

Girl Scout 'STEAM' Along at the Design Dome

Girl Scouts from around Michigan had the chance to learn about vehicle design thanks to the GM's "Creative Careers at GM Design" Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics (STEAM) fair.

The gathering took place on Dec. 2 at the Design Dome located on the Tech Center campus, said Maggie Eko, group manager - Academy and Design.

"The purpose of the event," Eko said, "is to introduce young women to auto design and make them aware of the creative design skills a company like GM has, and how there are roles that women can play in the design of a vehicle."

Roughly 200 Girl Scouts from across Michigan attended the event, Eko said. They were part of the Southeast Michigan Council and Heart of Michigan Council.

Eko herself has been working for GM for about 18 years. She got her start in the auto business after graduating from the Columbus College of Art & Design in Ohio.

"I started out at GM as a clay sculptor," Eko said. "I now work as a digital sculptor. Back when I started, we had to build our own tools and learned things the old fashioned way."

But since then, Eko said, vehi-



Girl Scouts got to see, in a hands-on way, how sketching is used to design vehicles at a Tech Center event.

cle design has taken a step forward with the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD) technology.

Much of the design process is done via computer, but there is still a need for people with clay sculpting skills, Eko said. Vehicles still need to be seen in the

real world before going into production.

Eko said that while many of her relatives worked for the auto industry, her parents didn't.

"My father worked for Michigan Bell and my mother was an artist," Eko said. "When I told

them I wanted to get an art degree, they had to be talked into supporting me. I had to find a way to make an art degree pay off."

That's where GM came into the picture.

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Macomb County Opens 15 Mile After Sewer Work

After 347 days, a sinkhole developed alongside a home in Fraser, Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller declared the \$75 million repair of the 15 Mile sewer collapse to be mostly completed.

Miller was joined by local leaders as she drove a Ford Mustang through a ribbon on Dec. 5 to ceremoniously mark the re-opening of 15 Mile Road.

"This day has been a long time coming," Miller said. "But when we stop and realize what has happened here in just under a year, it truly is a testament to the engineers, the construction crews, the finance team - just everyone who has been part of this team to bring us to this point. Most importantly, I want to thank those residents and business owners who were most directly impacted by this collapse. You really showed us what Macomb County people are made of and reminded me yet again of why I am so proud to be a part of this community."

VW Exec Receives 7 Years for Emission Scandal

DETROIT (AP) - A judge on Dec. 6 sentenced a Volkswagen senior manager to seven years in prison for covering up a scheme to evade pollution limits on U.S. diesel vehicles, calling it an astonishing fraud on American consumers.

Oliver Schmidt, who is the second person to be sent to prison over the scandal, was dispatched to the U.S. from Germany in 2015 to meet with suspicious California regulators. But he didn't disclose rogue software that had long fooled authorities into believing that VW was meeting emissions rules on nearly 600,000 vehicles. He also misled American investigators and destroyed documents.

"I'm sure, based upon common sense, that you viewed this cover-up as an opportunity to shine - to climb the corporate ladder at VW," U.S. District Judge Sean Cox said. "Your goal was to impress senior management."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MCC Hosts Event to Educate Students on STEAM Careers

by Jim Stickford

It's never too soon to get a sense of what one wants to do in life. Which is why for the past decade Macomb Community College (MCC) has been hosting an event that educates local students on potential careers.

Joe Petrosky, dean of Engineering and Advanced Technology at MCC, said that last week's "Auto STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics/Manufacturing) fair held at the school's Warren campus has a tradition at the school.

"This was our 11th year holding the event," Petrosky said. "Over the years the event has changed. We used to call it our RET event, which stood for Robotics Engineering and Technology. But times have changed and over the last decade we've refined what we've been doing in

response to what we perceive as the needs of businesses and students."

The goal of Auto STEAM, Petrosky said, is to create an interactive experience where students from area schools get to meet with representatives from industry to learn what careers are out there.

And MCC representatives have the chance to inform these students how they can obtain the education and skills needed for these potential careers, Petrosky said.

This year, said Sean Patrick, media relations manager at MCC, a total of nine organizations set up interactive "pods" for students. The participating companies were Magna, which had a pod about autonomous vehicles. General Motors' pod was about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Cordioli at GM's pod at the recent MCC Auto STEAM fair.



Ford is working with ARGO at Carnegie Mellon to develop new autonomous driving systems..

Ford Goes Back to School For Autonomous Tech

Developing reliable self-driving cars requires pushing the envelope in computer science and artificial intelligence.

While Ford is applying the latest techniques in computer vision and machine learning to the work the company is doing every day, some of the most advanced research is being done at the university level, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall. That's why it's critical to stay connected to the academic community, so the company can cultivate the young minds that will help us bring cutting-edge work out of the lab and into the real world.

To do this, Ford has formed unique affiliations with Carnegie Mellon University and Georgia Institute of Technology to work with three world-class faculty members, Hall said.

"Developing reliable self-driving cars requires pushing the envelope in computer science and artificial intelligence," said Bryan Salesky, CEO, Argo AI. "While we're applying the latest techniques in computer vision and machine learning to the work we're doing every day, some of the most advanced research is

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Tech Center News®

31201 Chicago Road South
Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

Contact us:
Info@TechCenterNews.com

Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m.
for the next edition of Monday

William Springer II, publisher
Lisa A. Torretta, operations
Jim Stickford, news

Tech Center News is a registered
trademark of Springer Publishing Co.

www.TechCenterNews.com

Warren Library Promises Fun This Month

It will be a busy December at the different branches of the Warren Public Library.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning at noon, children can visit with Santa Claus at the Miller branch of the library. Cookies will be provided. In addition children can participate in crafts projects.

Call 586-751-0770 to reserve a spot.

Santa being Santa, he will also be at the Busch branch of the library beginning at 2 p.m. There will also be cookies and arts and crafts projects for children.

To reserve a spot, parents should call 586-353-0580.

Children can stop by the Miller Library on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6-7 p.m. to use old CD's and other recycled materials to create some beautiful Christmas ornaments and decorations. Ages 5-11.

Registration is required, those interested in attending should call 586-751-5377 to register and reserve a spot.

Chevrolet Adds More Safety Technology to Police Units

When it comes to public safety, one can never be too safe.

Which is why GM Fleet is adding new safety features and options to the Chevrolet 2018 Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) for the 2018 model year, including technologies designed to help reduce potential crash speeds or help avoid a crash all together, said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Shamoun.

"We want to protect our protectors and help them get home safely at the end of every shift," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, GM Fleet. "The safety technologies we are introducing on the Tahoe PPV may serve as a second set of eyes."

The centerpiece is a new Enhanced Driver Assist Package that's the first of its kind for a pursuit-rated vehicle, Peper said. The option package is built around five distinct technologies and features:

- **Low Speed Forward Automatic Braking:** This feature, which has never been offered on a pursuit-rated vehicle before, automatically applies the brakes to help reduce a collision's severity if the vehicle is traveling at a low speed and the system detects that a front-end collision is imminent and the driver has not already applied the brakes.

- **Forward Collision Alert:** This system uses radar and a forward-looking camera to measure the closing speeds between a vehicle and objects in its path. If a driver-adjustable threshold is passed, the system triggers a visual alert and audible beeps or seat pulses, if equipped.

- **Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning:** This feature provides gentle steering wheel turns to help drivers avoid crashes due to unintentionally drifting out of their lanes when they are

not actively steering and the turn signals are not activated.

- **Safety Alert Driver Seat:** The GM-patented Safety Alert Seat gives drivers the option of getting haptic seat-bottom vibration pulses instead of audible crash avoidance alerts.

- **Power Adjustable Pedals:** Combined with the Tahoe PPV's standard 10-way power driver seat and tilt wheel, power adjustable pedals help drivers of all sizes find their optimal driving position for comfort and control.

"When they're on road patrol, police officers are constantly multitasking," said Theodore Quisenberry, 43-year law enforcement veteran and the retired chief of the Royal Oak Police Department and the Oakland County Homeland Security Division. "Now when officers are scanning their surroundings, so is their vehicle. That will help them stay safe."

Kass-Shamoun said that according to a 2017 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) re-

port on front crash prevention, vehicles with forward collision warning reduced the rate of rear-end crashes reported to police by 27 percent and when combined with automatic braking cut the rate by 50 percent.

The Tahoe PPV also includes

a number of standard safety and driver assist features including StabiliTrak Electronic Stability Control System, Bluetooth hands-free connectivity, Rear Vision Camera with Rear Park Assist and steering wheel controls.



2018 Chevy Tahoe PPV features First-in-Class Active Safety Technology.

VW Executive is Sentenced to Hard Time

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The judge called Schmidt, who had led VW's engineering and environmental office in Michigan for three years, a "key conspirator" in the deception.

"Without trust in corporate America," Cox said, "the economy can't function."

The diesel vehicles were programmed to trigger certain pollution results only during testing, not during regular road use. The plan was hatched in 2006, and the vehicles were marketed as "clean diesel." Justice Department prosecutor Ben Singer called it the "height of irony."

Schmidt, 48, was arrested in Miami in January while trying to

return to Germany after a vacation. He's been in custody without bond.

"For the disruption of my life, I only have to blame myself. ... I accept the responsibility for the wrong I committed," Schmidt told the judge.

Engineer James Liang cooperated with the FBI and was sentenced to 40 months in prison last summer.

Six others at VW or Audi were charged, but they are in Germany and out of reach of U.S. authorities.

Among them is Heinz-Jakob Neusser, who was described as Schmidt's boss. He was head of

engine development and, later, VW brand development.

VW pleaded guilty as a corporation in March and agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in civil and criminal penalties on top of billions more to buy back cars.

Schmidt's lawyer, David DuMouchel, argued that his sentence should be identical to Liang's, noting that his role only heated up in 2015 in the last months of the scheme. But Singer noted that Schmidt still was a major player at key events and purposely "lied and deceived."

"He could have made a lot of different choices," Singer said.

Art Van Expanding Reach

Art Van Furniture of Warren has acquired two privately-held Pennsylvania furniture companies, Pittsburgh-based Levin Furniture and Altoona-based Wolf Furniture.

The deal was announced on Nov. 27

"Today's acquisitions of these two well-established furniture retailers - both intricately woven into the fabric of their communi-

ties - underscores a transformative new era of thoughtful expansion at Art Van Furniture," said Kim Yost, president and CEO of Art Van Furniture.

"From their commitment to their customers to their longstanding histories and corporate cultures, Levin and Wolf are a perfect fit for Art Van's growing family of brands.

Levin Furniture was founded by Sam Levin in 1920, and is currently led by his grandson, Robert Levin, who serves as President.

Art Van Furniture's acquisition of the 97-year-old, family-owned and operated business will add 35 stores across Pennsylvania and Ohio to its expansive portfolio of brands and showrooms.

Wolf Furniture was co-founded in 1902 by Charles Wolf and John Fox, and is currently led by CEO and fourth-generation family member Doug Wolf.

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Girls Scouts Get to Visit GM's Design Dome

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"For me to be able to talk to young women and tell them that they can pursue an art degree and be creative and be able to work for a company like GM is great," Eko said. "If I knew what I could do with my degree before I got it, I wouldn't have had to convince my parents to support me. Talking to the Girl Scouts allows me to pay it forward as it were."

Many people think of car creation as something men do, but statistics show that about 20 percent of vehicle design jobs go to women, Eko said. That figure is up from previous decades.

"You do need math skills and other technical skills to be a designer," Eko said. "Fortunately most art degrees do require students to take math and science classes. The most common question I've been asked when talking to students is do I like cars."

The answer is pretty simple. "I tell them that cars are art," Eko said. "Everything from the way a car looks on the outside to the switches in the interior and how they are placed has to be designed by artists. You don't have to be a car person to do that."

"I mean it helps, but as soon as I tell students they, their interest perks right up."

Another fact that Eko shares with students is that cars are seen by everyone.



Girls Scouts got their hands dirty at a clay sculpture demonstration.

"An artist with a show in a gallery might have 50 or 100 people see his or her work," Eko said. "Millions of people buy cars and millions more see them."

The day was broken down into seven different segments, Eko said. Scouts were given a 30-minute career awareness presentation.

That was followed by a question and answer session. Scouts were then able to go to the various stations that were set up and see how design is done. This was followed by lunch.

Then scouts were able to go to the photo area and see a product of GM's design team, a green special edition Corvette convertible, Eko said.

"The car's color was 'Girl Scout' green," Eko said. "Then

the scouts were shown videos, and finally, they worked on creating a special badge for their sashes.

"Everyone who participated in the event got a copy of the badge that was created."

Hosting these events is a privilege, Eko said. GM is all about STEAM, and being able to share this with young ladies who might be interested in an automotive career really matters to the students who had the opportunity to participate in the STEAM fair last week.

"There are so many careers out there that young women don't know about, careers they'd be good at," Eko said. "Letting them know about these careers can really make a difference in someone's life."

Macomb County Promotes Local Business for Holiday

In an effort to support independently owned and operated retailers this holiday season, the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development is partnering with the Sterling Heights Regional and Macomb County chambers to launch the #ShopLocalMacomb campaign.

"We know that there are many ways to buy gifts," said Grace Shore, CEO of the Macomb County Chamber. "We want to encourage people to visit the stores that enhance our Main Streets and check out the unique merchandise they have in stock for us."

According to the American Independent Business Alliance, there are many benefits to shopping locally. Owners of small businesses are more than twice as likely to donate to local causes and organizations. Other benefits include:

- Helping to infuse more dollars into the local economy. Small business owners are three times more likely to buy needed supplies from other local retailers.

- Creating vibrant communities. Independent retailers help to define our communities as well as attract visitors and new residents.

- Creating local jobs and tax revenue.

The department created an in-

teractive Shop Local Macomb map which features more than 1,600 locally-owned stores. The map is searchable by type of merchandise sold or location. New this year, the county will also enter information provided by merchants about sales and specials during the campaign.

"All businesses are important in Macomb County," said County Executive Mark A. Hackel. "This campaign provides great incentive to shop locally this holiday season."

More details about the campaign – including information about how shop owners can share information about sales and giveaway rules – can be found at MakeMacombYourHome.com.

The Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development is also encouraging local residents to take advantage of the many cultural opportunities in Macomb this holiday season.

The Anton Art Center, located in downtown Mount Clemens has opened its annual holiday market.

The Art Center's 2017 Holiday Market offers for sale an array of fine arts and delightful crafts, gifts, and holiday décor.

Holiday Market features the work of 130 artists from Macomb County and throughout the state, including over 20 artists whose work is new to the Holiday Market this year.



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Tesla Has Now Built Biggest Solar Battery

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) – The world's biggest lithium-ion battery has plugged into an Australian state grid, an official said Dec. 1, easily delivering on Tesla Inc. chief executive Elon Musk's 100-day guarantee.

Musk promised to build the 100-megawatt battery within 100 days of the contracts being signed at the end of September or hand it over to the South Australia state government for free.

South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill announced Dec. 1 the battery began dispatching power into the state grid on Nov. 30 afternoon, providing 70 megawatts as temperatures rose above 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

"South Australia is now leading the world in dispatchable renewable energy, delivered to homes and businesses 24/7," Weatherill said.

The official launch came a little over 60 days after the deal was signed. But crucially, it came on the first day of the Australian summer – the season when power usage soars due to air conditioning use.

Tesla says the battery has the capacity to power 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout, but is more likely to be called into action to boost supply during peak demand periods.

The battery power packs are installed near the Outback town of Jamestown, about 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of the state capital Adelaide. They store energy generated by the neighboring Hornsdale Wind Farm, owned by French renewable energy company Neoen, to bring added reliability and stability to the state grid.

Tesla partnered with Neoen to build the battery, which is more than three times larger than the

previous record-holder at Mira Loma, California.

South Australia, which relies heavily on solar and wind-generated energy, has been scrambling to find a way to bolster its fragile power grid since the entire state suffered a blackout during a storm last year.

Further power blackouts plagued the state over the next few months.

The battery farm is part of a 550 million Australian dollar (\$420 million) plan announced in March by Weatherill to make the state independent of the nation's power grid.

The cost of the battery has not been made public.

The Australian grid operator has warned of potential shortages of gas-fired electricity across southeast Australia by late next year.

The shortage is looming as Australia is expected to soon overtake Qatar as the world's biggest exporter of liquid natural gas.

Australia is also a major exporter of coal, which fires much of its electricity generation and makes the country one of the world's worst greenhouse gas polluters on a per capita basis.

Delphi Technologies Listed

Delphi Technologies, a leading provider of advanced vehicle propulsion solutions, rang the Opening Bell on Dec. 8 to celebrate the company's listing on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

The new company, a spinoff from Delphi Automotive, builds upon the strength of its heritage of providing advanced vehicle propulsion solutions through combustion systems, electrification products and software and controls for global automotive, commercial vehicle and aftermarket customers, said Delphi Technologies spokeswoman Kristen Kinley.

"On behalf of the entire Delphi Technologies team, it is an honor to be a part of this milestone event, which commemorates our position as a \$4.5 billion independent company trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)," said Liam Butterworth, CEO, Delphi Technologies.

The NYSE streamed the ringing of the Opening Bell on its website livestream.com/NYSE, at 9:30 a.m. ET.

A video of the bell-ringing was then archived on that same page after the livestream, Kinley said.

Delphi Technologies began trading on Dec. 5, 2017 under the ticker symbol "DLPH."

Delphi Technologies is a technology company, Kinley said, whose people focus on solving emissions and fuel economy challenges for the world's leading automotive original equipment manufacturers and provides leading aftermarket service solutions.

Headquartered in London, Delphi Technologies operates technical centers, manufacturing sites and customer support services in 24 countries, including a major facility in Auburn Hills, Kinley said.

Delphi Technologies was created when Delphi Automotive in May announced it was splitting into two companies – Aptiv and Delphi Technologies.

Aptiv will focus on autonomous driving technology and Delphi Technologies focuses on powertrain, advanced propulsion and aftermarket solutions.



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GM 'Marketplace' Tech Turns Car Into Market

Starting in the beginning of December General Motors Co. rolled out the automotive industry's first commerce platform for on-demand reservations and purchases of goods and services. With Marketplace, drivers can now order and pay for their favorite coffee – and much more – on the way to work with a simple tap on the dash.

Marketplace allows customers to order food, find the closest gas station to save on fuel, and make dinner reservations on the go, said GM spokesman Vijay Iyer.

This means Marketplace gives drivers of eligible Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles the opportunity to more safely interact with a growing number of their favorite brands in retail, fuel, hospitality, food, hotel and transportation through the in-vehicle touchscreen.

Marketplace, Iyer said, also features a "Shop" section dedicated to offers specific to GM vehicles, for instance purchasing Wi-Fi data, discounts for an oil change or deals on General Motors accessories. Simple on-screen notifications can identify relevant offers.

"The average American spends 46 minutes per day on the road driving. Leveraging connectivity and our unique data capabilities, we have an opportunity to make every trip more productive and give our customers time back," said Santiago Chamorro, vice president for Global Connected Customer Experience, GM.

"Marketplace is the first of a suite of new personalization features that we will roll out over the next 12 to 18 months to nearly four million U.S. drivers."

Leveraging the embedded 4G LTE connectivity, Chamorro said GM is adding Marketplace to millions of existing 2017 and 2018 model-year cars, trucks and crossovers that have compatible infotainment systems, with continued rollout to compatible new vehicles.

A separate data plan is not required to use Marketplace.

"For most retailers and con-

sumer brands the daily commute is the only time not accessible in a consumers' day," said Chamorro. "Marketplace gives merchants the ability to more safely engage with drivers and passengers in a meaningful way that provides true value for our customers."

Marketplace is designed to be used while driving, Iyer said. It uses machine learning from real-time interaction data, such as location, time of day and a driver's established digital relationship with third-party merchants, to offer highly personalized experiences.

Adhering to industry distracted driving guidelines, as well as GM's strict in-house safety guiding principles, Chamorro said GM designs its in-vehicle systems to minimize manual interactions, helping drivers keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

GM lets customers buy 4G LTE Data packages, extend their On-Star subscription or receive offers for certified service, parts and accessories for their specific vehicle, Iyer said.

The first brands accessible through Marketplace include:

- Starbucks offers another convenient way for customers to order ahead and enjoy their favorite handcrafted beverage or food item. And as part of the Starbucks Rewards program, members enjoy more value by earning Rewards towards free food and drink. (Early 2018)
- Dunkin' Donuts will help customers start their day off right through an experience that allows DD Perks members to pre-order and pay onscreen for their favorite coffee and donut, at their preferred pickup location.
- Wingstop will allow you to skip the wait by re-ordering your favorites and paying ahead, so you can get home in time for the big game
- TGI Fridays will let customers schedule a table reservation for them and their closest friends and family when they need a break from the week.
- Shell will enable the excep-



Marketplace is a platform that allows shopping from a car.

tional driver experience, providing ease of payment and savings with INSTANT GOLD STATUS in the Fuel Rewards program. Customers' closest Shell station will be identified and station amenities showcased among the largest fuel station network in the U.S., with the ability to pay in-dash coming soon.

• ExxonMobil will quickly locate Exxon and Mobil fuel stations with details of what they offer, route you there and get you back on the road faster.

• Priceline.com gives drivers access to hundreds of thousands of hotels and exclusive hotel savings on the go.

• Parkopedia allows drivers to find, reserve and pay for parking, all at the click of a button.

• Applebee's ensures customers are never too far from Eatin' Good in the Neighborhood whether close to home or miles away with the ability to locate their nearest restaurant, order featured menu items and reorder recent favorites through the convenience of their vehicle's touchscreen.

• IHOP makes it easy for guests to enjoy hot, fresh all-day breakfast favorites like fluffy buttermilk pancakes on the go, thanks to safe and secure on-dash ordering and location service capabilities that help search and find the nearest restaurant for pickup.

• delivery.com empowers the neighborhood economy by enabling customers to order online from their favorite local restaurants, wine and spirits shops, grocery stores and laundry and dry-cleaning providers.

To allow merchants to efficiently and quickly integrate their content as part of the in-vehicle Marketplace ecosystem, Iyer said General Motors is working with three main platform partners: Xevo (www.xevo.com) in Seattle, Washington; Conversable (conversable.com) in Austin, Texas; and Sionic Mobile (www.sionicmobile.com) in Atlanta. Merchants interested in Marketplace can contact the above platform partners or email General Motors at Marketplace@onstar.com.

Takata Air Bag Restitution Fund Launched

The Special Master in the United States v. Takata Corporation criminal case in the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan launched, on Dec. 1, the \$850 million restitution fund for OEMs that purchased airbags with PSAN Inflators from Takata Corporation and its subsidiaries.

The Special Master, Eric D. Green, a Boston law professor and mediator, stated that he is sending notice to more than 50 auto manufacturers around the world who purchased the Takata airbags that are subject to widespread recall programs, and who may be eligible for compensation from the OEM Restitution Fund set up as part of Takata Corp.'s plea agreement in February of this year.

According to the Special Master's notice sent to the auto manufacturers, Takata pled guilty on Feb. 27, 2017, to one count of wire fraud and the Court entered the Restitution Order requiring Takata to, among other things, pay restitution in the amount of \$481,848,850 to the OEMs who were defrauded in connection with their purchase of airbags with PSAN Inflators and additional restitution in the amount of \$368,151,150 to all OEMs who purchased airbags with PSAN Inflators from Takata, for a total amount of \$850 million in restitution to OEMs.

On July 31, the Court appointed Professor Eric D. Green as Special Master to oversee the OEM Restitution Fund. His responsibilities include developing ways for distributing funds to eligible claimants, making determinations regarding claims, and making a recommendation to the Court on allocation of funds.

Ford Upping Stakes in China

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – Ford Motor Co. is promising to roll out more than 50 new vehicles in China over the next eight years including 15 powered by electricity as it restructures its business and responds to a government push for cleaner air by making all new vehicles electric.

The automaker, currently a small player in the world's largest auto market, announced the ambitious plan on Tuesday in Shanghai.

In addition to the Ford and Lincoln brand electric vehicles, the company said a new Zotye-Ford joint venture will sell a new line of affordable vehicles that run on batteries.

The move comes as Ford tries to become more competitive globally under new CEO Jim Hackett.

In October, the company announced new plans to cut \$14 billion in costs, drop some car models and focus resources on trucks, SUVs and electric vehicles.

It's also a sign that unlike rival General Motors, Ford has missed out on the past opportunities to grow substantially in China, said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for the LMC Automotive consulting firm.

"China is extremely important and I think this is an acknowledgement of maybe some previous missteps of investment in China for Ford," he said.

Here's what you need to know about Ford's plan:

- Foreign and domestic automakers in China sold 24.4 million cars, minivans and sport-utility vehicles in China last year. LMC forecasts only 1-2 percent growth this year because part of a tax incentive expired at the end of last year, forcing buyers to act in 2017. Schuster says annual growth should settle in in the 3 percent to 4 percent range in future years.
- General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG vie for the title of largest automaker in China. GM sold 383,000 vehicles in October compared with Ford's 150,000.
- In September China joined France and Britain in announcing plans to end sales of gasoline and diesel cars. It's developing a timetable to end production of traditional fuel cars and no date has been set for the change to electrics.
- Schuster says it's not too late for the company to increase sales in China, where growth is expected to outpace other developed nations.
- Ford says it will assemble five additional vehicles in China for customers there including a Lincoln SUV and Ford's first global all-electric SUV. It also will "contain structural cost in the region" this year.
- The company says by the end of 2019 all Ford and Lincoln vehicles in China will be linked to the Internet via modems or plug-in devices, to increase consumer connectivity.

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Ford Moving EV SUV Production To Mexico

DETROIT (AP) – Ford says that shifting production of an electric SUV from the U.S. to Mexico will allow the company to make more self-driving vehicles in Michigan.

Ford announced last January that it would invest \$700 million and hire 700 workers to make electric and autonomous vehicles at its Flat Rock plant near Detroit. Among those vehicles is an all-electric SUV that will go on sale in 2020.

Ford said Dec. 7 it now plans to make the SUV at its Cuatitlan, Mexico, factory.

Ford said it plans to add a second autonomous vehicle to the Flat Rock plant. It will increase its investment there to \$900 million and hire a total of 850 workers.

Ford Motor Co. wants to have an autonomous vehicle on the market in 2021.

Fermi Plant Up And Running

FRENCHTOWN TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) – Officials say the Fermi 2 nuclear power plant in southeastern Michigan has returned to full power after operating at a reduced level for repairs to a pump.

DTE Energy Co. spokesman John Austerberry tells *The Blade* of Toledo, Ohio, that a problem was found in one of the plant's two reactor recirculation pumps after that piece of equipment stopped operating Nov. 25.

The plant operated at approximately 40 percent power while the needed repairs were made to the facility.

Austerberry says the problem didn't affect plant safety systems. He told the Monroe News last month that those systems responded as they should.

The Detroit-based utility's plant is located along Lake Erie in Monroe County's Frenchtown Township.

Businesses Help Educate Area Students on Career Choices

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the use of clay sculpting in the design of cars. Fiat Chrysler's pod was about the use of sketching in vehicle design.

Ford's pod was about rendering vehicles using 3D model technology. Kuka's pod was about the use of programmable logic controllers in manufacturing.

American Axle's pod was about drivability and the use of surface traction. Siemens' pod had a traffic light programming simulation. Comau's pod concerned robotics, and the North American International Auto Show was also on hand. Students learned about the show and how it promotes Detroit and the auto industry.

Petrosky said the students went to each pod and were able to participate in the hands-on demonstrations that took place for their benefit.

One of the industry professionals who interacted with students was Bruna Cordioli, a creative sculptor at GM's Design Dome in the Tech Center.

Cordioli, a native of Brazil, received her degree in product design from the Maua Engineering School San Paulo. She worked first as an intern for GM in Brazil, and eventually got a job with the company.

She came to the U.S. three years ago and has worked on several vehicles, including Cadillacs that haven't yet been shown to the public.

"I am here to show kids how the car design process works," Cordioli said. "We try to give them a perspective on what they can do in the future and that you don't have to be an engineer to work on the creation of cars. That's why we have a full-size model car that students can sculpt."

Cordioli said that the students have been telling her that working on the car is "way fun" and that they are surprised how creative they can get.

"But the most frequent question I hear from students is 'how



Students from across the Detroit area came to a STEAM fair hosted by Macomb Community College.

long does it take to create a car from start to finish," Cordioli said.

"Back in Brazil a lot of people were surprised to learn that women could work in the auto industry designing cars. I want to let students know that they can do this too."

Among the students who at-

tended the STEAM fair was Jade McGuffey of Wyandotte Middle School.

"I wanted to come here to see what you need to be a mechanical engineer," McGuffey said.

"I like to build stuff and think it would really be cool to be a mechanical engineer. So an event like this, where I can learn what I

need to know to be a mechanical engineer."

Petrosky said that the 2017 event was a success.

Now they will rest a couple of months, and then get ready for 2018.

"It takes months to put this on," Petrosky said. "But we think it's worth the work."

Ford Goes to School for Autonomous Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

being done at the university level. That's why it's critical to stay connected to the academic community, so we can cultivate the young minds that will help us bring cutting-edge work out of the lab and into the real world."

To do this, Salesky said, unique affiliations have been formed with Carnegie Mellon University and Georgia Institute of Technology to work with three world-class faculty members.

Simon Lucey, Deva Ramanan and James Hays are collaborating with Argo AI to push the limits in computer vision and machine learning, Salesky said. These research scientists are playing an instrumental role in developing the core technologies that will allow self-driving cars both to see and understand the world around them, and to predict road user behavior.

While Lucey, Ramanan and Hays are spending time at Argo AI, Salesky said they are also benefiting from Argo funding that supports student research covering a wide range of issues pertaining to self-driving cars.

"We're backing their campus work and supporting the time spent with their university colleagues to ensure we are invest-

ing in the future of robotics," Salesky said.

Last year, fewer than 60,000 students graduated in the field of computer and information science, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, Salesky said. Yet there are close to 500,000 computing jobs available right now across the United States.

"So it's important we support the faculty's continued presence and engagement on campus," Salesky said, "as this talent shortage can only be addressed if industry and academia work together to support research and invest wisely in educational programs that get students more involved in science and technology."

These collaborations reflect one way Argo is investing in that future and looking to apply lessons from academia to make self-driving cars a reality, Salesky said. Deva Ramanan is an associate professor at the Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute, where his research interests span computer vision and machine learning. With a focus on visual recognition, Ramanan's work involves training computer programs to identify people by distinguishing different body parts and comparing them against a trove of human and nonhuman models.

"Making sure self-driving cars can accurately identify people in all of their different shapes, sizes and positions is an essential step to establishing their safety and reliability," said Ramanan. "I look forward to developing solutions for this problem with Argo, while continuing to stay connected with my students at Carnegie Mellon and uncovering new areas of research for them to explore."

Prior to this, Salesky said Ramanan was an associate professor at the University of California, Irvine. He was awarded the David Marr Prize in 2009 and the PASCAL VOC Lifetime Achievement Prize in 2010. He earned an NSF Career Award in 2010, the UCI Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research in 2011 and the PAMI Young Researcher Award in 2012. Popular Science named Ramanan one of its "Brilliant 10" researchers in 2012.

Also from Carnegie Mellon is Simon Lucey, Salesky said, an associate research professor at the Robotics Institute. Lucey leads the organization's C12CV Computer Vision Lab, which is engaged in cutting-edge research developing technology in computer vision and machine learning. His work includes training computers to extract geometric information from images and videos, novel approaches for applying vision and learning to embedded devices, and developing ways for computer systems to effectively read facial actions and body behavior.

"Working with Argo is a great opportunity to develop systems that can more readily interpret and anticipate the 3D world," said Lucey. "Not only will students at Carnegie Mellon benefit from this collaboration by spotting fertile ground for further research, but we'll be able to make great strides in preparing autonomous vehicles for the real world."

Prior to his current position, Salesky said Lucey spent five years as a principal research scientist at Australia's leading federal research agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. Lucey was awarded the prestigious Australian Research Council's Future Fellowship in 2009, and holds numerous NSF awards. He also has research gifts from Apple, Adobe, Samsung and Bosch.

James Hays is an associate professor at Georgia Tech's School of Interactive Computing, where he focuses on using internet-scale data and crowd-sourcing to improve scene understanding and allow smarter image synthesis and manipulation, Salesky said. His research interests span computer vision, graphics, robotics and machine learning.

The opportunities and challenges of creating perception systems for autonomous driving are significant, said Hays. At Argo there is the opportunity to train algorithms at a scale beyond what is possible in academia, but we also have the challenge of making a system that works reliably in a real world.

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GM has advice on how people can transport Christmas trees.

Tree Transport for 2017

The holiday season is upon us and for many that includes a fun-filled trip with family or friends to find the perfect holiday tree. But before your tree-hunting adventure begins, it's important to be prepared.

A recently published AAA survey estimates that in the past three years 20 million Americans did not properly secure their trees to their vehicles, which may lead to dangerous road debris, said GM spokeswoman Katie Amann.

To help get your tree home safely, Amann said people should check out the following tips from Chevrolet engineers for transporting a tree in or on top of a vehicle:

1. Dress warmly, wear gloves and bring a piece of cardboard to kneel on if you're cutting your tree down.

2. If you're transporting the tree inside your vehicle, make sure to lay down a tarp to keep your car clean.

If you're transporting the tree on top of your vehicle, make sure you have cross-rails installed so you can help avoid damaging the paint on top of your vehicle.

3. Make sure the tree is tightly bound with netting or rope before tying it to the top of the vehicle.

4. Place the stump end of the tree toward the front of the car to reduce aerodynamic drag and ensure a safe drive home.

5. Lay your tree directly over-top the available cross rails, loop twine over and around it and repeat to cinch it with a figure-eight motion to secure your tree tightly to the vehicle.

This can help protect the tree from moving around while you drive it back to your house after purchase.

6. If possible, use secondary roads and avoid highways when driving with your tree on top of the vehicle. That helps keep the tree on top of your vehicle.

7. BONUS TIP: Choose a car such as the 2018 Chevrolet Traverse with available OnStar 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot1, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto2 compatibility and 120-volt power outlet so you can take the holiday party with you wherever you travel this winter.

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Tesla Wins Court Appeal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) – Tesla Inc. can continue to sell its electric cars directly to consumers in Missouri after a state appeals court reversed a lower court ruling that favored a trade group representing car dealers.

The Missouri Automobile Association sued the state Department of Revenue in 2015, arguing that the agency violated state law by granting licenses allowing Tesla to sell cars directly to customers.

A three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals ruled Dec. 6 that the car dealers association did not have standing to sue the state agency, reversing a lower court's ruling.

“The decision is a victory for Missouri consumers who want the choice to learn about and purchase their Tesla in their home state,” Tesla said in a statement. “We have been serving customers in Missouri for almost five years and have contributed to the state economy and jobs for Missourians – something that will now continue.”

The ruling followed a decision by Cole County Judge Daniel Green last year that the Revenue Department should not renew Tesla's motor vehicle dealer license because the carmaker is not a franchisee. After that ruling, Tesla temporarily closed its offices in Kansas City and a St. Louis suburb.



Gurung's Retail Lab at Cadillac House has the his latest collection.

Cadillac House Brings New Fashion to Marketplace

For the Cadillac brand, style is something that extends beyond automobiles.

The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and Cadillac recently named the next four designers participating in Retail Lab, a mentorship program which provides fashion designers a real-world education in retail, including a rotating physical retail space at Cadillac House, said Cadillac spokesman CJ Smith. The 2018 Retail Lab shops, which will operate for three months each, are Title of Work, Dannijo, Rosetta Getty and Rachel Zoe.

The four designer brands follow the first class, Smith said, which featured Timo Weiland, Cushnie et Ochs, Public School, Tanya Taylor, Pamela Love and Prabal Gurung, whose retail shop opened at Cadillac House this past October for the holiday season.

Retail Lab is a pioneering program developed with Cadillac in which designers are selected through a competitive application process to gain valuable retail experience under the tutelage of fashion industry experts. Participating designers also receive access to a brick-and-mortar retail space at Cadillac House to show their work and sell products.

At Cadillac House, which Smith describes as a brand experience center that invites innovators across art, fashion, entertainment and hospitality to create unique programming for the public, designers are encouraged to transform the space as they see fit to bring to life their unique vision and point of view.

“The selected 2018 Retail Lab designers are a diverse group of American fashion designers with a unique brand story to tell,” said Ashley Sandall, director of Strategic Partnerships for the CFDA. “With Cadillac's continued support, these designers are able to grow their businesses while receiving valuable resources as they consider opening their owned retail stores.”

“Retail Lab is the full embodiment of our brand's commitment to fashion and Cadillac House's

mission to curate ever-changing programming for the community, beyond automotive,” said Nathan Tan, associate director of brand partnerships and experiences at Cadillac. “We are proud to provide this year's class of designers with a blank canvas to experiment with as a physical extension of their brand and look forward to seeing what they each create.”

Retail Lab is also supported by way of store fixtures provided by Alu, mannequins from DK Display, hangers from Henry Hangers and technology and retail business solutions from Prism, Axis and KWI, Smith said.

Retail Lab is located within Cadillac House at 330 Hudson Street in New York. The store will be open six days a week, Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Lab is a program launched by Cadillac and CFDA providing tangible value to designers who are driving the fashion industry forward, Smith said. Participating designers, selected through a competitive application process, will gain valuable retail experience under the tutelage of fashion industry experts.

The main component of Retail Lab will be a custom retail shop located on the ground floor of Cadillac House in New York, while also learning integral keys to success in retail, including business development, marketing and public relations, Smith said. In addition to covering costs associated with a retail space, such as real estate, display units, mannequins, signage and point of sale system, Cadillac will provide each designer with a \$75,000 grant to put towards wholesale buys, sales support and marketing.

As the first Innovation Partner of CFDA's Retail Lab, Accenture works closely with the Lab's select group of emerging fashion designers to develop customized retail strategies and equip them with the critical business knowledge and digital skills required to stay competitive in today's challenging retail market, Smith said.



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GM Sees Self-Driving Cars on Streets in 2019

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors Co. expects to carry passengers and deliver goods with self-driving vehicles in big cities sometime in 2019, telling investors it's moving quickly and plans to be ahead of other automakers and tech companies.

The Detroit automaker recently made the announcement at an investor presentation in San Francisco, saying that based on its current rate of change, it expects "commercial launch at scale" of the autonomous vehicles within the next year or so. The vehicles would not have a human backup driver, the company said.

Company executives didn't say how many vehicles GM would deploy or what cities they would be in, but they were clear that the company plans to run ride-hailing and delivery services and quickly make money off them at higher profit margins than it now makes from selling cars and trucks.

"This business is potentially bigger than our current core business," Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens told the group.

GM said it is important to be first to get the self-driving electric vehicles on the road so the rider experience can be improved quickly and give the company a competitive advantage. GM said there still was much more difficult engineering work to do. And it's not quite clear yet whether the automaker will be first.

Delphi, an automotive supplier, has said it expects commercial vehicles to be using its autonomous system in limited areas in 2019. Delphi recently bought autonomous software startup NuTonomy and is also

partnering with BMW AG, chip-maker Intel Corp. and camera and visual recognition software maker Mobileye.

Google's Waymo division is testing self-driving minivans in Phoenix, carrying passengers without a backup driver in the front seat. An employee in the back will be able to stop the vehicle by pushing a button but won't be able to steer the vehicle. Waymo plans to announce a commercial service in the next few months.

German automaker Daimler AG has teamed up with supplier Bosch to develop autonomous taxis by 2020. And Ford plans to have a self-driving car available for ride-hailing services by 2021.

GM President Dan Ammann said the first commercial use of EVs would be in ride-sharing. He wouldn't say if the service would involve ride-hailing company Lyft, in which GM has invested \$500 million. More details, he said, would come closer to 2019.

GM's Cruise Automation unit is testing autonomous Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicles with human backup drivers in San Francisco, Detroit and Phoenix, and has plans to test in Manhattan next year.

The automaker says it's focused on deploying self-driving vehicles safely, but it also wants to beat rivals to market. Ammann said GM is in the lead to deploy the vehicles in large numbers. Once they're on the road, the vehicles' computers will constantly learn and improve.

"Getting first onto that learning curve is pretty important," he said.

GM estimated the total ride-sharing market could reach \$1.6 trillion once it hits 75 percent of all rides in the U.S. Now it's less than 1 percent. Ammann said GM now makes about \$30,000 per ve-

hicle by selling them, but said ride-hailing and delivery profits could rise to hundreds of thousands of dollars per vehicle.

Because GM has software and sensor development, as well as manufacturing, it can roll out autonomous vehicles cheaper than competitors, the company said.

Investors apparently weren't impressed by the presentation or had already built autonomous vehicles into GM's stock price. After the afternoon presentation, shares of GM fell 1.8 percent to close at \$43.04 while the broader markets ended higher.

Auto Writer Dee-Ann Durbin contributed to this report.

OEM Not Phased By Efforts to End EV Incentive

SMYRNA, Tenn. (AP) - The head of Nissan Motor Co.'s operations in North America said Dec. 4 that the company is undaunted by congressional efforts to do away with a federal tax credit for plug-in electric vehicles.

Boasting a 40 percent increase in battery range to 150 miles (240 kilometers), the 2018 Leaf will hit dealerships early in the new year with a sticker price of just under \$30,000. But that's before a \$7,500 federal tax credit that has been a major selling point for buyers of the previous version of the Leaf or other electric offerings from companies like Tesla or General Motors.

The tax credit could disappear if the House version of a federal tax overhaul bill prevails in negotiations with the Senate, which included the incentive in the bill it passed last week.



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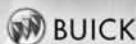
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Mopar Opens Up New Distribution Center

by Jim Stickford

Mopar's efforts to become a world brand took another step forward last week with the opening of Mopar Romulus Parts Distribution Center (PDC).

The site will employ more than 100 people and represents a \$10.4 million investment by FCA, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Darren Jacobs. It increases Mopar's parts distribution network to 23 sites in North America and more than 50 around the world.

With an additional PDC that opened earlier this year in Winchester, Va., FCA US has invested \$22.6 million in 2017 to strengthen its parts distribution network in the U.S., with 23 PDCs in North America, Jacobs said. Combined, the two facilities represent more than 170 jobs.

In addition to U.S. growth, Mopar has also recently expanded its international parts distribution network. In less than five years, Mopar recently has added four new parts distribution centers, including joint ventures in Asia, Europe and South America.

Mark Bosanac, director NAFTA Supply Chain Management and Global Parts for Mopar, said the Romulus facility was built to assist dealers to get parts and represents Mopar's commitment to providing FCA customers with the best parts possible.

Norwood Jewell, UAW vice president and director of the Chrysler Department, spoke at the opening ceremony.

"Back in 2015, there were discussions about this plant and where it would be built," Jewell said. "To actually see a plant like this pop up just shows the growth of FCA and the UAW. This facility gets to ship parts to dealers and support the new cars that are being built. Just look at the new Wrangler. There's a vehicle

that people want to customize, and this plant will help that."

Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service for Mopar, was also on hand at the opening ceremony.

"What a great year for Mopar," Gorlier said. "As some of you may know, Mopar is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The brand was born in 1937 with an antifreeze product. I can't think of a better way to celebrate this anniversary than by opening a state-of-the-art parts distribution center."

Mopar is experiencing growth around the world, Gorlier said. The Romulus site will serve as a global source PDC, replenishing other regional PDCs in the area with the 10,000 highest-volume products in the Mopar brand's 500,000-plus part portfolio. Overall, the facility will use two shifts of workers to handle approximately 45 million parts annually and an estimated 35 inbound and 35 outbound trailers every day.

"All of this work and investment has one objective," Gorlier said. "Be all of the service our customers need. The only purpose for those who work here will be to implement our motto of 'service to the people who drive us.' These customers deserve prompt, fast efficient service with minimum downtime for their vehicles."

The site is part of Mopar's goal of providing total customer service, Gorlier said.

"This is a time when customers have endless possibilities when it comes to ordering parts," Gorlier said. "Often the part they want is just a computer click away. But it is here at this site and others like it where Mopar's vision of becoming a brand that provides total customer service is made a reality. I say let's keep on building this brand and creating our vision."

Gorlier said that by building the Romulus PDC close to the airport, Mopar is able to get parts to customers faster.

That's important because Mopar is part of FCA as it exists today – an automaker with global reach that has 70 million customers on several different continents.

"We have simply developed across several regions around the world," Gorlier said. "We are using the same model of customer care wherever we are, and we are leveraging our assets. It's important to run the business the same everywhere. It's more efficient. Of our 70 million customers globally, 30 million are in North American and 40 million in the rest of the world."

When asked about competition from companies like Amazon, Gorlier said there's always something to learn about how they do business, but at the end



Gorlier opened up a new Mopar parts facility last week in Romulus.

of the day, they still need to get any parts they might sell from Mopar.

"We can learn from them, but they don't build parts," Gorlier said. "Mopar does. This isn't just about auto parts, it's about passion. There is value in having something that represents more

than just a name. Mopar has been doing this for 80 years for many different owners for a company with many different names. They've all invested in the Mopar brand because they saw the value in it. Our customers are passionate for vehicle performance and for the Mopar brand."

New Police Pursuit Car by Ford is a Hybrid

Earlier this year, Ford revealed the world's first-ever pursuit-rated hybrid police vehicle.

Today, the company is giving law enforcement an even more efficient option with the reveal of a plug-in hybrid vehicle capable of driving up to 21 miles without a drop of gas, said Ford spokesman Chris Terry.

The Special Service Plug-In Hybrid Sedan, the first plug-in hybrid police vehicle from Ford, is designed for police and fire chiefs, detectives, and other government personnel whose jobs don't require a pursuit-rated vehicle.

"This is the first Ford police vehicle that can potentially get through an entire shift using no gasoline whatsoever," said Stephen Tyler, Ford police brand



Ford's Special Service Plug-In Hybrid sedan.

marketing manager. "Anyone can plug this in to any wall outlet to run gas- and emissions-free on battery-only operation."

The vehicle's 3.3-kilowatt on-board charger allows agencies to fully charge the 7.6-kilowatt-hour battery in just 2.5 hours on a 240-volt, level-two charger, Tyler said. But Ford is confident most agencies won't need anything more than a regular 120-volt wall outlet to recharge. The lithium-ion battery can move the vehicle up to 21 miles on a single charge and up to 85 mph on battery power alone.

Once the battery runs down, the vehicle is powered by its gasoline-electric hybrid powerplant – with a range surpassing 500 miles – eliminating any concerns of range anxiety typically associated with battery-only electrics.

The custom interior features heavy-duty cloth front seats with reduced bolsters, for officer comfort, and rear anti-stab plates, plus vinyl rear seating and flooring.

Other highlights include a reinforced top tray for mounting equipment, metal console mounting plate, red and white task lighting in the overhead con-

sole, police engine-idle feature, unique alloy wheels and an auxiliary power distribution box in the trunk, Tyler said.

Several unique options are available for the Special Service Plug-In Hybrid Sedan, including a driver spot lamp, a trunk storage vault, trunk ventilation system, and a rear door control-disabling feature.

A special dark-car feature turns off interior lighting and allows the dash cluster to be dimmed 100 percent for surveillance, and several emergency lighting packages like those found on other Ford police vehicles are also available.

The new Special Service Plug-In Hybrid Sedan joins two other Ford police vehicles revealed this year – Ford Police Responder Hybrid Sedan and F-150 Police Responder, Terry said. Recently, both successfully completed rigorous testing conducted by Michigan State Police at Grattan Raceway in Belding, Mich., and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif.

Customers will be able to order the Special Service Plug-In Hybrid Sedan in December with sales starting next summer.

Chao to Speak at 2018 NAIAS Event

The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) was able to get U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao to be keynote speaker of AutoMobili-D, an exposition showcasing a global ecosystem of mobility-focused companies and organizations.

"We are honored to have Secretary Chao keynote AutoMobili-D, the agenda that DOT has set under her leadership demonstrates the important nexus between innovation and transportation and her participation underscores the global significance of our show," said Ryan LaFontaine, NAIAS chairman for 2018.

AutoMobili-D will feature over 150 exhibiting brands, ranging from automakers, to suppliers, to

tech startups as well as universities and government organizations.

In addition, more than 100 industry thought leaders and executives will participate in symposiums and panel discussions throughout Press and Industry Preview Days.

"Automated technologies will change the way we travel and connect with each other," said Secretary Chao. "The Department welcomes this opportunity to share our vision for promoting the safe and secure integration of new technologies into our country's transportation infrastructure."

The 2018 NAIAS and AutoMobili-D Press Conference and Speaker Schedule will be announced later this month.

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