "know-how" to more than 1,500 participants each year and cultivate an enriched culture of continuous improvement and learning.

The Tipton academy replicates the original Warren facility with hands-on training in a flexible, open concept environment.

As part of the grand opening festivities, guests had the oppor- a 15,000-square-foot expansion tunity to participate in several and also established a satellite training simulations, many of facility in Saltillo, Mexico.

facturing, Brian Harlow, who was them incorporating popular children's games and toys, Tinson said. Concepts like workplace organization and problem-solving are taught using the game, Operation, and the Bike Build Line. A slot car that jumps the track mimics a piece of equipment stopping on the assembly line, teaching skills to identify and correct the issue. Trivia Basketball and FCA Jeopardy reinforce common WCM concepts and themes.

> During the live feed from the NTC, guests got a tour of the renovated space, featuring a lab specifically designed for skilled trades training, Tinson said. The technical training curriculum was developed in partnership with Indiana University, Purdue University and Ivy Tech Community College. Also at the NTC site, FCA US employees and community members can take classes to earn an associate's degree through Ivy Tech, then work toward a bachelor's degree from Purdue.

"Today's high-tech manufacturing requires workers who are adaptable, can think critically and understand how to problemsolve," said Harlow. "Working together with state and local schools, we are helping to train the next generation of advanced manufacturing employees and creating a pipeline for future workers."

This is the fourth installment of the WCM Academy (WCMA) since the grand opening of its flagship operation in January 2012. Since then, the WCMA has taken its training on wheels with the WCMA Mobile Unit in 2013, bringing its core curriculum right to the plant floors for more immediate learning. A year later, the Warren academy underwent

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BorgWarner Launches New System

BorgWarner launched its new compact cam torque actuated (CTA) variable cam timing (VCT) technology with mid-position lock in the new Subaru 1.6- to 2.0liter BOXER engines.

Debuting on the 2017 Impreza, BorgWarner's lightweight, compact VCT technology provides precise valve timing with less oil consumption, better fuel economy and improved engine performance, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Katya Pruett.

"To meet Subaru's specifications for this new engine, Borg-Warner engineers evaluated every part of our VCT technology and extensively tested each innovation," said Joel Wiegert, president of BorgWarner Morse Systems. "By every measure, our new compact VCT technology

achieves the same rapid and precise performance in a smaller, lighter package.

"For nearly a decade, Borg-Warner has been supplying Subaru with our advanced VCT technology from our plant in Japan. We are pleased to add localized manufacturing of our latest VCT products to support Subaru's assembly plant in the U.S.'

BorgWarner's CTA phasers take advantage of the existing energy in the valve train to actuate faster and operate under a wider range of engine speeds and temperatures than conventional VCT systems, Wiegert said.

The patented mid-lock technology ensures failsafe return to the mid-park position for reliable engine starts in any operating condition.



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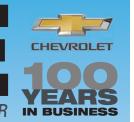
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