

## GM Readies for Annual SEMA Show in Las Vegas

### Chevy's Crate Engine is for the Enthusiast

Chevrolet Performance's newest crate engines go on display in Las Vegas at the SEMA Show Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in a trio of vintage vehicles that showcase the installation possibilities for builders.

The lineup includes:

- 1973 Chevelle Laguna with the new LT5 6.2L supercharged crate engine.
- 1967 C/10 with the new ZZ6 EFI 5.7L V8 crate engine.
- 1978 Silverado with the L96 6.0L V8 crate engine.

The new crate engines add to a portfolio of nearly 50 Small Block, Big Block, LS, LSX, LT, Circle Track and COPO crate engines, giving enthusiasts more choices for powering their projects.

"Chevrolet Performance's expanding crate engine lineup offers something for every enthusiast and his or her dream project," said Jim Campbell, GM U.S. vice president of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports.

"That choice is matched with the peace of mind that comes only from factory-engineered systems tested to the same standards as production vehicles, for performance you can count on."

Many Chevrolet Performance crate engines are offered as Connect & Cruise combinations and emissions-legal E-ROD systems.

The innovative Connect & Cruise combos match crate engines with transmissions and the necessary controllers, while the E-ROD systems include emissions equipment that make them eligible for installation in millions of 1995-and-earlier vehicles in California.

For 2019, the supercharged LT4 E-ROD joins the lineup of LS3 E-ROD, LSA E-ROD and LT1 E-ROD systems.

**1973 Chevelle Laguna / LT5 6.2L Supercharged** – The Chevelle Laguna introduced sporty, more contemporary styling to the Chevrolet lineup in 1973, with distinctive, body-color urethane front and rear fascias. It also made its mark in NASCAR, powering drivers such as Cale Yarborough to the winner's circle.

That racing heritage inspired the build of this show car, which features the new LT5 6.2L supercharged crate engine. It's based on the engine that drives the



1973 Chevy Chevelle Laguna contains the new LT5 crate engine.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## 2019 Camaro to Offer More Choices and Technologies

Color the folks at GM excited. Chevrolet has previewed a new Shock yellow exterior color for the 2019 Camaro. It will be available in early 2019, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

The color made its debut on a 2019 Camaro SS show car that will be on display at the SEMA Show Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Las Vegas, where it will be shown with new accessories and performance parts available from Chevrolet dealers.

"There's a fresh look for the

2019 Camaro, which is restyled, reinvigorated and offers more choices and new technologies," said Steve Majoros, director of Chevrolet Car and Crossover Marketing.

"It's the perfect canvas for personalization, and the new Shock color and available accessories demonstrate only some of the possibilities customers have to make the Camaro entirely theirs."

The expanded portfolio of accessories and performance parts

includes second-generation ground effects, a black wing spoiler, fuel door with exposed carbon-fiber insert, black Camaro fender badges, 50-state-legal cold-air induction kits, RE-CARO performance seats, Brembo six-piston front brake upgrade kit and 1LE suspension components.

The Chevrolet accessories and performance parts were designed by the same designers and engineers responsible for the Camaro itself, for seamless

design and performance integration, Majoros said.

The accessories and parts were also validated to the same rigorous standards as the factory-installed components, and their installation does not void the new-vehicle limited warranty, Majoros said.

Customers can shop online for the parts at Chevrolet.com/accessories and choose home or dealer delivery, or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## German Officials Look at Opel For Emissions Crime

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – German prosecutors said Oct. 15 that law enforcement officials have conducted searches at automaker Opel as part of an investigation into suspected manipulation of diesel emissions.

Meanwhile, the country's transportation ministry said it intended to order 100,000 Opel vehicles recalled, saying Opel had dragged out voluntary fixes.

The dpa news agency reported that investors went to company facilities Oct. 15 in the cities of Russelsheim and Kaiserslautern. Nadja Niesen, a spokeswoman for prosecutors in Frankfurt, was cited by dpa as saying investigators suspect Opel may have used software to turn off emissions controls at certain engine speeds and temperatures.

Opel, which is part of France's PSA Group after being sold by General Motors last year, confirmed the searches but declined to offer details.

Diesel came under scrutiny in Europe after Volkswagen admitted to illegally manipulating software to cheat on U.S. emissions tests. Cars from other automakers were subsequently found to turn off controls at certain temperatures, ostensibly to protect the engine but also increasing emissions.

Germany's transportation ministry said that it had found four instances in which emissions were turned off in the affected models, and that Opel had dragged out a voluntary recall to fix them to the extent that only 70 percent of those vehicles have had their software adjusted to lower emissions.



Ford is raising the production numbers for the 2019 GT supercar.

## Ford to Make Some Dreams Come True Via Extra GTs

Ford Motor Company is increasing Ford GT production to 1,350 vehicles after more than 6,500 applicants raced to sign up for the original 1,000 cars allotted in 2016 – even before the car recaptured LeMans glory later that year.

"The response to our Ford GT has been unprecedented, with initial demand outstripping supply by more than six-to-one," said Hermann Salenbauch, Ford Performance director. "By ex-

tending the Ford GT production run for a limited period, we're able to maintain the exclusivity of the ultra-desirable supercar while offering the ownership experience to a greater number of customers."

Ford is re-opening the application window to customers hoping to join the exclusive group of Ford GT owners starting Nov. 8 for select global markets.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Detroit OEMs Score Big in J.D. Power Quality Analysis

Sometimes you just can't dodge the good news.

Dodge led all mass-market brands in total quality, while three FCA US vehicles won their respective segments in Strategic Vision's 24th annual Total Quality Impact (TQI) report.

The Dodge Durango led the Mid-size SUV segment for the fifth time in six years, while the Jeep Renegade and Ram 2500/3500 captured wins in the Entry SUV and Heavy-Duty Pickups segments, respectively,

said FCA spokesman Berj Alexanian.

Ford also enjoyed success as well, with the C-Max Hybrid being named the winner of the Small Alternative Powertrain (APT) Car category. The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid was the winner in the Near Luxury Car APT category, the F-150 was first in the Full-Size pickup category and the Mustang convertible was tops in the Standard Convertible category.

General Motors winners included the Chevy Camaro Coupe

in the Specialty Coupe category, the Corvette in the Premium Coupe category, the Chevy Colorado in the Standard Pickup category, the Chevy Traverse in the Mid-Size SUV category, the Chevy Tahoe in the Full-Size SUV segment and the Cadillac Escalade in the Luxury SUV category.

"TQI shows how people feel about their vehicles in their own words, which reveal valuable recommendations for future products," says Chris Chaney, senior vice president at Strategic Vision.

"From how customers are advocating about their products, automotive manufacturers can know where the future of the U.S. market is going."

TQI looks at quality as not only the driver's rational evaluation of quality, but also looks at how perceived quality has influenced drivers on an emotional level, Chaney said.

Strategic Vision's 24th annual Total Quality Impact (TQI) report

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



2018 Cadillac Escalade



2019 Dodge Durango



2017 Lincoln MKZ Hybrid



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Warren Hosting First  
Ever Disability Fair

The City of Warren will host its first ever Disability Fair on Friday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium at City Hall.

This event will feature vendors and organizations that will help make life a little bit easier for residents with various disabilities, said Warren Mayor James Fouts.

Warren City Hall is located at 1 City Square, Warren.

For further information, contact the mayor's office at 586-574-4520.

2019 Camaro to Offer More Choices and Technologies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they can select dealer installation.

The Camaro SS Shock show vehicle also features concept front-end styling that includes a relocated bowtie emblem and concept hood/fender graphics.

It will be joined in the Chevrolet SEMA display by a personalized Camaro LT convertible, shown in new Satin Steel Grey Metallic and featuring concept red accents and additional accessories.

New front-end styling on LS, LT and SS models, including the fascia, grille, dual-element headlamps, hood and new LED signature lighting, puts a new face on the 2019 Camaro. The ZL1 model retains its airflow optimized front-



The 2019 Camaro's new Shock exterior color is available early 2019.

end styling, while the RS package also receives unique headlamps and lighting signature.

At the rear, new LED tail lamps are incorporated in a more sculptured execution of Chevrolet's

signature dual-element design. Red lenses are featured on LS and LT, with RS, SS and ZL1 featuring dark-tinted neutral-density (clear) lenses, Majoros said.

- Additional highlights include:
- A new Turbo 1LE model that rounds out Camaro's performance lineup.
  - A new 10-speed paddle-shift automatic transmission offered on Camaro SS, featuring launch control and line lock.
  - New wheel designs.
  - New Chevrolet infotainment systems, including enhanced available navigation.
  - New available full-display rearview camera mirror.
  - New available Forward Collision Alert.

Along with Shock, the 2019 Camaro color palette also includes new Crush, Riverside Blue Metallic, Shadow Grey Metallic and Satin Steel Grey Metallic.

City of Center  
Line Seeks  
Public Input

Officials from the city of Center Line recently announced the completion of a draft parks, recreation and open space master plan, a document prepared in a collaborative effort with the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The plan will guide park development and investments in recreation amenities through 2023. It includes a comprehensive community profile, updates administrative structure and provides a detailed inventory of parks, new goals, objectives and an action plan for investments and improvements.

In order to fulfill Michigan's requirements for adopting a new plan, the draft document will be available for public review and comment now through Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. It is currently available online at [www.centerline.gov](http://www.centerline.gov).

DuPont Nominated for Latest R&D Efforts

DuPont's efforts to innovate in the transportation industries has attracted some notice.

The 2018 R&D 100 Awards program has named four finalists from the new DuPont Transportation & Advanced Polymers portfolio – two grades of Zytel HTN and

two automotive adhesives, BETASEAL 7160 glass bonding systems and BETA-FORCE 9050M composite bonding adhesives. All four product innovations meet customer criteria for challenges including vehicle lightweighting, electrification and the emergence of 5G wireless technology, said DuPont spokeswoman Chris Swart.

Since 1963, the R&D 100 Awards program, an integral part of the R&D Magazine brand, identifies and celebrates the top 100 revolutionary technologies of the past year. This year's winners will be announced at the annual black-tie awards dinner Nov. 16 at the Waldorf Astoria Orlando in Orlando, Fla., Swart said.

"We are very pleased to have four innovative new products recognized as finalists, highlighting our advancements and developments around vehicle lightweight-

ing and advancements in electrification," said Scott Collick, Global R&D leader. "We will continue to work on new innovations as the industry transforms."

The finalists include:

- BETAFORCE 9050M composite bonding adhesive for automotive mass production and multi-material substrates. This adhesive enables significant weight reduction and improves torsional stiffness of the vehicle. Good handling strength after short curing times enables the car manufacturer short tack times, which significantly reduce manufacturing costs.
- BETASEAL 7160 fast-cure glass bonding system for heavy truck windshields improves the process quality of windshield bonding and saves manufacturers from water leakage and necessary repairs.

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## Chevrolet's Crate Engine Aimed at the Enthusiast

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Corvette ZR1 and is the most powerful production engine ever from Chevrolet, rated at 755 horsepower and 715 lb.-ft. of torque. It's also a technology powerhouse, with Chevy's first dual-fuel system, featuring direct injection and supplementary port injection, as well as a new, larger-displacement supercharger to boost the engine's air charge.

Chevrolet designers adapted the production ZR1's carbon fiber hood styling on the Laguna, in a nod to the propulsion system, along with front and rear spoilers that pay homage to the NASCAR racecars of the Seventies. The car rides on a modified suspension and 18-inch wheels.

**1967 C/10 / ZZ6 EFI** – The classic C/10 pickup that helped Chevrolet mark 100 years of building trucks is back, showcasing the new ZZ6 EFI crate engine.

Combining the drivability advantages of electronically controlled fuel injection with the classic style and installation versatility of the 350 Small Block engine, Chevrolet Performance's new ZZ6 EFI crate engine kits offer a "best of both worlds" solution for hot rod and resto-mod projects.

A fuel injection throttle body mounted in place of the carburetor allows a traditional air cleaner to be installed on the engine. The result is a great, traditional appearance and all the drivability advantages of EFI – and a strong 420 horsepower on tap.

Like the ZZ6 EFI, the '67 C/10 show vehicle's classic style is complemented with modern hot rod touches, including a lowered suspension, 20-inch wheels, smoothed and customized bumpers and tailgate, and a custom-trimmed interior.

**1978 K10 Silverado / L96** –

Chevrolet's 1978 K10 Silverado concept blends the classic, two-tone styling of the "square box" generation with the modern performance enabled by an LS engine swap – the heavy-duty truck-based L96 crate engine.

Rated at 360 horsepower and 380 lb.-ft. of torque, the electronically controlled, fuel-injected L96 offers greater power than the Big Block engines of the square box era, in a lighter, more compact package. It's matched in the concept vehicle with an electronically controlled four-speed overdrive automatic transmission, for a combination that exemplifies today's popular trend of adapting modern Chevrolet LS and LT propulsion systems in vintage vehicles.

The black-and-red Silverado 4x4 is geared to look factory-fresh, with a frame-off restoration that was completed at GM's Milford Proving Ground.

In addition to crate engines, Chevrolet Performance supports builders with the complementing components such as accessory drive kits, fuel and spark, and other parts that help complete an installation and get the engine running.

There is also an expanded range of transmissions, including the new 6L80-E six-speed automatic that's designed for LS/LT engine swaps.

The complete lineup of crate engines, engine parts, transmissions and more is available in the 2019 Chevrolet Performance catalog, which is available from Chevrolet dealers or downloadable at Chevroletperformance.com.

## GM Offering New Kind of Warranty Plan

Recent reports by J.D. Power have stated that the quality of automobiles is better than ever.

But it never hurts to have some protection. So, effective immediately, people buying new General Motors vehicles will have the opportunity to purchase a true, extended bumper-to-bumper limited warranty resulting in five years or 60,000 miles of coverage (whichever comes first) for Chevrolet and GMC customers, and six years or 70,000 miles for Buick and Cadillac customers. No other brand offers customers a true extended warranty, said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Shamoun.

"One of the best things about buying a new vehicle is the peace of mind that comes with the warranty," said Ken Mac, director of Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac Protection. "If you drive a Chevrolet, you know that any GM-brand dealer will take care of warranty repairs without paperwork, deductibles or exclusions. The same goes for Cadillac, GMC and Buick owners. Now, we're offering people the opportunity to increase the duration of their bumper-to-bumper warranty far out into the future."

The standard factory bumper-to-bumper limited warranty on Chevrolet and GMC products is three years or 36,000 miles, whichever comes first. On Buicks and Cadillacs, it is four years or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first.

GM's new warranty program differs in several important ways from service contracts, which are a popular way to protect against unexpected repairs, Kass-Shamoun said.



GM now is offering a true extended bumper-to-bumper limited warranty.

The most important differences include:

- The optional limited warranty is accepted without question by all Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac dealers nationwide.
- Any warranty service is completed without need to file a claim form and with no deductible.
- The warranty is in force no matter who owns the vehicle, so there's no need to transfer coverage. This may enhance the resale value of the vehicle, said Mac.
- The option is included in the overall price of the vehicle and can therefore be folded into the loan or lease at the customer's request.

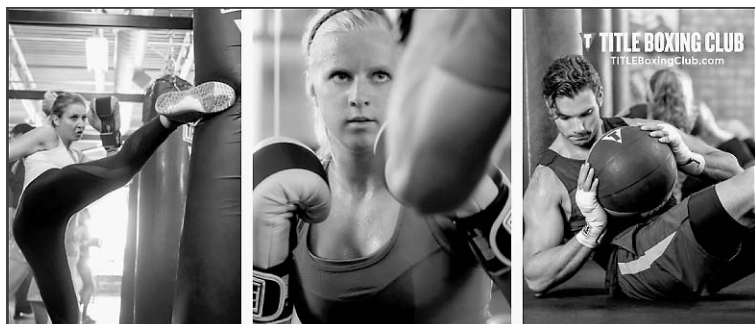
"People who lease typically keep the vehicle for 24-36 months, so most of them are al-

ways covered by the base bumper-to-bumper limited warranty," Mac said. "But if you buy, analysts say you'll likely keep your new vehicle for over six years. This true extended warranty can keep the average customers covered for most if not all of the time they own their vehicle."

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# Detroit Auto Supplier AAM Shows Its Tech in Germany

Detroit-based AAM showcased its latest fuel-efficient and light-weight driveline, powertrain and metal-forming technologies at the IZB International Suppliers Fair held Oct. 16-18 in Wolfsburg, Germany.

A global player in the design, engineering and production of technologies that are lighter, smarter, greener and more power-dense, AAM displayed key products that help automakers manufacture vehicles that are fuel-efficient and help reduce emissions without sacrificing performance.

AAM spokeswoman Andrea Knapp said tech on display will include the company's e-AAM Hybrid and Electric Driveline Technology.

It powers both hybrid and electric vehicles with either one or two electric motors. Knapp said e-AAM technology is highly efficient and helps reduce tail pipe emissions while providing improvements to dynamic safety, acceleration and high-performance all-wheel-drive (AWD).

Smart design and creative technology applications include a unique planetary gear and differential architecture, housing cooling design, integrated park lock and oiling channels, allowing AAM's units to provide power density, she said.

AAM's system allows a vehicle

to reach 60 mph in less than four seconds and more than 186 mph as a maximum speed, Knapp said. e-AAM will enter production this year and will be featured on a global crossover vehicle for the 2019 model year.

Also on display was AAM's QUANTUM Axle Technology. The QUANTUM family of axles provides gains in efficiency, performance and packaging while significantly reducing system weight, said Knapp. QUANTUM delivers reduced mass, increased power density, improved noise vibration and harshness (NVH) and efficiency gains in a more compact system package regardless of vehicle size.

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

In a traditional axle, shims are used to ensure an axle's hypoid gears are installed precisely for optimum durability and NVH.

Because of QUANTUM's smart design, engineers were able to eliminate the need for shims.



3-Dimensional employees prepare replica World Series trophies for the surviving 1968 Tigers.

## Rochester Hills Firm Celebrates '68 Tigers

Hard to believe it's been 50 years.

For the people of the Detroit area, the 1968 baseball season was an amazing time. The Detroit Tigers, one of baseball's oldest franchises, galvanized a divided and conflict-weary city with an improbable pennant drive and a dramatic 1968 World Series victory, said 3-Dimensional Services spokesman Ed Szykula.

Current Tigers management hoped to recapture some of that magic with a 50th anniversary celebration of that '68 team. The celebration, held Sept. 7-9, included on-field festivities in which the 16 surviving members of the 1968 team were awarded replicas of the World Series trophy they won.

To make those replicas, the Tigers turned to the 3-Dimensional Services Group of Rochester Hills, a provider of rapid manufacturing services. Creating those replicas, however, was easier said than done.

The original World Series trophy is large, very complex, and no one around today knew exactly how it had been made, said Szykula.

"The trophy had been made by a jeweler and his craftsmen, and of course there were no CAD drawings back then, and little in the way of other documentation, so we had to begin by reverse-engineering it," says David Krajci, director of Operational Excellence for the 3-Dimensional Services Group.

"First, we white-light-scanned the trophy to get reference points and fed that data into our CAD system, then we disassembled the trophy in order to closely inspect the components to figure out how to reproduce them."

"The toughest part," said Ed Croswell, Operations director at 3-Dimensional Services Group, "was trying to figure out how we were going to efficiently make each component – and 'maintain the design integrity to make sure it looked good.'"

This was complicated by the fact that there are 134 individual components on each trophy. Croswell said he and his 3-Dimensional Services Group team had plenty of tools in their toolkit, with on-site capability for

nearly all modern manufacturing processes.

The 1968 trophy is 12-in. in diameter and 24-in. high and the plan was to build the replicas to a 0.635 scale. However, the project proved more complex than simply reducing trophy components in a uniform manner.

"The trophy, which was made by jewelers, was not built to the tight tolerances we expect today, but we wanted it to be perfect, so we ended up having to tweak it a little to make the tolerances uniform," Croswell said.

In addition, the 3-Dimensional Services Group engineering team determined that the 20 rods (flagpoles) – one for each of the era's major league teams – would be too flimsy if made to scale, so they needed to be slightly bigger.

"We had to make the press pins almost full scale for the simple reason that if not they would be too small to read," Croswell said.

It was issues like these that kept the 3-Dimensional Services Group team burning the midnight oil as they strove to recreate the trophy's 134 components and deliver the replicas in time for the celebration, but Krajci said it was well worth the effort.

"At The 3-Dimensional Services Group, we're proud of all our work," Krajci said, "but this project was beyond special. This was a legacy project."

The 3-Dimensional Services Group, consisting of 3-Dimensional Services, Urgent Plastic Services, Urgent Design & Manufacturing, 3-Dimensional Services – Europe and Michigan Integrated Technologies has earned a reputation for building functional prototype parts and producing low-volume production parts and assembling 50 to 70 percent faster than conventional shops, Szykula said.

## Delphi Technologies Names Interim CEO

Delphi Technologies, a global provider of vehicle propulsion systems, has appointed Hari N. Nair as interim chief executive officer, effective immediately.

Nair succeeds Liam Butterworth, who is stepping down from his role as president and chief executive officer to pursue other interests.

The Board of Directors has commenced a comprehensive search process to identify a permanent chief executive officer, said Delphi spokeswoman Sherief Bakr.

Nair, who has more than 30 years of automotive executive experience, has also been a director of Delphi Technologies since it became a public company in December 2017.

He started his career at General Motors, before joining Tenneco Inc., where he held several senior leadership positions in global operations and the after-market sector.

"We are pleased that a leader of Hari's caliber and experience has agreed to lead the company on an interim basis," said Timothy M. Manganello, non-executive chairman of the Board of Directors.

"With more than three decades of experience, Hari has a deep understanding of our industry and the opportunities ahead of us."

"Our experienced Board will continue to lend its expertise to Hari and the organization while we identify our next CEO and will ensure a smooth transition."

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Meeting 1: 7:00 - 7:50 a.m. (breakfast included)  
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Meeting 1: 7:00 - 7:50 a.m. (breakfast included)  
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# FCA's Women of Color Honored at Event

The automotive industry is more diverse than ever, and FCA US technical business leaders received honors for their career achievements at the annual Women of Color STEM Conference held Oct. 11-13 in Detroit.

The Women of Color Conference honors the significant achievements of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) professions, said FCA spokesman Mike Palese. The conference ensures that the accomplishments of outstanding women in technical fields are highly visible to industry professionals, government officials and students.

FCA US employees consistently have earned important technical professional recognition from various diversity organizations, including Black Engineer of the Year, Women of Color, HENAAC Great Minds in STEM and others said Brian Johnson, FCA US's senior manager of Diversity & Inclusion.

"The Women of Color Awards celebrate many of the country's most promising and influential female technical business leaders," said Johnson. "FCA US is proud that our women technical leaders are regarded consistently among such accomplished professionals."

FCA US employees were honored in a variety of 2018 Women of Color Award categories, Palese said.

A Special Recognition Award recognizes managerial leadership, innovation and technical contributions that improve access to STEM jobs, and demonstrated excellence in the workplace and community. Receiving that award was Mimi Nguyen, Powertrain Planning.

The Technology All-Stars Award recognizes accomplished



Nguyen, Jeep Powertrain Planning, was honored at a STEM event.

professionals who have demonstrated excellence in the workplace and in their communities.

Award winners were:

- Sohaila Feizy-Marandy – Interior Electromechanical Design.
- Pilar O'Hara – Product Development.
- Annaliza Sollestre – Product Development.
- Lolita Ward – Product Development.
- Celeste Worsham – Product Development.
- Maria Guadalupe Pineda Zavaleta – Product Development.

The Technology Rising Stars Award recognizes young professionals who are helping to shape technology for the future.

Receiving the award were:

- Mayra Carranza-Ornelas – Product Development.
- Jeanne Dang – Product Development.
- Marlo Easley-Holloway – Product Development.
- Daquanda Flowers – Manufacturing.

- Jingjing Li - Powertrain.
- Sarika Marfatia – Powertrain.
- Dulce Munoz – Product Development.
- Januari Nelson - Manufacturing.
- Xiaolan Peng – Product Development.
- Kirthika Meenakshi Sundaram Raju – Product Development.
- Virginia Teeple – Product Development.
- Ria Williams – Manufacturing.

Nguyen was recognized at a Leaders and Legends breakfast on Oct. 13, in Detroit. All others were recognized at a Technology Recognition luncheon on Oct. 12, Palese said.

## BorgWarner Has New Approach to Tech Solutions

BorgWarner is increasing its exposure to the latest cutting-edge technologies and accelerating innovation in the mobility sector, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Kathy Graham.

"By partnering with Plug and Play and Franklin Venture Partners," said Brady Ericson, chief strategy officer, "BorgWarner connects us with the next generation of technology innovators in mobility as well as other industries.

Plug and Play is an accelerator ecosystem for startup companies and Franklin Venture Partners is a specialized investment team within Franklin Templeton Investments that invests in private investment opportunities.

"BorgWarner is consistently looking for opportunities to spur new advancements in propulsion and automotive solutions," said Ericson.

"The exposure to these communities enables us to observe a broad range of ideas, which could fit with our business strategy today, or provide us with interesting insight for the future."

By exposing BorgWarner's team members to alternate technological solutions, BorgWarner is now fostering a culture of innovation both in how the company approaches its business and develops propulsion technology solutions for the future, Ericson said.

# Senate Officials Hear From Kia Officials on Car Fires

WASHINGTON (AP) – A Senate committee is asking executives of automakers Kia and Hyundai to testify next month about fire risk in their vehicles.

The request comes as a safety group demands the recall of 2.9 million Kia and Hyundai cars and SUVs in the U.S. because of consumer complaints that they can catch fire without being involved in an accident.

The Republican chairman and top Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee, John Thune of South Dakota and Bill Nelson of Florida, wrote to SeungKyu Yoon, CEO of Kia Motors America, and Kyung Soo Lee, CEO of Hyundai Motors America, inviting them or their designees to a hearing Nov. 14.

A committee spokesman said the date of the hearing could change.

The committee made the letters public Oct. 17.

Hyundai spokesman Michael Stewart said the company was reviewing the invitation.

"Hyundai actively monitors and evaluates potential safety concerns, including non-collision fires, with all of its vehicles and acts swiftly to recall any vehicles with safety-related defects," Stewart said in an

emailed statement to U.S. Senate officials.

A Kia spokesman said that company also was reviewing the matter.

The Center for Auto Safety says that since 2010, there have been more than 220 complaints to the government about fires and another 200 complaints about melted wires and smoke in Kia vehicles.

The complaints involve the 2011-2014 Kia Sorento and Optima, the 2010-2015 Kia Soul, as well as the Hyundai Sonata and Santa Fe.

The center's executive director, Jason Levine, said the group was pleased that the committee intended to hold a hearing "to demand answers from these CEOs."

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# Brexit Worries Ford Execs

LONDON (AP) – The uncertainty over Brexit that's hobbling the British economy is set to go on for longer than expected, leaving companies and households in a limbo.

When Britain triggered the two-year timetable to leave the European Union, October's summit of EU leaders was supposed to be the moment a Brexit deal would be agreed on to give parliaments the time to pass it into law ahead of March's departure.

A deal at the Oct. 17 summit would have lifted some of the pall that's hung over the British economy since the Brexit vote of June 2016. Instead, British Prime Minister Theresa May wasn't able to secure an agreement and EU leaders cancelled a Brexit summit in November. That suggests there won't be any deal until December – at the earliest. Even if May does secure one, there is no certainty she can get it approved by her own, divided parliament.

Some big companies are becoming increasingly vexed by the impasse. Last week, ahead of the summit in Brussels, pharmaceuticals giant AstraZeneca and carmaker Ford issued statements raising doubts about their investments in Britain.

They're worried about supply chains being clogged up, and about their ability to use Britain as a base to access the rest of the European Union. Steven Armstrong, Ford's group vice president, said a so-called "hard Brexit" is a "red line" for his company.

"It could severely damage the U.K.'s competitiveness and result in a significant threat to much of the auto industry, including our own U.K. manufacturing operations," he said.

"We will take whatever action is necessary to protect our business in the event of a hard Brexit."

The worry is Britain could

crash out without a pact on future relations with the EU or without even a transition period to ease its exit – what has become known as a "hard Brexit."

Tariffs would be placed on exports, border checks would be reinstalled, and restrictions could hit travelers and workers. Some are warning of shortages in markets like medicines and even sperm donations.

"For the economy, this could see growth momentum slow again over the winter as uncertainty rises," said James Smith, developed markets economist at ING.

"With businesses becoming more vocal about the impact 'no deal' would have on operations, households may begin to take a more cautious stance if they gradually become more wary about their job security."

Consumers have become cautious, cutting down on spending as a fall in the pound after the Brexit vote pushed up prices for imports.

The housing market has cooled, particularly in parts of London. And companies have become more hesitant to invest.

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## AxleTech Joins Forces with Thor Trucks

AxleTech of Troy, a provider of specialty powertrain solutions, is developing a heavy-duty e-powertrain system with Thor Trucks, a fleet-focused transportation lab building fully electric commercial trucks.

AxleTech and Thor Trucks will integrate AxleTech's e-axle technology with Thor's proprietary battery technology to create a fully electric commercial vehicle powertrain, said AxleTech spokeswoman Cynthia Norris.

"Electric powertrains for on-highway use are rapidly advancing at a global scale, and AxleTech's technology has kept pace with this evolution," said Bill Gryzenia, AxleTech CEO.

"Due to the acute market need for these solutions, we are proud to work alongside Thor Trucks to build the most advanced integrated powertrain components for driveline electrification.

"Our team takes this role seriously and is relentless in identifying and developing the next generation of electric powertrain systems."

Thor Trucks is a California-based transportation lab focused on electrifying commercial fleets, Norris said.

Founded by fleet operators with vast knowledge of the industry, Thor Trucks builds fully electric trucks, including the battery, for medium-duty commercial applications. In July 2018, Thor Trucks announced it will partner with UPS to build and test two fully-electric delivery trucks in the greater Los Angeles Area.

"Thor Trucks will benefit tremendously from AxleTech's industry-leading powertrain expertise as we work to meet the market's increasing demand for electrification," said Giordano Sordoni, co-founder and COO of Thor Trucks.

"This partnership is a significant stride forward in our pursuit to transform the commercial transportation industry."

AxleTech provides integrated solutions for on-highway electric vehicles, including Class 6, 7, and 8 trucks, as well as transit applications.

The company has established many other strategic partnerships with industry leaders to develop groundbreaking customized, fully integrated electric powertrain systems, Norris said.

Earlier this year, the company unveiled its next-generation electric independent suspension concept for high-mobility applications.

AxleTech's 5000 Series eISAS concept enhances performance and has the ability to improve stealth characteristics, lower heat signatures, and improve fuel savings to logistics vehicles, tactical vehicles, and armored personnel carriers, said Norris.

AxleTech plans to launch its newest e-powertrain offering – recently named a 2019 *Automotive News* PACE Awards finalist for its innovation – in January 2019, Norris said.

## Local OEMs Score in Quality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is based on results from the New Vehicle Experience Study (NVES) surveying over 44,000 July-December new vehicle buyers after the first 90 days of ownership.

It incorporates the impact of problems with the vehicle as well as the drivers' analytical and emotional evaluations of quality.

Strategic Vision is a research-based consultancy with over 35 years of experience in understanding the consumers' and constituents' decision-making systems for a variety of Fortune 100 clients, including most automotive manufacturers.

Its unique expertise is in using ValueCentered Psychology to identify consumers' comprehensive, motivational hierarchies, which include the product attributes, personal benefits, value/emotions, and images that drive perceptions and behaviors, Chaney said.

The newly-enhanced Total Quality metric further incorporates the impact of problems with the vehicle as well as the drivers' analytical and emotional evaluations of quality.

These aspects are inseparably connected and crucial to measuring the impact of quality on the overall new vehicle experience, Chaney said.

## Ford Ups Production Of 2019 GT Supercar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Prospective owners will be able to submit their applications for 30 days at FordGT.com.

Successful applicants will work with the Ford GT Concierge Service for a personalized purchase experience of cars produced in the 2020 to 2022 calendar years.

Production of the Ford GT – powered by a twin-turbocharged, 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 engine and featuring a carbon fiber architecture, active aerodynamics and 216 mph top speed – began in December 2016.

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