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# Detroit Auto Scene®

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

VOL. 85 NO. 43 | *ESTABLISHED 1933 AS NEW CENTER NEWS AND 1983 AS OAKLAND TECH NEWS* | NOVEMBER 6, 2017

## Mopar Shows Itself Ready for New Wrangler

Jeep Wrangler owners like to personalize their vehicles and, with the new 2018 Wrangler coming soon to dealerships, Mopar is ready.

A total of 98 percent of Jeep Wrangler vehicles are typically outfitted with at least one Mopar product, said Mopar spokesman Ariel Gavilan. To that end, Mopar revealed a selection of the brand's more than 200 new Jeep Performance Parts and accessories for the new 2018 Jeep Wrangler during a press event at the 2017 Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Show in Las Vegas Oct. 31.

The Mopar brand's new lineup, created with more than 100,000 hours of development, validation and testing, assists owners in personalizing the new Wrangler for any adventure or lifestyle, and will be available at

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*Gorlier, at the 2017 SEMA show, reveals some parts Mopar will have for 2018 Wrangler customization.*

*Springer with his 2018 Chevy Silverado Centennial Edition pickup.*

## *World Series MVP Springer Gets Pickup as His Prize*

Excellence deserves excellence.

The 2017 Willie Mays World Series Most Valuable Player, George Springer, was presented with a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado Centennial Edition pickup truck in recognition of his strong performance on the field as the Houston Astros won the first World Series championship in their franchise history.

Springer, the Astros centerfielder, went 11-for-29 with five home runs and seven RBI. He tied the record for the most home runs in a World Series, a feat achieved by only two other players – Reggie Jackson with the New York Yankees in 1977 and Chase Utley with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2009.

A media panel and online fan votes on MLB.com, the club sites and the MLB.com At Bat app helped determine the MVP Award winnerd. Earlier this year, Major League Baseball honored Hall of Famer Willie Mays by renaming the MVP award in recognition of his many contributions to the game.

"In a matchup of the two best teams in baseball, George Springer's performance on the field tonight and throughout the World Series truly embodies the same 'Never Give Up' spirit that drives the Chevrolet team to win every day," said Brian Sweeney, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet, at the post-game ceremony. "We are proud to recognize Springer's tremendous efforts with the Willie Mays World Series MVP award and the 2018 Chevrolet Silverado Centennial Edition pickup."

Chevrolet has been the Official Vehicle of Major League Baseball since 2005 and through its Chevrolet Youth Baseball program has helped raise more than $28 million to aid hometown teams over the last 10 years, said Chevrolet spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

Nearly 5.2 million young people in communities across the country have benefited from the program, and more than 1,500 Chevrolet dealers are involved.

Chevrolet is also a sponsor of PLAY BALL, baseball's collective effort to encourage young people and communities to participate in baseball- or softball-related activities, including formal leagues, events and casual forms of play.

*2018 Ford Edge*

*2018 Jeep Compass*

*2018 Buick Enclave*

## Ford Tops Among Domestics in October Vehicle Sales

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – Fueled by increased demand from rental car companies, strong truck and SUV sales, and recovery from hurricanes in Florida and Texas, U.S. auto sales appear to have posted a surprise increase in October.

It would be the second straight monthly increase for the industry, which before September hadn't posted positive numbers in any month this year. But analysts say even a strong finish to the year won't be enough to match last year's record sales of more than 17.5 million. Still, the industry should finish 2017 close to the record at around 17 million vehicles.

Ford, Honda, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen all reported gains for October, defying expectations that buyers would pull back and that fewer people than expected would replace hurricane-damaged vehicles.

Fiat Chrysler, General Motors and Hyundai reported declines, with most automakers posting October numbers last week.

At Ford, sales rose 6 percent due to a big gain in F-Series pickup demand and an increase in sales to fleet buyers such as governments and rental car companies.

At Fiat Chrysler, sales dropped 13 percent as a 43 percent cut in fleet sales offset an October record for Ram pickup sales.

GM sales fell 2 percent as all four of its brands posted declines.

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## *Ford Continues Investing in LiDAR Companies, Technology*

Ford subsidiary Argo AI has acquired Princeton Lightwave, which develops and commercializes LiDAR sensors, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

In February, Ford declared that the company was investing $1 billion during the next five years in Argo AI, combining Ford's autonomous vehicle development expertise with Argo AI's robotics experience and startup speed on artificial intelligence software – all to further advance autonomous vehicles, Hall said.

Bryan Salesky, CEO of Argo AI, said acquiring Princeton Lightwave makes sense for the company.

"We can't talk about a future of self-driving cars without mentioning LiDAR technology – and we won't be able to build that future without it," Salesky said. "These sensors are crucial to creating a three-dimensional view of the world that helps autonomous vehicles find where they are on the road and detect other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

"To accelerate our mission to realize the self-driving future, Argo has acquired Princeton Lightwave, a company with extensive experience in the development and commercialization of LiDAR sensors. The technology that underpins their lineup of LiDAR

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*LiDAR tech helps driverless vehicles "see" their local environment.*

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31201 Chicago Road South
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Contact us:
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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m. for the next edition of Monday
William Springer II, publisher
Lisa A. Torretta, operations
Jim Stickford, news
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www.DetroitAutoScene.com

# Mustang: Ford's Featured Player at 2017 SEMA Show

Ford brought its heavy hitters to last week's SEMA show in Las Vegas.

Vehicles on display included custom Ford vehicles such as tougher F-Series Trucks, said Ford spokesman Matt Leaver. Other vehicles included SUVs ready to take adventure-seekers to new levels at the 2017 SEMA with customized power, off-roading gear and bold designs.

There were 11 custom builds, in total, that were part of the more than 50 vehicles Ford had on display at the SEMA show, Leaver said, making it the largest automaker display at the event.

Ford Out Front also offered attendees an interactive experience of riding in one of the performance cars or trucks on a closed course, Leaver said.

Among the many custom vehicles that Ford had on display were:

• The Project SD126, also known as the "No Mission is Impossible" truck.

This 2017 Ford Super Duty XLT, Leaver said, is an extremely capable vehicle right out of the gate. Dubbed "Project SD126," it optimizes a 2017 Super Duty for ultimate off-road performance. Starting with a standard cab, this truck was converted to a short bed for the 126-inch wheelbase before transforming it inside and out with race-proven BDS and FOX suspension technology, a stout powertrain, and a wider body to accept the massive 42-inch tires. The cab features a pair of racing seats and harnesses along with an off-road GPS and custom stereo.

• A custom 2018 F-150 that recalls the sport-truck mania of the 1990s with continued emphasis on outright muscle. Its powerful stance creates an aggressive attitude powered by Air Design's new line of Street Series Accessories that include full body styling kit, hood scoop, fender vents, rear spoiler and rear tailgate applique. Each custom piece is specifically CAD-designed and crafted to fit the new 2018 Ford F-150 Lariat SuperCrew, backed by Air Design's long history of innovation and sleek designs with easy installation.

• The "Modern Adventurer" project that combines products that elevate the F-150 XLT SuperCrew to the mecca of technology and innovation, while serving a variety of uses for the ultimate adventure seeker. The custom black-and-red tonal paint job is an attention-getter, while the new A.R.E. Z Revo cap protects the storage system and gear located in the bed of the truck. This F-150 was designed from bumper to bumper to modernize the adventure truck experience.

• A custom F-150 that seeks a bend in the road or rough terrain. Leaver said this pickup is as fun to drive on road as it is off with an eye-catching paint scheme and the seven-inch lift kit, making an instant impression. To make sure this monster can move, a 3.5-liter EcoBoost engine is paired with a custom tune. For a little extra growl, a Ford Performance exhaust was added. Whether it's the mountains or Manhattan, this F-150 can conquer any terrain in style and luxury, said Leaver.

• A custom SUV that boasts luxury and comfort, said Leaver. This 2018 Ford Expedition features seats with the latest designs by Alea Leather. Ford Licensed Accessories has equipped it with the latest DVD rear entertainment system. Don't let the pretty looks fool you, said Leaver, because this SUV has power to compete with the best, including a CGS Performance Exhaust System for added horsepower and a throaty sound. The six-piston brakes from Sparta help it stop on a dime.

*The 2018 Ford Mustang Convertible was created by MAD Industries.*

• Ford's Showcased Specialty Mustangs.

Pony car lovers attending the Specialty Equipment Market Association show in Las Vegas this year got a first-hand look at seven souped-up 2018 Mustangs that have been designed with unique interpretations of power, performance and style, Leaver said.

The Ford Out Front display also offered attendees an interactive experience of riding in one of the performance cars or trucks on a closed course.

The public also had the chance to see the 2018 Ford Mustang Convertible created by MAD Industries, Leaver said.

The customized convertible was designed to deliver an open-air thrill ride, Leaver said. This design by MAD Industries enhanced Mustang's aggressive new look with dramatic eye appeal for a dynamic top-down adventure, Leaver said. The world-class luxury sports car, he said, was outfitted with staggered 20-inch Niche Staccato Wheels.

APR Carbon Fiber Drag Wing provides the down force and aggressive look of this custom convertible.

A retuned 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine with Ford Performance intake and exhaust enhance power. Inside, the cockpit artfully blends white details from the exterior theme and Braum Elite-X Series Racing bucket seats detailed in white stitching, said Leaver.

• The "Baja Forged Adventurer" Expedition.

This SUV has room for the whole family to travel in style and comfort, whether driving around town or exploring the freedom of the outdoors, Leaver said. The upgraded suspension gives drivers the ability to attack the open road, he said. Other amenities include a rooftop tent and refrigerator.

# DSO Receiving Charity Funding

DETROIT (AP) – The Detroit Symphony Orchestra says four foundations are giving a combined $18.5 million to the organization to boost programming and its permanent endowment.

The ensemble said Oct. 30 the lion's share, $15 million, comes from the William Davidson Foundation, which continues its sponsorship of the orchestra's Neighborhood Concert Series.

The Davidson gift includes a $5 million challenge grant to encourage additional endowment support. The orchestra says that challenge is halfway met with funds from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation and Dresner Foundation.

# Mopar Unveils New Package For Wrangler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the vehicle launch in dealerships.

New Mopar products available for the new Wrangler include Jeep Performance Parts lift kits, beadlock-capable wheels, off-road bumpers, LED off-road lights, and rock rails, Gavilan said. Mopar accessories for the Wrangler include a roof rack for mounting a variety of lifestyle cargo carriers, a tailgate table, vehicle graphics, tire covers available in a variety of styles and designs, fuel doors and more.

"An iconic vehicle such as Jeep Wrangler deserves nothing but the best, which is why the Mopar and Jeep brands have developed a new set of product solutions to meet the unique lifestyles of Wrangler owners," said Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar), FCA.

"From Jeep Performance Parts like winches and wheels to accessories such as bikini tops and tailgate tables, Mopar has incorporated input from Wrangler owners in bringing to the marketplace the most powerful, reliable and authentic lineup of accessories and performance parts available."

New Jeep Performance Parts LED off-road lights, available in 5- and 7-inch applications, pump out a maximum of 8,000 lumens, putting commercial and military grade illumination into the hands of hard-core off-roaders.

The off-road lights mount to the frame rails, winch guard or windshield via new Jeep Performance Parts off-road light brackets. A new auxiliary switch bank featuring its own power distribution center offers an organized central area for operating accessories such as the off-road lights, winch and other electrical-powered items.

New, unique Jeep Performance Parts rock rails are thicker and wider to protect the body, and feature the same coating used on Ram Truck bedliners to add a non-slip finish, Gavilan said.

A Wrangler Rubicon off-road bumper guards the modern and renowned Wrangler profile, maintaining factory standards and properly harmonizing with the design aesthetics of the new Wrangler.

Jeep Performance Parts and accessories for the 2018 Wrangler will be available when the Wrangler arrives in dealerships.

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*This Luke Bryan Suburban is designed specifically for outdoor users.*

# VW Reports Profits Decline

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – German automaker Volkswagen saw its profits drop by half in the July-September period due to expenses for fixing and buying back diesel cars in the United States, but otherwise had what it called a "strong third quarter" and raised its earnings outlook for the full year.

Profit after tax fell to $1.33 billion from 2.33 billion in the same quarter a year earlier. Based in Wolfsburg, VW announced Sept. 29 that it would take around 2.5 billion euros in additional charges for complying with a settlement with U.S. authorities over diesel cars.

Sales revenues, however, rose 5.8 percent to 55.0 billion euros. The company said the operating margin before special items will be "moderately higher" this year than the original 6-7 percent.

Chief Financial Officer Frank Witter said the diesel issue was nowhere near an end. Volkswagen admitted to equipping cars with software that turned diesel emission controls on during testing and off during everyday driving. Some 11 million cars worldwide were affected.

Witter said the VW's performance over the first nine months of the year makes "us quite optimistic" about the year as a whole. Despite cost of the diesel scandal the company's automotive business still had an adequate financial cushion of 25 billion euros in cash.

VW will need its cash pile as it and other OEMs sink billions into new technologies.

# Suburban Goes Country with Luke Bryan

While it may be called the Suburban, Chevrolet hasn't forgotten that the SUV can be used for more rural pursuits.

Country music superstar Luke Bryan has lent his name to Chevrolet's bold, stylized Suburban concept with added functionality that speaks to Bryan's "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" outlook, said GM spokesman Randy Fox.

Bryan introduced the Luke Bryan Suburban concept last week at the SEMA Show, where it joins Chevrolet's display of concept and production vehicles, crate engine systems and performance parts during the automotive personalization and performance exposition.

"Chevy has been part of our family and a part of our work life on the farm for as long as I can remember," says Bryan. "If you were a Bryan, you drove a Chevy – and I'm a longtime Suburban owner.

"This partnership is a natural fit for me and this unique Suburban represents everything I and my family want for our outdoor adventures."

Blending the utility of a truck with the versatility of an SUV, Fox said the Luke Bryan Suburban concept is aimed squarely at accommodating the outdoor activities he enjoys with his children. Chevrolet designers interviewed Bryan to learn his wish list for his ultimate outdoor activity vehicle, which included more access to the open air.

To help the Suburban go just about anywhere and "look proud" doing it, said Todd Parker, Chevrolet Design director, the suspension was lifted and rides on modified 22-inch Chevrolet Accessories wheels mounted on 35-inch-tall off-road tires.

The vehicle also features a roof-mounted equipment carrier with a fishing rod holder.

"This concept is all about maximizing the Suburban's space and utility for a family that truly enjoys hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities," said Parker. "There's plenty of room for all their gear, along with added amenities that make the journey more enjoyable."

In addition to the functional enhancements, Parker said the Suburban concept also features a custom Hunter Bronze exterior color with Dark Carbon accents and camo graphics, a roof-mounted light rack and a custom lower fascia.

The liftgate was re-engineered to swing outward rather than upward and incorporates a custom spare tire mount.

"If you live in that hunting, fishing, loving every day mentality, you're going to be a little more stress-free," says Bryan. "And your quality of life will be a little better."

Like other regular-production 2018 Suburban models, Bryan's concept is powered by a direct-injected 5.3L V8, rated at 355 horsepower and 383 lb.-ft. of torque that's backed by a six-speed automatic transmission. The 5.3L engine is part of the classic Chevrolet Small Block family that's delivered proven power and dependability for more than 60 years, said Parker.

The Suburban also features a locking rear differential for sure-footed traction in the outdoors and an 8,000-pound trailering rating (4WD with NHT Max Trailering Package).

Here are some Luke Bryan Suburban Concept Features.

Exterior:

- Chevrolet Accessories mesh grille (custom finish);
- Chevrolet Accessories black tubular assist steps;
- Chevrolet Accessories Thule Canyon roof basket with optional extensions;
- Chevrolet Accessories roof rack cross rails;
- "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" exterior badges;
- Roof-mounted light rack by Baja Designs;
- Roof-mounted fishing rod holder.

Interior:

- Chevrolet Accessories Bluetooth headphones by KICKER;
- Chevrolet Accessories Bluetooth Bullfrog music system by KICKER;
- Concept rear-facing third-row seats with custom footwell;
- Reverse-mounted rear-seat DVD player;
- "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" concept rear floormat.

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# *Mopar-Powered Racer Earns Victory in Vegas*

Mopar Funny Car driver Matt Hagan finally broke through in the Nevada desert Oct. 29, as he won at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway for the very first time.

Hagan put his Hemi-powered, Mopar Pennzoil Dodge Charger R/T from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) in the winner's circle at the 17th annual NHRA Nationals to take his fourth victory of the season and 15th for Mopar-powered Funny Cars in 2017.

It was also the 20th time at least one Mopar Dodge Funny Car from DSR has appeared in the final round through 23 events to date this year.

With just one event remaining in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series season, which includes the six-race Countdown to the Championship playoffs, Mopar vehicles have now claimed victory 20 times across the Funny Car and Top Fuel categories.

Additionally, five Mopar-powered drivers across both categories are still mathematically eligible to win the 2017 championship in two weeks at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona.

During this weekend's NHRA Nationals, Hagan, a two-time Funny Car champion, defeated Courtney Force from the right lane in the final round.

Hagan turned in a pass of 3.942 seconds at 329.42 mph paired with a .050-second reaction time to better Force's 4.020 at 320.05. She left the line with a reaction time of .069.

The duel at the Vegas track surrounded by desert mountains and lying 15 miles north of the famed Strip was a re-match of both this year's NHRA Winternationals and New England Nationals.

Each of those final rounds were also won by Hagan.

Hagan, whose team has struggled in the Countdown, opened his day by pushing past Gary Densham in round one on a clean pass as Densham smoked his tires near the 300-foot mark. The round win was the 300th of Hagan's career.

He next bested Del Worsham, who also struck the tires to put Hagan into the semifinal round against his DSR Mopar teammate Jack Beckman.

Hagan advanced to the final by turning in his third consecutive clean pass as Beckman instantly went up in smoke.

Hagan's victory was the 26th of his career.

# Michigan State's Power Plant to Get $50 Million Boost

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Michigan State University officials plan to spend nearly $50 million modernizing a campus power plant in the coming years.

*The Lansing State Journal* reports that improvements to the T.B. Simon Power Plant will include replacing two boilers that have been in operation since the plant's opening in 1965.

School officials say the new boiler and improvements to the plant's production capacity are expected to take around nine months to plan.

They should take an additional 18 months to complete.

The school says the project will also require state approval.

Michigan State University officials celebrated last week cut the ribbon on a solar panel project which covers more than 700,000 square feet and is expected to generate between 5 percent and 6 percent of the campus' electrical needs.

*One of the Chrysler Pacifica vehicles used by Waymo to test technology.*

# Waymo's Test Vehicles – Pacificas – Hit the Road

ATWATER, Calif. (AP) – Google's self-driving car spin-off is accelerating efforts to convince the public that its technology is almost ready to safely transport people without any human assistance at all.

Waymo, hatched from a Google project started eight years ago, showed off its progress Oct. 30 during a rare peek at a closely guarded testing facility located 120 miles (193 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco. That's where its robots complete their equivalent of driver's education.

The tour included giving more than three dozen reporters rides in Chrysler Pacifica minivans traveling through faux neighborhoods and expressways that Waymo has built on a former Air Force base located in the Californian Central Valley city of Atwater.

The minivans smoothly cruised the roads – driver's seat empty and passengers in the back – at speeds of up to 35 mph. By contrast, the Waymo-powered minivans that have been driving volunteer riders in the Phoenix area still use safety drivers to take over control if something goes wrong.

But Waymo's real goal is to get to the point where people in cars are nothing but passengers.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik told reporters that the company will be making some cars and freight trucks totally driverless fairly soon, though he didn't provide a specific timetable. "We are really close," he said. "We are going to do it when we feel like we are ready."

Since Google began working on self-driving cars in 2009, dozens of established automakers such as General Motors and Ford Motor have entered the race, along with other big technology companies, including Apple and ride-hailing service Uber.

The competition is so fierce and the stakes so high that Waymo is currently suing Uber, alleging that one of its former managers stole its trade secrets and took them with him when he joined Uber in 2016 as part of an elaborate scheme.

# Washington Changes Wireless Car Regs

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Trump administration has quietly set aside plans to require new cars to be able to wirelessly talk to each other, auto industry officials said, jeopardizing one of the most promising technologies for preventing traffic deaths.

The Obama administration proposed last December that all new cars and light trucks come equipped with technology known as vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V. It would enable vehicles to transmit their location, speed, direction and other information 10 times per second. That lets cars detect, for example, when another vehicle is about to run a red light or coming around a blind turn in time to prevent a crash.

The administration has decided not to pursue a final V2V mandate, said two auto industry officials who have spoken with White House and Transportation Department officials and two others whose organizations have spoken to the administration. The industry officials spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to jeopardize their relations with the administration.

The White House and the Department of Transportation declined to comment, but the proposal has been dropped from the White House Office of Management and Budget's list of regulations actively under consideration and instead has been relegated to its long-term agenda.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which is part of the Transportation Department, said in a statement that it is still reviewing more than 460 comments on the proposed mandate before deciding its next step and that no final decision has been made.

Industry officials said decisions on the matter are being made at higher levels of the administration.

Administration officials indicated their decision was based on several factors, including general wariness of imposing costly mandates on industry, even though most automakers support requiring V2V, industry officials said.

President Trump has made reducing government regulations, which he sees as a drain on the economy, a guiding principle of his administration.

The Transportation Department estimates the technology has the potential to prevent or reduce the severity of up to 80 percent of collisions that don't involve alcohol or drugs.

V2V was also expected to provide an extra layer of safety for self-driving cars since it can detect even vehicles hidden by buildings or beyond the range of the sensors and cameras of autonomous vehicles. And it was expected to ease traffic congestion since vehicles could communicate with traffic signals, turning them green to prevent needless waiting, save fuel and reduce emissions.

V2V is one of the "most important tools" for reducing traffic fatalities, but the Trump administration "is locking it in the trunk if they're not going to put out the mandate," said Deborah Hersman, president of the National Safety Council, a congressionally chartered advocacy group. "The only way you're going to get it adopted and deployed in a widespread manner is by having a mandate."

The Obama administration shares some of the blame because it waited years to propose the mandate, she said.

Traffic fatalities have surged over the past two years to 37,461 deaths in 2016, up nearly 5,000 deaths from 2014. It's the largest two-year increase since the early 1960s.

Another reason administration officials are allowing the V2V proposal to languish is strong opposition from the cable and tech industries, auto industry officials said.

The government set aside the 5.9 GHz spectrum band for transportation technologies in 1999. It went unused while the government and automakers spent over a decade and more than $1 billion developing and testing V2V.

Spectrum is finite and in short supply. Cable and tech companies have been seeking permission to use the 5.9 GHz spectrum for additional wireless bandwidth. Automakers say they need the entire 5.9 GHz spectrum for V2V and other safety uses.

The Federal Communications Commission has been conducting tests to see if the spectrum can be shared without interfering with the safety signals. The first test results are expected to be released soon.

Automakers wanted the mandate partly because it would establish V2V protocols to ensure that Fords could talk to Toyotas which could talk to Volkswagens, and so on.

The mandate was also intended to get the technology onto roads faster. It called for half of new vehicles to have V2V within two years after a final rule was issued, and all new vehicles within four years.

The more vehicles equipped with V2V, the more collisions that could be avoided.

It would still take many years before there were enough vehicles with V2V to reap the technology's full promise. That might be accelerated by after-market devices that would bring V2V to older vehicles.


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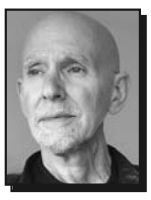

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# Ford Continues Investments in LiDAR, Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sensors – which already serve the commercial mapping and defense industries – will help us extend the range and resolution needed to achieve self-driving capability in challenging urban environments.

"Princeton Lightwave's technology also complements and expands the capability of LiDAR sensors already available to the automotive industry today."

Salesky said that with the addition of the Princeton Lightwave team, Argo is uniquely positioned to innovate in both sensor hardware and the interface between sensor and software – enabling Argo to achieve performance improvements that would not otherwise be possible.

Princeton Lightwave's technology, Salesky said, will help the company unlock new capabilities that will aid their virtual driver system in handling object detection in challenging scenarios, such as poor weather conditions, and safely operate at high speeds in dynamic environments.

"As we've talked about before, even considering how far we've come in bringing about a world of self-driving cars, there's still much we need to accomplish," Salesky said.

"We are constantly exploring how to increase the range, resolution and field of view of LiDAR, but we're also looking to lower costs and manufacture these sensors at scale.

"We have to continue making improvements through dedicated research and development that's aligned with our overall hardware and software strategy.

"Our expanded team remains focused on accelerating the development of a virtual driver system that's mandated for SAE levels four and five autonomous driving – meaning there's no driver behind the wheel.

"By collaborating with our in-house hardware and software developers, as well as our supply base, we will work to create LiDAR sensors that not only meet the demanding performance required for high-volume production, but also are affordable."

Argo's expansion serves to expedite our mission to commercialize and deploy self-driving cars at scale, Salesky said.

"To our talented new team members from Princeton Lightwave: Welcome aboard," Salesky said.

"We're thrilled to embrace your expertise as we all work together to build an exciting future of autonomous vehicles."

# *Ford Sales Top Domestics*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most industry analysts had expected October sales to fall after a big increase in September.

But stronger than expected demand for pickups and SUVs, bigger incentives such as cash rebates, and higher sales to big fleet buyers drove the increase, said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for the LMC Automotive consulting firm.

While some fleet sales are profitable, those to rental car companies generally are made at low profit, and that can cut into automakers' bottom lines.

But some companies such as Nissan seemed to go for the higher sales number, said Akshay Anand, executive analyst for *Kelley Blue Book*.

If history is any indication, November and September will be good months to buy vehicles because companies are likely to raise already high discounts, Anand said.

"If they push with incentives, I think you may see some strong sales months" yet this year, Anand said. "I do think that consumer interest is still strong regardless."

Truck and SUV sales will be 65 percent of new vehicle sales in October, with cars in the 35 percent range, which has been typical for much of the year, said Schuster.

With millions of late-model cars coming off leases into the used-car market and automakers still trying to clear dealer lots of slow-selling cars, it's a great time to get a deal on a less-popular sedan, Anand said.

Analysts said Nissan also had a big increase in fleet sales, although the company said sales to individual buyers rose as well. Toyota and Honda each reported gains of about 1 percent, while VW brand sales were up nearly 12 percent.

New vehicle sales also got a bump from replacement of hurricane-damaged vehicles, although Schuster said it wasn't as large as expected because many people bought used vehicles.

Based on data for the first three weeks of October, sales in Florida rose 5 percent as shoppers finished purchases delayed by Hurricane Irma.

In Houston, they rose only 3 percent as the recovery from Hurricane Harvey wound down.

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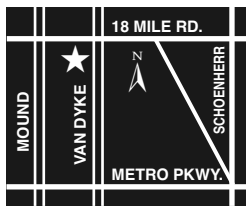


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# GM Settles California Suit

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) – General Motors has agreed to a $13.9 million settlement with Orange County, Calif., after prosecutors accused the auto giant of concealing serious safety defects to avoid costly recalls and part replacements.

The lawsuit, filed in 2014, accused GM of deceptive business practices and unfair competition. It alleged the automaker marketed its brand as safe and reliable while failing to disclose defects that included power steering, air bag and brake problems. As a result of the failures, at least 124 people died and 275 were injured, according to the *Orange County Register*.

Earlier in October, GM agreed to pay $120 million to resolve claims from 49 states and the District of Columbia over faulty ignition switches. The California Attorney General's Office received $7 million in the settlement.

In an Oct. 29 statement obtained by the *Register*, the company said: "GM has reached a constructive settlement with Orange County, Calif., to resolve claims filed by the Orange County district attorney regarding the company's advertising of vehicles that were subject to certain recalls in 2014, including the ignition-switch recall."

Prosecutors said GM trained its staff to never use the words "defect" or "stall" and routinely chose the "cheapest part supplier without regard for safety." The lawsuit said the company also discouraged employees from addressing safety issues, according to the newspaper.

Over five months in 2014, GM was forced to recall 17 million vehicles in 33 recalls for various defects, officials said.

"Since 2014, GM has taken important steps to help ensure the safety of its vehicles, including a new organizational structure dedicated to global vehicle safety and a robust Speak Up for Safety program," the company's statement added.

The settlement in Orange County was approved by a judge on Oct. 29.

"We must protect our consumers from businesses that put profits over people by keeping cars on roads safe and avoiding preventable accidents," District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said in a statement.

"We must also encourage all businesses to be fair and live up to safety standards, and must not allow those engaging in unfair practices to punish those businesses that don't cut corners by compromising safety."

# *State's Gas Prices See Decline in End of October*

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have decreased by about 7 cents per gallon in the past week.

The Dearborn-based auto club said on Oct. 30 that the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about $2.51 per gallon. That's about 38 cents more than at the same point last year.

Michigan's lowest average price was about $2.43 per gallon in the Bay City, Midland and Saginaw areas.

The highest was about $2.58 per gallon in the Marquette area of the state.

The Detroit area's average fell about 2 cents to $2.54 per gallon.

AAA Michigan surveys daily fuel prices at 2,800 gas stations across the state.

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