

Ford Supplier Landi Now Has 50-State CARB Cert.

Torrance, Calif.-based auto supplier Landi Renzo USA Corp. announced last week the development of a 50-state CARB certified and dedicated CNG system that will be available on the 2011/12 gaseous prep 5.4L Ford E-Series Cargo and Passenger Van in the first quarter of 2011.

This dynamic new offering will match the engineering requirements of Ford Motor Co. along with Landi Renzo's global experience as a pioneer leader in system design and installation.

Landi Renzo says that it is sure that following Ford's recommended modification and calibration processes in partner with a prominent Ford Tier 1 supplier, will together provide an exceptional first product offering in the U.S. using Landi Renzo system components.

"Our intention is to change the marketplace by offering a superior system that follows Ford Motor Company's best practices in engineering and calibration while at the same time reducing installation price to final customers. our goal is to open the market," said Andrea Landi, North American President, Landi Renzo USA.

The 2011 / 2012 Ford E-Series 5.4L system highlights are as follows:

- Engineered adhering to Ford's QVM standards (bulletin Q185);
- 50-state CARB certified;
- OBD II-compliant;
- Dedicated CNG system;
- NHTSA and FMVSS compliant;
- Landi Renzo listed as the manufacturer of record.

Meanwhile, Landi Renzo is a global supplier and installer of fuel systems to a variety of

State Effort on Drunk Driving Achieves Goals

During the recent statewide drunk driving crackdown, most Michigan motorists heeded the warning "Drunk Driving / Over the Limit / Under Arrest" as law enforcement agencies took to the streets Aug. 19 - Sept. 6 as part of the nationwide effort to reduce injuries and deaths caused by alcohol-related crashes.

The crackdown was coordinated by the state's Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and paid for with federal traffic safety dollars.

This year, officers made nearly 12,000 traffic stops compared to 13,000 last year, and arrested 35 fewer drunk drivers. During this year's enforcement period, 520 motorists were arrested for drunk driving, while 552 were arrested in 2009.

"These arrests prevented numerous tragedies from occurring," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP Director. "Enforcement efforts like this crackdown save lives."

This year's Labor Day crackdown also netted 84 drug-related arrests and 84 open intoxicants, 75 minor in possession, 290 seat belt and child seat, 1,777 speeding 3,521 other traffic violations cited by patrol officers.

Ford Uses 'Sniffers' to Check Out Those Car Smells

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — When engineers were getting Ford's Transit Connect ready to go on sale in the United States last year, some of them noticed an oily, fishy smell in the van.

Ford staff in Turkey, where the Transit Connect is made, were stumped. They hadn't noticed the smell. But a team of U.S. engineers could smell it, and they went to work stripping down the van's interior until they found the culprit: a sealant used in the doors. Ford has now switched to a new sealant that won't offend American noses.

In the highly competitive auto industry, no detail can be overlooked. That includes odors.

Ford, Toyota, General Motors and others have trained teams of sniffers who evaluate smells, and reject or reformulate any unpleasant materials.

OEM projects.

Landi Renzo USA says it will tap its depth of experience to offer final consumers the highest quality OEM grade alternative fuel systems available in the U.S., even as fuel system demands and technologies continue to be an evolving target.

Landi Renzo is also a global leader in the CNG and LPG fuel systems design, manufacture, installation and service with over 33 percent market share.

Its cousin company, Landi Renzo S.p.A., is traded on the Italian Stock Exchange Star Segment under the ticker symbol of LR.

Its U.S. operations are run out of suburban Los Angeles, in nearby Torrance.

Ford to Debut Focus ST as Its Spotlight Vehicle at Paris Show

The exciting new next-generation Ford Focus range is the star attraction in Ford Motor Company's display at the 2010 Paris Motor Show on Sept. 30.

For the first time, the complete global Ford Focus lineup of three production-ready dynamic bodystyles will be displayed together, providing customers with a full insight into this significant new model before it goes on sale in Europe and North America early in 2011.

Ford is also delivering on its promise to introduce a global performance version of the new Focus with a world premiere for the exciting flagship of the range, the muscular 250 PS Focus ST. The dramatic new ST will launch in early 2012 and will be revealed on September 30 at the Ford stand by Alan Mulally, Ford's President and CEO, and Stephen Odell, Chairman and CEO, Ford of Europe.

The formal launch of the full production-ready Focus range in Paris is highly significant for Ford, as it signals the introduction of the first truly

Consumers Lead Drive Toward 4-Cylinder Engines

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — When it came time for Ray Hancart to choose the engine he wanted in a new Honda Accord, he decided there was no need for the bigger V-6. He picked one with four cylinders.

The Columbus, Ohio, marketing and public relations executive joined a growing trend in U.S. auto sales toward smaller powerplants, choosing Honda's 2.4-liter four.

The trend toward four-cylinder engines is growing so fast that some midsize models, where people have a choice between the two, have seen a 50 percent point increase in the past six years. Overall, the number of four-cylinder engines sold since 2005 has jumped dramatically, from 28 percent of all cars in 2005 to 43 percent so far this year, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank.

The trend is starting to erase what once was conventional wisdom: that a four is

too small to power a midsize car, especially when it's carrying a family. Fours, boosted by turbochargers, are even starting to show up in larger vehicles like the new Ford Explorer sport utility.

"For what I do on a normal basis, the Accord four-cylinder has got more than enough power and go for me," said Hancart, 30, who bought his car in July. "I just didn't see the need, to be honest, to do the upgrade to the six."

Auto executives and analysts expect the growth in smaller engines to continue as the industry scrambles to meet government rules that raise the average new-car gas mileage to 35.5 mpg by 2016, nearly 10 mpg more than now.

Even as recently as 2005, buying a midsize car with a four-cylinder engine was making a compromise. The fours didn't have near the power of a V-6, and they were noisy. Anyone who bought one got fuel economy but traded it for a quieter ride and perhaps the ability to tow a small trailer.

But as gas prices started to

Police Recover Dealer Employee's Stolen Mustang

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — To Matt Stanford, his red 1991 Ford Mustang is more than just a car — it's his "baby."

So when the Plymouth man realized on a recent morning that his car had been stolen from Varsity Ford in Ann Arbor — his family's business and his place of employment — he felt "sheer panic."

"And literally, I'm not afraid to say it, I broke down in tears," Stanford said. "It was my baby."

Stanford said the thief cut a chain to open the gate and stole both his car and the trailer it was resting on.

"As quickly as he got it out of here, he had to have had help," he said. "By the time the security guard made the rounds and got back to that side of the building, they had already gotten the car and gotten it out."

global product developed under the Company's ONE Ford strategy.

The Focus is Ford's most significant car range globally. Developed at Ford's Global centre of excellence for Small Cars in Germany for sale in over 120 markets worldwide, the next-generation model is the most important Focus yet and is created from Ford Motor Company's new global C segment platform with up to 80 per cent parts commonality around the world. This platform will underpin at least ten vehicles globally and account for some two million units of annual production by 2012.

With the complete range of three bodystyles on display in Paris for the first time — sporty five-door, elegant four-door and stylish wagon — show goers will have an exclusive opportunity to see and experience the car's individual design and class leading technology first hand.

New Focus promises to outsmart its competitors by offering more affordable technologies and features than

customers have ever experienced in this critical vehicle segment. Next-generation Focus also offers customers the highest standards of quality and detailed craftsmanship, plus outstanding fuel economy, and will take the legendary Focus driving dynamics to a new level.

At the 2010 Geneva Motor Show, Ford Motor Company's group vice president for Global Product Development, Derrick Kuzak, promised that an exciting new performance version of the next generation Ford Focus was in development.

At Paris, Ford is delivering on that promise by revealing an early preview model of the exciting next-generation Ford Focus ST. Targeted for launch in all global markets from early 2012, the all-new Ford Focus ST will be Ford's first high-performance model developed under its global Performance Vehicles strategy.

The new range-topping Focus — which features a unique 250 PS version of the new 2.0-litre, four-cylinder Ford EcoBoost engine — will be com-

pletely true to Ford's ST heritage, offering driving enthusiasts an intoxicating cocktail of exhilarating performance and handling accompanied by an addictive sound.

Visitors to the Paris display also cannot fail to notice the show car's highly distinctive sports exterior, which is finished in 'Tangerine Scream', a dramatic new body colour that reflects the new ST's exciting and energetic character.

Ford is accelerating its efforts to minimise fuel consumption and CO2 emissions across its product range, and two important new entries to the Ford of Europe product portfolio are being displayed at Paris — a new Ford Mondeo ECOnetic model and a new Ford Ka derivative with standard Ford Auto-Start-Stop system.

These new models follow the significant new developments which have already been introduced during 2010, including the launch of the new high-efficiency Ford EcoBoost turbocharged direct injection petrol engine family

placed in Mason jars with water or heat, which intensify smells. Testers assign numbers to the smells, from one (no smell) to six (strong and disturbing).

Negative tests can force engineers to scrap a part and start over. When Toyota was designing the new Sienna minivan, engineers planned to use a certain foam block as a dampening cushion in the cup holder.

But the foam didn't pass the smell test, so materials engineers worked with design engineers and the supplier to find an alternative.

The suspect was arrested and lodged at the Livingston County Jail on charges of stolen property, receiving and concealing a motor vehicle, and receiving and concealing stolen property valued at at least \$1,000 but not more than \$20,000, according to officials.

Stanford, a self-proclaimed "car guy," said it might be difficult for some people to understand how a vehicle could hold so much sentimental value. But he said his passion for his car is more than just a hobby.

"With all the time, effort, money and just the history of

the car — normally it's not that big of a deal. You call the insurance company, you get another one," Stanford said. "Between all the hard work and money that's gone into it, there's no replacing it in my eyes."

He added, "It's been seven years of my life and labor working on it."

And when he got his car back, still in one piece, Stanford said, "I cried again. I was just overwhelmed. I thought I'd never see the car again, ever."

He added, "It's more than just a car. It's something that you build memories around. I've been all over (the country with the car), racing, and my friends and my family have been there with me."

Stanford said despite the incident, he still considers Varsity Ford to be "a very safe,

and completely updated versions of the powerful yet highly fuel-efficient Duratorq TDCi diesel engines.

Ford is also moving forward with its European electrification program and will be displaying for the first time the core technology destined to drive its C-MAX PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle), that will be produced at the Valencia plant in Spain and is due to go on sale in Europe from 2013.

Along with the wider introduction of low-CO2 Ford ECOnetic Technologies such as Eco Mode and Smart Regenerative Charging, Ford of Europe is on track to surpass its goal of a 30 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions from its new vehicles by 2020, relative to a 2006 model year baseline.

"The launch of the complete new Focus range, plus the global debut of the high-performance ST model, makes this Paris Show not only very exciting for Ford, but also highly significant," said Stephen Odell, Chairman and CEO, Ford of Europe.

rise toward \$3 per gallon and with stricter government requirements looming, automakers moved to improve their fours. They refined the smaller engines and added insulation to make them quieter. They changed the fuel injection systems to boost horsepower. As a result, newer four-cylinder engines have as much power as older V-6 engines.

A version of Hyundai's 2.4-liter, four-cylinder Sonata has 200 horsepower, as much or more than six-cylinder engines from just a few years ago.

"They don't whine. You don't feel like you're in an eggbeater," Jeff Schuster, executive director of global forecasting for J.D. Power and Associates, said of the newer fours.

With gasoline now around \$2.50 per gallon, dealers say gas mileage isn't as big a factor in the choice as it used to be. The fours simply have closed most of the performance gap, plus they cost less than a V-6.

Edwards said.

Sterling said many people believe that automakers add something to the car to create "new car smell." But it just comes from chemicals in the materials. Plasticizers, for example, are chemicals added to plastic to make it more durable and easier to mold into the dashboard and other shapes. Eventually, the chemicals evaporate and the smell goes away.

"Even the smell of roses comes from the chemicals that the plant releases into the air," Sterling said. "Just like roses, plastics, adhesives and other materials have some chemicals in them that are released into the air and are recognized by our noses."

The Ecology Center, an environmental group in Ann Arbor, Mich., has warned that exposure to the many chemicals in car interiors — through touching the seats or steering wheel, for example — may cause health problems. In

secure place."

"This is the first time we've ever had a vehicle stolen from our service lot," he said. "We've been in business almost 30 years."

After being reunited with his car, Stanford had an unexpected visitor — the accused thief.

He showed up at Varsity Ford a day after his arrest with the straps used to strap the car to the trailer and a set of extra tires that were with the trailer, Stanford said.

"He tried to apologize. I accepted my straps and the tires and told him to 'get lost,' and that I would make sure he was prosecuted to the fullest for taking my car," he said.

"He definitely stole the wrong car from the wrong person because I haven't let it rest. There was no way he was getting away with this."

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tests, the center has found bromine, a flame retardant that it says has been linked to thyroid problems and decreased fertility; phthalates, which also have been linked to reproductive problems; and lead.

Toyota has some concern that the chemicals in cars may cause nose and throat irritation, Sterling said.

Currently, there are no U.S. regulations on the chemicals that can be in a car's interior air, but the Japanese Automotive Manufacturers Association has set some voluntary guidelines that Toyota follows. Sterling said those guidelines caused the company to switch to some lower-emission products in some cases, such as a resin with 80 percent lower formaldehyde emissions.

Ford spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said Ford tests all its materials rigorously and hasn't found any harmful chemicals.