# Tech Center News®

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

**OCTOBER 1, 2018** 



Chevy's Silverado LTZ will be featured at the Texas State Fair.

# Chevy Aims to Make a Big Splash at Texas State Fair

Pickup trucks sales are more Poll to ask 1,012 pickup truck important than ever to automakers. which is why Chevrolet is celebrating this year's State Fair of Texas in the heart of truck country with a new survey quantifying America's love of pickup said GM spokesman trucks. Monte Doran.

While sales figures have long shown Americans' affinity for trucks, Chevrolet's study highlights the connection between owners and their trucks in a new way. Doran said.

Chevrolet worked with Harris

drivers across the U.S. how they feel about their trucks, how they use them to help others in their communities and even what they name them.

This focus on understanding truck customers is integral to Chevrolet's success and helps fuel the most successful truck business in the industry. Chevrolet's devotion to truck customers has shaped everything from the all-new 2019 Silverado 1500 to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# Cadillac is Moving HQ to Warren

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors is moving its Cadillac brand headquarters from New York back to Michigan, four years after heading to the big city to become more cosmopolitan.

The move to the Detroit suburb of Warren, across the street from GM's giant technical center, will take place in April.

The company said Sept. 26 that the brand's workers need to be closer to engineers and designers because Cadillac plans to launch a new vehicle every six months for the next three years.

Cadillac spokesman Donny Nordlicht provided the following statment to the media.

"Cadillac's move to Michigan will further support one of the most aggressive on-going product expansions in the brand's history, with the introduction of a new vehicle every six months through 2020.

"The move will place the Cadillac brand team closer to those responsible for the new Cadillacs, including design, engineering, purchasing and manufacturing, ensuring full integration of Cadillac's global growth strategy. Cadillac will maintain a brand presence in New York City with the Cadillac House, an experiential brand center which serves as a public space for events, concerts and collaborative partnerships until longer term brand plans are in place.

The move comes five months after GM ousted Cadillac brand chief Johan de Nysschen, who thought a New York headquarters would give the brand more sophistication when Cadillac moved to New York in

Cadillac sales fell 8 percent last year but were up 5.4 percent during the first half of 2018.

GM replaced de Nysschen with

Steve Carlisle, who ran GM's Canadian operations.

Spokesman Patrick Morrissey said GM learned a lot about the brand in New York, but circumstances changed since 2014 with Cadillac being part of GM's technology and electric vehicle push. About 70 percent of the workers in New York were recruited from the city, bringing GM new talent, Morrissey said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# Barra Receives Special Award From Yale Group

Mary T. Barra, board chairman and chief executive officer of General Motors, accepted the Yale Chief Executive Leadership Institute's Legend in Leadership Award at a ceremony at the Yale CEO Caucus in Washington, D.C.

The award was presented on Sept. 24 to Barra by David Abney, chairman and chief executive officer of UPS, and Ellen Kullman, former chairman and chief executive officer of DuPont, said Yale spokesman Nathan Williams.

"Mary Barra has GM in her DNA. She worked in GM for 33



**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 

# Ford Celebrates Century of Manufacturing at Rouge Site

by Jim Stickford

Ford celebrated its past by reaffirming its commitment to the future.

Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Company Bill Ford said on Sept. 27 that starting in the year 2020, the Dearborn Assembly plant will begin producing the first F-150 Hybrid.

The Sept. 27 announcement was part of the ceremony that celebrated 100 years of production at Ford's Rouge complex.

In addition to the electric F-150 news, media and invited guests including hundreds of Rouge employees - were given a brief history of the facility and had the he's learned one thing.

opportunity to see samples of every car and truck ever built at the site.

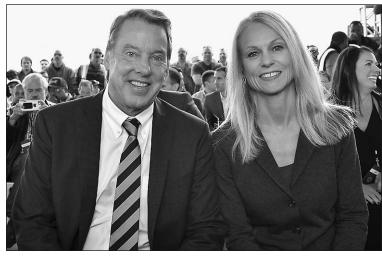
Bernie Ricke, president of UAW Local 600, said he started working at the Rouge complex in the 1970s, and had the chance to meet and talk with people who started there in the 1930s. He said the transformation that has taken place at the facility in the last 40 years was remarkable.

Joe Hinrichs, executive vice president and president of Ford's Global Operations, said he started his career at Ford as a plant manager and his tenure at the company has taken him to Ford facilities around the world - and

"I can tell you that there is no place like the Rouge," Hinrichs said. "The concept behind this place is simple. Henry Ford had the idea to build cars that the average person could afford. To do this, he built the Rouge facility. To make his dream possible, he built a site that gave him complete control of the manufacturing process from beginning to

He said the facility gained national and international attention as a model of mass production, and even today people from Silicon Valley come here to see how Ford does it. But the real secret

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 



Bill Ford with Dearborn Truck Plant manager Debbie Manzano.



From left, Ramsey, Richie, LaFontaine and George, spoke on the potential of automotive subscription services.

# **Automotive Subscription Services Wave of Future**

by Jim Stickford

The future of automotive subscription services was the topic of conversation by a panel of automotive experts at a recent Automotive Press Association gathering at the Detroit Athletic

The panel discussion was held on Sept. 25, and was moderated by Mike Ramsey, research director for the auto industry at the research and advisory company Gartner.

The panelists were Chance Richie, CEO of the automotive subscription service Mobiliti: Joe George, president of Cox Automotive Mobility Solutions; and Ryan LaFontaine, CEO of the La-Fontaine Automotive Group based in Lansing.

Sara Locricchio, spokeswoman for the new car subscription service Mobiliti, said that most services operate along similar lines. Mobiliti is an app-based service. That means that people interested download the app and use it to sign up for the service.

With Mobiliti, people fill out the forms electronically and use the app to find a car they wish to "subscribe" to. So if someone wants, say, a Ford F-150, they put that down. They also give certain information, including a credit card number and driver's license number.

Mobiliti does the rest and sends the app user a location of a car dealership that is part of the Mobiliti network that has a

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31201 Chicago Road South Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

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#### Cadillac HQ Returns Home To Michigan

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

All 110 workers at the headquarters in the Manhattan's So-Ho district will be offered jobs in

De Nysschen was hired away from Nissan's Infiniti luxury brand with much promise and named president of Cadillac in August of 2014. A few months later, he moved the brand's headquarters from Detroit to New York.

New York's economic development agency approved a \$1 million grant to Cadillac to help with the \$12.7 million renovation of the Manhattan headquarters.

Morrissey said GM did not draw down any of the incentive funds "but we are thankful and appreciative of the support we got from New York.'

Jason Conwall, spokesman for Empire State Development, New York state's main economic development office, said the state is disappointed in the move, but understands "this is a business decision being made by GM to co-locate the Cadillac headquarters with the rest of its corporate headquarters.'

He confirmed that the state did not disperse any of the \$1 million performance grant to GM.



## **DowDuPont Works to Meet Market for Electric Vehicles**

The market for electric/hybridelectric vehicles is currently experiencing strong and sustained growth.

To bring innovative and holistic solutions to this market, including autonomous driving, connectivity and related infrastructure, DowDuPont Specialty Products Division is launching AHEAD - a new initiative designed to bring customers solutions and material capabilities from across the new DuPont, said Randy Stone, business president, DuPont Transportation & Advanced Polymers.

"The creation of a dedicated team and offering targeting vehicle electrification, autonomy and connectivity makes sense for DuPont. It reinforces our history in transportation (more than 100 years), our experience, expertise and broad differentiated portfo-

lio of technology and solutions," said Stone.

"Our AHEAD approach builds on recent successes, and by pairing our leading material position with our unmatched capabilities in electronics, we can extend our market leadership in the vehicle electrification and supporting infrastructure space.'

Utilizing adhesives, high-performance elastomers, engineered thermoplastics, fluids/specialty lubricants, electronic materials, high-performance fibers and safety materials, AHEAD will provide innovative solutions for:

- Lightweighting
- Battery pack components and assembly
- Thermal management/safety
- Electric motors
- Powertrain/chassis • Electrical/electronic applica-

tions for improved automa tion including driver assists and self-driving capabilities

Support infrastructure (plugin and induction charging stations, etc.).

DuPont is committed to this initiative and plans to feature AHEAD technologies at several upcoming industry events beginning with the opening of the company's Silicon Valley Technology Center.

# Chevy Aims to Make a Big Splash at Texas State Fair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creation of the Chevrolet Truck Legends program.

Survey highlights:

- According to the survey, 27 percent of U.S. pickup truck drivers love their truck so much that they name it.
- The most popular pickup truck name in America is Betsy. The second most popular truck name is Big Red. Doran said "Big Red" encompasses variations of "Big/Little/Old
- 89 percent of U.S. pickup drivers have used their pick up truck to help others.
- 33 percent have helped tow a friend or family's car.
- 33 percent have used their pickup truck to support a school, community or charitable cause.
- 57 percent of U.S. pickup drivers consider their pickup truck a part of the family.
- 45 percent plan on passing their pickup truck down to a child or loved one. • 38 percent say they love
- their pickup truck more than any other object they own. • 60 percent say they "can't live
- without" their pickup truck • 26 percent learned how to
- drive in a pickup truck. • 10 percent have brought a baby home from the hospital
- in a pickup truck. 9 percent had their first kiss in a pickup truck.
- 38 percent think driving a pickup truck makes them more attractive.
- 37 percent believe driving a pickup truck makes them more popular.

Chevrolet truck sales have fu-

eled the success of GM's overall truck business, Doran said. Since 2014, GM has been the only manufacturer to offer mid-size, light-duty and heavy-duty pickups. As a result, the company has sold more pickup trucks in the United States than any other automaker for four consecutive years, with 2017 sales totaling 948,909 units.

And the company is not waiting for the competition to catch up, Doran said. In 2018. Chevrolet introduced three new pickups, each designed for the diverse needs of truck customers:

- A new Silverado 1500, offering the most functional bed of any full-size truck, weighing up to 450 pounds less for increased performance and offering a broad range of trims and engine/transmission combinations to help each customer find their ideal truck.
- A new Silverado 4500-6500 HD, the first-ever Silverado Class 4, 5 and 6 chassis cab trucks, and the most customer-focused trucks of any major competitor.
- And the Colorado ZR2 Bison, a new performance variant of the midsize truck - and Chevy's first collaboration with American Expedition Vehicles (AEV), a premium off-road aftermarket manufacturer.

This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Poll on behalf of Chevrolet between March 20 and April 3, 2018, among 1,012 adults ages 18 and older who are pickup truck drivers, plus oversamples among pickup truck drivers residing in the states of Texas, California, and Florida.

# **IDTechEx Research Shows State of EV Infrastructure**

IDTechEx Research has re-tery swapping and robotic chargleased a report about the state of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

IDTechEX is a Cambridge, Mass.-based company that consults and provides research on the state of different industries. It was founded in 1999 by Peter Harrop, said IDTechEx spokeswoman Charlotte Martin.

According to the company's report, the global electric vehicle population reached three million units at the end of 2017, which represents approximately 0.23 percent of the global vehicle population, Martin said.

Electric vehicle producers have responded to consumers' range anxiety by increasing the available range per charge in their vehicles to more than 200

However, ultimately the deployment of electric vehicles will depend on the deployment of ubiquitous chargers.

Martin said IDTechEx estimates that approximately 60 million electric vehicle chargers (both public and private) could be deployed in the global market by 2029.

IDTechEx Research's report provides profiles of the leading companies developing and commercializing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, Martin

Some of the key enabling technologies such as semiconductor technology, fast charging, bating will have a role in creating new mobility paradigms.

The EV charging infrastructure value chain will evolve as the integrating of both electric vehicles and renewable energy goes forward, Martin said. Challenges and opportunities arise when this happens, as there will be increasing requirements for operating the electricity network in a smarter way.

For this purpose, concepts like demand-side management and key enabling technologies like energy storage will play a major

The emergence of the autonomous, shared-vehicle and ridehailing platforms will change the needs of charging infrastructure, Martin said.

So what charging technologies can come forward to satisfy these special needs? What will be the overall impact of these technology trends in the future global vehicle population?

Martin said IDTechEx believes that at some point shortly after 2030 the world might reach "peak car" with the emergence of autonomous and shared vehi-The question raises whether an autonomous vehicle will still require a man-operated electric vehicle charger.

The answer is probably not, as initiatives are under way to replace man-operated charging infrastructure, Martin said. This includes technologies like inductive charging and robotic charg-

Some speak about the possibilities of capacitive charging as well, a new concept for charging electric vehicles through electric fields.



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# Work Begins Again on I-696

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - More than 150 stalled road projects across Michigan are set to resume after road builders agreed to end their lockout of a union of heavy equipment operators, Gov. Rick Snyder announced Sept. 27.

The agreement brings to an end, at least temporarily, a labor impasse that had disrupted work for more than three weeks, including on big projects along Interstates 75 and the portion of I-696 that goes through the Detroit suburb of Warren. This action has disrupted commutes of the 30,000 people who work at the GM Tech Center and the Detroit Arsenal. The Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association will stop the lockout of between 1,000 and 2,000 members of the Operating Engineers 324 union, who will work without a contract until the winter.

The parties, who met with Snyder on Sept. 25 but left the meeting without a resolution, will use professional mediation to help with negotiations for a new contract, the governor said to the media.

"This is great news, and I appreciate that both sides were able to see how important the work they do is to the safety and quality of life for all Michiganders," Snyder said in a statement. "The vital work of getting Michigan's roads repaired should not have stalled, but the important thing now is that projects will be getting back

About 50 contractors exercised what they called a "defensive lockout" on Sept. 4.

That was more than three

months after the expiration of the last union contract between employers and construction workers. The union called the actions taken by the contractors an "involuntary layoff.'

Snyder said a priority will be placed on projects that can be finished prior to winter weather arriving, while other projects will continue for as long as possible and be prepared for safe travel if they cannot be completed.

The state had warned the contractors that they could have to pay liquidated damages if their work extends beyond contractually required completion dates. Snyder had floated the possibility of activating the Michigan National Guard to help with "critical" proj-

Mike Nystrom, executive vice president/secretary of MITA, said last week that the contractors had started temporarily hiring an unspecified number of nonunion replacement workers - many from out of state.

"I understand the frustration this has caused, but our association has an important responsibility to our members who are committed to doing the best work they can to build and maintain Michigan's infrastructure on behalf of taxpayers," he said in a statement.

Ken Dombrow, president of Operating Engineers 324, said in a statement that "our members are ready to get back on their machines and get these projects done across the state, and look forward to working again as soon as we can.'

# MCC Earns Top Marks for Banner Design

The Shelby Township Fire Department called Macomb Community College's media and communications arts program when they needed a banner for their open house on Sept. 24.

Professors Mary Bush and Kris Mellebrand coordinated a contest for their students to develop an eye-catching and effective design, said Sean Patrick, manager of Media Relations at MCC.

MCC student Jenna Zelinski, of Macomb, won the contest for her design. She was presented with an award at Shelby Township Fire Station #1 by Shelby Township Fire Chief James Swinkowski and Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis.



Zelinski receives her award from Swinkowski (left) and Stathakis.

# **Area Retention Basin Gets New Designation**

The State of Michigan has re- lieve it serves as a foreshadowstormwater retention basin in St. Clair Shores to more accurately reflect its operations.

In a newly-issued permit, the state has designated the Martin Retention Basin (RTB) as a combined sewer overflow (CSO) facil-County said Macomb spokesman Dan Heaton.

Previously, the facility was designated as a sanitary sewer facility. A combined sewer overflow is comprised of stormwater runoff, with some sanitary sewage included in the flow. A sanitary sewer overflow is all or almost all sanitary sewage. All discharges from the Martin RTB are treated with a sodium hypochlorite solution – a type of bleach – prior to discharge, regardless of the source of the water.

This change not only correctly reflects the operation of the Martin Retention Basin, but I be-

989-856-2650

ing of sorts for future improvements we plan to make at the facility," said Candice S. Miller, Macomb County Public Works commissioner.

The Martin RTB is an 8.6-million gallon underground storage facility used to hold stormwater during heavy rains or snowmelt, Heaton said. When wet weather overloads local storm sewers, the basin is utilized to hold water and, if volumes require, treat it with the sodium hypochlorite solution before discharging the water into Lake St. Clair. The use of the facility ensures that basements and low-lying areas in Roseville and St. Clair Shores do not flood during heavy rains.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality analyzed new data provided by the MCPWO on current operations standards and lake discharges at the Martin RTB and

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decided to re-classify the permit. "Last year, we conducted a

thorough cleaning of the basin, something that hadn't happened in many years. We are preparing to improve the basin's flushing system, which allows us to better clean out the basin between discharge events," Miller said.

# **Barra Receives Special Award From Yale Group**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years - starting as an 18-year-old co-op student working on the factory floor - before being named CEO in 2013," said Caucus organizer Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, senior associate dean for leadership studies at the Yale School of Management.

"Her father worked for GM for almost 40 years as a tool-and-die maker, and Mary went to college at what was then called the General Motors Institute. She held a series of manufacturing, engineering, and senior staff positions, including plant manager, global HR, and global manufacturing engineer. In the aftermath of GM's 2009 bankruptcy, she led the revitalization of GM's product development process, resulting in the launch of celebrated new products, the delivery of record product quality ratings, and a dramatic improvement in customer satisfaction.

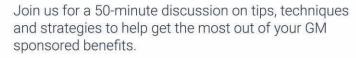
"Barra led the company through a product-safety crisis

she inherited on her first month on the job in January 2014, when an ignition-switch defect led to many deaths in earlier years. Through toughness, transparency, competence, and putting her A-team talent on this challenge as a top priority, she restored and enhanced public trust. She cut unprofitable businesses to invest in the firm's future. On the frontiers of autonomous driving, she has sparked profound strategic, technological, and cultural change."

Last year in October, she announced a "bold new vision" targeting zero accidents, zero emissions, and zero congestion, Sonnenfeld said. "With strong financial performance, it is no wonder that both Fortune and Forbes have ranked her at the top of the most influential women leaders in the world."

The Legend in Leadership Award was created 25 years ago to honor current and former CEOs who serve as living legends to inspire chief executives.





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evan.lian@raymondjames.com.

Meeting 1: 7:00 - 7:50 a.m. (breakfast included) Meeting 2: 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (lunch included)

Location: Courtyard by Marriott Detroit Warren (30190 Van Dyke Ave., Warren, MI 48093)

TUESDAY, OCT. 23, 2018

Meeting 1: 7:00 - 7:50 a.m. (breakfast included) Meeting 2: 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (lunch included)

Location: Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center (400 Renaissance Dr., Detroit, MI 48243)

ALL ATTENDEES WILL BE OFFERED A COMPLIMENTARY RETIREMENT STRESS TEST!



# FORBES 2018 **BEST-IN-STATE** WEALTH

**ADVISORS** Powered by SHOOK Research

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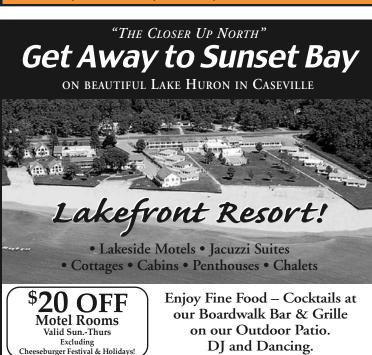
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#### Oct. 2 Set Aside As 'Name Your Car Day'

National Name Your Car Day is celebrated every year on Oct. 2. This day gives Americans a chance to give thanks to their beloved mode of transportation and show some appreciation to what brings them home at the end of the day, said Bosch spokeswoman Kasey Chan.

Bosch Automotive Aftermarket has conducted a survey with Wakefield Research of 1,000 nationally representative U.S. car owners and lessees ages 18 and up and found that more than half of Americans have named their cars. From the top three names to preferences by each generation, Bosch discovers the main trends in naming a car.

The loyalty Americans have to their cars not only inspired National Name Your Car Day, but the data also found that people like to humanize their vehicles by adding a flair of personality to the name, Chan said. Some references include the names of loved ones, characters on the screen or in pop-culture, and classic icons. In fact, more than half of Americans (55 percent) have named their car - and they prefer "people" names.

In a world where people are named after foods and inanimate objects, the list of names for cars is just as vast. Chan said. Though it turns out, Americans don't venture too far down the alphabet when conjuring up a name for their cars and the top three names given to cars are Betsy. Betty and Bessie.

Women's names rule, regardless of whether it's men or women picking the name for their vehicle, Chan said. An overwhelming 73 percent of the human names given to cars are fe-

# **Ford Celebrates Century of Rouge Production**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

to the site's success wasn't something on paper.

"You, our employees, are the ingredient that make the Rouge so successful," Hinrichs said. "Today, Ford employs more autoworkers than any other company in the United States. As to what comes next, it's even more innovation, including a new manufacturing center up the road in Redford. We have continued to invest to make this 20th century icon relevant in the 21st century to a new generation."

Among the employees honored for making the Rouge a great place to work was Willie Fulton, Jr., who started working for Ford in 1953 and still comes to work today.

That makes him the most senior Ford employee in the company, Hinrichs said.

Bill Ford said the site was where the industrial revolution of the 20th century took root. He called the site a marvel of its age.

'What was dismissed as a rust belt relic has been reborn and has proven its critics wrong," Ford said.

"Today, this is the ultimate 'Made in America' facility where the best workers in the world make the best trucks. That's why the 2020 Ford F-150 Hybrid will be built here. When it comes to building the best trucks in the world, we at Ford will never

Some facts about the facility:

- Ford's Rouge complex has survived world wars and recessions to produce millions of vehicles over the past century, as well as supplies for the military.
- After making more than 28 vehicle models, including the innovative aluminum-bodied F-150. the Rouge's Dearborn Truck Plan

will soon make electrified F-150 models.

- The Rouge helped build America's middle class with the \$5-a-day wage, provided jobs for disabled workers and profit sharing. Today, Ford and ÛAW are investing \$35 million to expand a nearby facility to further train its workforce; Ford has opened a new \$45 million Advanced Manufacturing Center to accelerate manufacturing innovation.
- The Rouge, said Hinrichs, sets a global standard for sustainable production, generating zero-waste-to-landfill; the plant's internal aluminum recycling system processes 12 million pounds monthly; and the Rouge features one of the world's largest living roofs, an on-site orchard, and 80,000 honeybees.
- Ford is launching a volunteer program with Friends of the



This 1932 Model B pickup was manufactured at the Rouge site.

born-area employee volunteers about the area's history.

Rouge, a local non-governmental will work with the group to clean organization that cleans up and up trash, clear vegetation and preserves the Rouge River. Dear- participate in hikes to learn more

### Mercedes' Zetsche to Retire Next Year

Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche, who unwound a troubled merger with Chrysler Corporation and led the German automaker to a string of record profits, will hand off next year to Ola Kallenius, a longtime insider who heads vehicle development for the Mercedes-Benz brand.

The Stuttgart-based company said Sept. 26 that the change will take place in May and that Zetsche, 65, would be nominated to become head of the board in 2021 after the term expires for the current chairman, Manfred Bischoff.

Zetsche's latest three-year contract was to end in December 2019 and Kallenius had figured prominently in speculation about who would succeed him.

Chairman Bischoff said that by

nominating Zetsche early for the top board of directors post, "we are ensuring continuity for the sustained success of Daimler

"In Ola Kallenius, we are appointing a recognized, internationally experienced and successful Daimler executive," he said.

The 49-year-old Kallenius, who was born in Vastervik, Sweden, and still holds a Swedish passport, has headed group research and vehicle development for the key Mercedes-Benz luxury car division since the start of 2017. He worked as a manager in corporate controlling in Tuscaloosa, Ala., in the 1990s.

He is now slated to take over Zetsche's dual mandate as both head of the entire company and the Mercedes division. The company also makes trucks and buses and provides financial services.

Kallenius' job is to be filled by Markus Schaefer, head of production and supply chain executive at Mercedes.

Zetsche became CEO of what was then DaimlerChrysler AG in 2006. A smooth public speaker, he appeared for a time in U.S. television commercials as "Dr. Z," ending his explanations of how German technology helped Chrysler brand vehicles with a cheery "auf wiedersehen."

Asked what Zetsche would do after Kallenius takes over, a company spokesman said only that Zetsche remains under contract until the end of 2019. He is also slated to take over as board chairman of travel group TUI on Oct. 1.



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From left, University of Miami's Holmes, Brown, Owens and Ward were among the students who visited FCA.

# FCA Recently Played Host to Black MBA **Students From Across the United States**

by Jim Stickford

FCA US played host to the National Black MBA Association's (NBMBAA) 2018 Graduate Case Competition.

The event was held on Sept. 26 at FCA's Auburn Hills headquarters. Brian Johnson, FCA senior manager of Diversity and Inclusion, said that FCA, and Chrysler before it, has been an active supporter of NBMBAA for more than 30 years and the exclusive sponsor of the Graduate Student Case Competition since 1995. Over that time, more than 2,500 graduate students have participated in the competition.

"FCA US is proud to continue its several decades of long support of the National Black MBA Association and the Graduate Student Case Competition," Johnson said. "The competition is a showcase event for diversity, leadership and student achievement that enables our company to demonstrate our commitment to identifying, recruiting and developing diverse talent and future business leaders.

What makes 2018 special is that the NBMBAA held its first gathering in Detroit 40 years ago, Johnson said. This year is the first time the organization has held its annual conference in Detroit since then.

"FCA has long been a sponsor

of the graduate competition," Johnson said. "We send teams out to the NBMBAA conference, but this year we're able to show MBA students our headquarters and give them a 'day in the life' of working at FCA."

In a tight labor market, it's important that companies like FCA reach out to groups like NBMBAA to secure talent, Johnson said. He pointed out that in recent vears Detroit has become more of a hub for similar events. The city is now home to an annual event that supports women in STEM fields, for example.

"I was born and raised in Detroit." Johnson said. "It's been interesting to see how people from outside Michigan have begun to view the city and now I have a new paradigm for looking at De-

The schools participating in the NBMBAA competition asked to be a part of the event, Johnson said. This year, 36 different schools will participate. Each team consists of either four or five MBA students who must work together to prepare a business plan based on a scenario created for them.

This year's scenario required the students to create a business that develops strategies that position the Mopar brand in today's shared economy.

Johnson said that the students

are given their assignments several week in advance. Each team then has to present their business plans to a panel of judges, who then decide the winners.

The prize for first place is \$25,000, second place is \$15,000 and third place is \$10,000.

Among the schools that sent a team, led by Jacqueline Holmes, from the University of Miami. She picked the rest of the University of Miami team: William Brown, Paige Owens and Darren

"I picked these people because each of them had a different speciality and provided a diverse set of experiences," Holmes said. "Darren comes from the consulting world, Paige has marketing experience and William comes from IT. My area of expertise is supply chain operations.'

Holmes said that once the team was selected, they received the test case scenario from FCA officials.

The team members read what they were given and then began writing down questions they could ask to get more informa-

"We had one phone call with FCA people that enable us to clarify several things," Holmes said. "Once that happened we each came up with ideas on how to proceed in the development of our presentation."

# ACM Working on AV Fleets

Mobility (ACM) has gathered a team of organizations representing defense, academia and the public sector to further research and test automated convoy platooning in a two-year study that will feature both military commercial trucks.

The study aims to autonomously control an entire fleet of vehicles - throttle, brake and steering - while optimizing fuel efficiency and safety, said Center spokeswoman Tracey Shavers.

A study of this proposed scope has not been attempted before. If completed successfully, it will be the first of its kind in the na-

organizations Participating have led multiple years of research, development, design, build, and test efforts in connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) and include: Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.), University of Michigan-Dearborn, Michigan Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab-

The American Center for oratory (NREL) (Golden, Colo.) and the United States Army and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) (Warren).

"This is an unprecedented study with extensive implications as the project touches on many aspects of the CAV ecosystem," said Jeff Rupp, chief technical officer for ACM. "Automated truck platooning promises increased fuel efficiency, improved safety and greater throughput on America's roads.

"This project is an important step to commercializing and safely deploying the technology.'

Experts predict it will take seven to 10 years for autonomously controlled trucks to be safely deployed, Shavers said. Working collaboratively, the group has identified and pooled resources to address deficiencies in prior platooning work studies that will contribute to shortening that window, while also realizing additional opportunities for testing in controlled environments and on the public



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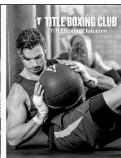
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## **Auto Subscription Service Wave of Future**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Ford F-150. The app user goes to the dealership and picks up the vehicle.

For this service, a monthly fee is charged on the app user's credit card.

"This fee includes just about all of the driver's expenses," Locricchio said. "That includes insurance, roadside service and routine maintenance. The driver pays for his own gas.

"Mobiliti is a Michigan-based company, and we just signed a lease to relocate our offices from Rochester Hills to downtown Detroit."

Chance said that for his company to really work, the dealers that are part of his network have to enjoy profits as a result of their partnership.

"We feel that we have two customers," Chance said. "The driver and the dealers who provide the cars. But for this to really work, dealers have to see being part of a subscription service as a stand-alone profit center at their dealership, not some sort of lead generator. We are bullish on the future of subscription services.

LaFontaine said that Michigan is an unusual state because so many of the vehicles people drive here are leased. But that probably won't always be the

"Clearly, the business is changing," LaFontaine said. "We're at the stage where we are ready to go with subscription services, and we realize that you can't be half in. A lot of people know that subscription services exist, but they don't really know understand how the service works. We provide ease of use and white glove service to the consumer."

And it's not just app companies like Mobiliti that are setting

up subscription services, La-Fontaine said. OEMs such as Volvo are working on a system, and Cadillac already has a subscription services in certain locations, including New York City.

"Subscription services are only good if people know about them and know how to use them," LaFontaine said. "And if we do our jobs right, they will help keep customers for dealers who use them."

George said that while the industry is changing, traditional car ownership will never go down to zero.

"Look, we haven't had a real change in the way people get cars since the advent of leasing,' George said. "And that's been a while. This is something new. Studies have shown that about 25 percent of the public knows about subscription services and about 10 percent of the public has considered using them.'

That means there's room for growth, but that traditional sales methods will still be around, George said.

Ramsey agreed and said that he knew of a recent survey that showed that only 30 percent of the public used any kind of mobility service within the previous vear.

Ramsey asked how this canproduce profits for dealers. Chance said that will all be based on depreciation costs. Vehicles that retain high retail values in the used car marketplace, such as the Jeep Wrangler and small SUVs, will be driving dealer prof-

"It's surprising to many, but what drives profits won't be sports cars like the Corvette," Chance said.

George said that what Cox has seen indicates that what drives subscribers to particular cars is less based on a specific make or model and year of vehicle and more on what features and amenities vehicles have.

"We've seen people flip or switch cars they're using because they want to go on vacation and need a big car," George said.

"My wife doesn't need a big car most of the year, but come the holiday season, when dealing with family and shopping, a bigger car helps."

But everyone involved in subscription services needs to collect more data on what people want and how they use such services, George said. The more data there, the better companies will be able to meet consumer

It's not just dealers and con- won't be successful."

sumers who have to adjust to new realities, said LaFontaine. Automotive lenders who provide financing to dealerships also have to adapt to a changing marketplace.

"Lenders will have to do a lot of due diligence," LaFontaine said. "This is new for them, too. I know that they are interested in us and our business model. They see that change is coming, too."

Chance said that working with Ally Financial made it possible for Mobiliti to put its business plan together.

> "The businesses that don't realize that the world has changed won't be successful."

 Ryan LaFontaine, **LaFontaine** Automotive Group

Chance agreed, saying that for many in the auto industry, it's financing that produces the most profits. And as new technologies such as autonomous vehicles become more prevalent, automotive finance will have to adapt.

And, as auto loans to the public go from 48 months to 72 months, more people will look for alternatives. The dealers and financial institutions that are prepared for these changes are the ones that will survive.

Ramsey asked the question of how the public is responding to subscription services.

He recently read an article where a Lincoln executive said that subscription services didn't generate much business for the brand.

"We're in the hype phase right now," George said. "What we believe is that dealers know their local communities better than anyone and that they will work with OEMs to provide a great product."

As people learn more about subscription services, people will see the market change, George said.

'We're in a perception business," LaFontaine said. "Right now, no one knows what to make of this. When the public reaches the point where they do, watch

The businesses that don't realize that the world has changed

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## BMW Predicts Lower Profits

German luxury automaker BMW said Sept. 25 that its profits and trade conflicts are aggravating sales will fall short of its forecasts this year, saying that fear of international trade conflicts has weighed on pricing and citing the impact of new emissions tests on European markets.

The profit warning - the second from a major German automaker this year – underlines the difficulties facing the industry in maintaining its record of steadily growing sales and profits.

The Munich-based company said that sales revenue in its automotive division would fall slightly compared with last year's instead of increase, while earnings before tax would be moderately below last year's 10.66 billion euros (\$12.55 billion US) instead of roughly in line.

A key earnings metric - the operating profit margin – would fall short. BMW predicts a 7 percent profit margin, below its target range of 8-10 percent. The figure represents how much the company is making per vehicle, an area that has been a strong point

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) - for makers of higher-priced cars.

"The continuing international the market situation and feeding uncertainty," the company said in a statement.

"These circumstances are distorting demand more than anticipated and leading to pricing pressure in several automotive markets."

The company also said that new, tougher diesel emissions tests in Europe, called WLTP for Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicle Test Procedure, have led to market and sales distortions, even though BMW has managed to implement the new standard ahead of time.

Auto registrations soared in Europe in August as companies unloaded noncompliant vehicles before the new standard came into force on Sept. 1 and made them unsellable, often in the form of fleet or rental sales.

The company also cited costs for warranty actions. In August, it announced a recall of 324,000 due to a defect that could cause vehicle fires.



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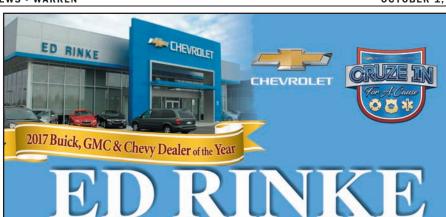
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