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2011 Dodge Durango Heat

Tesla Signs Lease in D.C.

Tesla Motors has signed a 5-year showroom lease at the LEED Gold / 1050 K Street building in the heart of the Washington, D.C. business district.

Heralding their first entry into the Washington area, the Palo Alto, Calif.-based Tesla is the first such carmaker permitted to open an automobile showroom and servicing center in an office building downtown D.C.

"We are excited Tesla chose D.C. and our building to showcase their stellar product," said landlord Edward Lenkin, owner of real estate company The Lenkin Co.

The Tesla Roadster has

helped revolutionize the auto industry by offering a sports car that actually accelerates faster than most supercars or sports cars - yet it produces no tailpipe emissions. Tesla dealerships are designed to be stylish and inviting, where people come to learn about its latest technology. Some say they even look like Apple retail stores in their layout and impact.

"Tesla's zero-emission vehicles are precisely the types of environmental innovations that will drive affordable mass-market consumer choices in the future," said Jeffrey S. Abramson, partner, the Tower Companies.

GM's China Sales Surpass U.S. For First Time Ever

By TOM KRISHER and YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Co. sold more cars and trucks in China last year than it did in the U.S., for the first time in the company's 102-year history.

Despite GM's growth in China, Toyota Motor Corp. held onto the title of world's largest automaker. The Japanese company reported 8.42 million sales worldwide last year. That's 30,000 more than GM's 8.39 million.

GM said Monday that it sold 2.35 million vehicles in fast-growing China, about 136,000 more than it sold in the U.S., with China sales

surging 29 percent as an expanding middle class gained wealth. Sales in the U.S., including heavy-duty vehicles, rose 6.3 percent as GM continued to rebound from its 2009 stay in bankruptcy protection.

GM expects its sales growth to continue, and industry analysts say it may once again dethrone Toyota as the global sales leader this year. GM will announce Monday that it's adding a third shift to a pickup truck assembly plant in Flint, Michigan, to meet an expected increase in demand as the U.S. economic recovery continues.

Pickup truck sales in the U.S. were up 16 percent last year to 1.6 million vehicles,

and they're still among the top-selling vehicles in the country. GM says small businesses are beginning to buy pickups again after staying out of the market for nearly two years.

The company will bring back 650 laid-off workers to staff the Flint plant, which has been operating on two shifts per day, according to a person briefed on a scheduled announcement. The last time the plant worked around the clock was in the second quarter of 2008.

Pickup truck sales rose 16 percent in the U.S. last year, and GM expects sales to continue to go up.

General Motors achieved double-digit jumps in five of

its top 10 markets, including the 29 percent increase in China. Toyota, in contrast, sold just 846,000 vehicles in China.

GM also marked a 12.4 percent sales rise in Russia and a 10.4 percent rise in Brazil.

GM and Toyota tied for the global sales lead in 2007, ending GM's 76-year string of global dominance. Toyota took the title in 2008 and has held it ever since, but last year's string of embarrassing safety recalls and a resurgent GM combined to make the race close again.

Toyota sold 8.42 million vehicles globally in 2010, narrowly remaining the world's top automaker ahead of General Motors, which sold 8.39 million cars and trucks.

Dodge Puts 'Sport' in Sport-Utility with Durango Heat

CHICAGO — Dodge is turning up the heat in the full-size SUV segment, introducing a new affordable performance package for the all-new 2011 Dodge Durango SUV — the Dodge Durango Heat.

Designed to complement the performance-tuned Durango R/T, the new Heat package delivers aggressive styling, the high-performing 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 engine with 295 horsepower and a surprisingly affordable price.

With a starting U.S. Manufacturer's Retail Price (MSRP) of \$30,295 (excluding destination), the Dodge Durango Heat will be available at dealerships across the country in the Spring of 2011.

"Durango Heat is about handling performance and a street presence that puts the sport in sport-utility," said Ralph Gilles, president and CEO, Dodge Brand — Chrysler Group LLC.

"The unibody rear-wheel-drive (available all-wheel-drive), two-row exclusive seating configuration makes this the lightest Durango model. A world-class double wishbone front suspension and multi-link rear suspension make Heat a handling champ that moves out smartly with 295 horsepower, a

dual-exhaust, tuned air induction, custom 20-inch Satin Carbon finished wheels while delivering ultimate utility with more storage room at 50 cubic feet than anything it competes with. The Durango Heat also is among the most efficient in its class at 23 miles per gallon on the highway. For the money, there's truly nothing like it on the market."

From the outside, the Durango Heat and the R/T have a striking resemblance. Both feature a unique fascia with fog lamps, a color-matched grille and dark headlamp bezels. The color-matched body kit, wheel lips and rear fascia with integrated dual chrome exhaust outlets, give the Heat a lower stance.

Built on the Durango's new unibody platform, which is 25 percent stiffer than the Durango it replaces, the five-passenger Heat also shares R/T's performance-biased engineering, including its aggressive suspension tuning, performance steering, unique 20-inch wheels with all-season performance tires (three-season high-performance tires for even greater grip and response also are available), a 20-mm lower ride height, tuned dual-exhaust and a modernized interior that

holds drivers in their seats.

Where the R/T is powered by the legendary 5.7-liter HEMI V-8 engine, the Heat is powered by the new Pentastar V-6 engine.

The 3.6-liter V-6 engine is an all-new design, featuring double-overhead camshafts (DOHC) and a high-pressure die-cast aluminum cylinder block in a 60 degree configuration.

Contributing to best-in-class V-6 towing at 6,200 lbs. and a top speed of 130 miles per hour, the engine delivers 295 horsepower (216 kW) at

6,350 rpm and 260 lb.-ft. (353 N•m) of torque at 4,500 rpm. The EPA fuel economy miles per gallon (mpg) (City/Hwy) are 16/23 for the rear-wheel-drive model and 16/22 for the all-wheel-drive model.

While Heat entices with performance-biased styling and handling, the newest Durango also maintains SUV capability with room for five passengers and 50 cubic feet of storage space — more storage capacity behind the second row than any other five-passenger vehicle.

GM CEO Akerson to Chair, Speak At Karmanos Annual Fundraiser

DETROIT — The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute has announced that Dan Akerson, GM chairman and chief executive officer, and his wife Karin will serve as chairs of this year's annual dinner gala.

The 29th annual dinner is one of Detroit's leading charitable events that raises critical funds to support groundbreaking cancer research, exceptional patient care and education at Karmanos.

"We are extremely pleased that the Akersons will chair this wonderful event that helps support our continued ability to provide the very best in cancer care," said Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D., president and CEO of Karmanos.

"General Motors has been an important and long-standing partner in the fight against cancer. We look forward to an exceptional evening to celebrate with our greatest supporters and advocates in the community."

The annual dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at the General Motors Heritage Center in Sterling Heights, a unique showplace of GM vehicles throughout the decades.

The black-tie event features a reception, an elegant dinner, entertainment, a live auction, and a raffle sponsored by Tiffany & Co.

Akerson will also make a special address at the event.

"Karin and I feel privileged to serve as chairs for Karmanos' Annual Dinner," said Akerson.

"As a company, GM strongly believes that research must continue so that we can all benefit from the latest scientific advancements in cancer care and treatment. GM is proud to partner with such a world-renowned cancer institute right here in our own backyard.

"On a personal note, my wife and I are both pleased to



GM's Dan Akerson

be part of this stellar event. As new members of the metro Detroit community, we look forward to getting to know Dr. Bepler and his team of cancer experts who are literally creating the breakthrough cancer therapies of tomorrow."

Funds from this year's annual dinner will support the new Joseph Dresner Family Bone Marrow Transplant and Hematologic Malignancies Center, planned to open later this year at Karmanos.

The Dresner Center will benefit hundreds of patients each month who are being treated for leukemia, multiple myeloma, lymphoma and other hematologic disorders. It will also expand Karmanos' ability to conduct future cancer research and clinical trials focusing on these diseases.

General Motors is serving as host sponsor for the gala. Compuware Corporation is serving as executive sponsor.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Maureen Bender at 313-576-8111 or email mbender@karmanos.org. For additional information and reservations, call Lisa Koltunichik at 313-576-8106 or email koltuncl@karmanos.org.

Located in mid-town Detroit, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is one of 40 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States.

Caring for nearly 6,000 new patients annually on a budget of \$216 million, and conducting more than 700 cancer-specific scientific investigation programs and clinical trials, Karmanos is among the nation's best cancer centers.

Through the commitment of 1,000 staff, including nearly 300 physicians and researchers on faculty at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, and supported by thousands of volunteer and financial donors, Karmanos strives to prevent, detect and eradicate all forms of cancer.

Its long-term partnership with the WSU School of Medicine enhances the collaboration of critical research and academics related to cancer care.

Camaro ZL1 Launch Set for Early 2012

CHICAGO — The 2012 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 debuted last week at the Chicago Auto Show.

It is the highest-performing Camaro and the most technically advanced car developed in its class. It is planned to launch at the beginning of 2012.

Motivated by a supercharged V8 engine producing an estimated 550 horsepower, the Camaro ZL1 will be the fastest Camaro ever offered by Chevrolet.

The ZL1 features technologically advanced and highly developed chassis and suspension systems that help it deliver balanced, track-ready handling and braking power to complement its high engine output.

Development of the ZL1 is ongoing, and official estimates of the car's capabilities will be released later in 2011, as testing nears completion.

"Camaro ZL1 is about high-tech performance and design, and is a type of car no one has ever brought to this segment previously," said Rick Scheidt, vice president of Chevrolet marketing.

"It's the most technically advanced Camaro ever, so we've chosen a name from the most elite and exclusive Camaro in history."

The ZL1 name is derived from the all-aluminum racing engine of the same name, which was developed in the late 1960s and installed into a handful of regular-production 1969 Camaros. Only 69 were built with the engine, but they've achieved mythical status among enthusiasts, as they represented the pinnacle in Camaro performance.

The central goal of the car's development was creating something new: a Camaro intended to reach optimal lap times on top road-racing circuits and excellent driving dynamics on the street.

To achieve that goal, engineers evolved many of the existing Camaro's systems, as well as incorporated new technologies such as electric power steering and Magnetic Ride Control, the world's



GM Design Vice President Ed Welburn unveils the high-performance ZL1 Camaro at the Chicago Auto Show. The automaker plans to launch the supercharged vehicle at the beginning of 2012.

fastest-reacting suspension system.

Camaro ZL1's design communicates and supports its performance mission. Rather than using decorative elements, ZL1 is visually differentiated from other current Camaro models with elements vital to the car's elevated capabilities.

"Everything about the ZL1's design is directly related to its technology and serious performance, especially aerodynamics," said Ed Welburn, vice president, Global Design.

"Our designers' goal was to execute that function-oriented design with beautifully sculpted forms, creating an imposing, powerful persona. Function becomes the aesthetic. The intent is a car that delivers on the attitude it projects."

Major elements of the ZL1's design are a new front fascia and hood with air extractors, designed in tandem to create aerodynamic downforce to aid handling.

The car's hood includes a signature center section constructed of carbon fiber and rendered in satin black finish.

New rocker panels, wide tires, 20-inch wheels and exhaust tips portray the car's handling and power.

The ZL1 badge appears on

the grille, hood and the brake calipers, all key areas portraying the technology within.

Supporting the track and street performance of the ZL1 is the LSA 6.2L supercharged engine, which will produce an estimated 550 horsepower and 550 lb. ft. of torque, with specific features for the Camaro.

Built on GM's all-aluminum, small-block V8 architecture, the LSA features an inter-cooled supercharger system, premium heat-resistant aluminum-alloy cylinder heads and other details designed to ensure its performance is delivered with smoothness and refinement.

All of the Camaro exterior colors will be offered with the ZL1, but black is the only interior color. The unique exterior features are complemented with a black center section on the hood.

Inside, the Camaro ZL1 has heated leather seats with microfiber inserts and ZL1 logos embroidered on the front headrests. Microfiber suede is repeated as an accent on the instrument panel, adding a richer look to the interior.

The ZL1 will include the same content as the current 2SS package and include the new features as well.

Engineers have driven Ca-

maro ZL1 prototypes extensively at demanding road courses in the U.S. and Germany, with final testing being completed through the balance of 2011.

The modern Camaro came back on the market following a six-year absence to rest the brand. In its first full year on the market, much to Chevy's surprise, it sold 100,000 units.

Wine Fest Returns to MIS

Here's looking at you, Michigan International Speedway.

MIS will host its second annual Great Lakes Wine Festival on Saturday, May 21.

This event will feature the tastes and toasts of various Michigan wineries, Michigan breweries and Michigan eateries in a rather unique setting — a NASCAR speedway.

"We are really excited to bring back the Great Lakes Wine Fest this year," said MIS President Richard Curtis. "We had a fantastic event last year and energized to make this year's event bigger and better."

This year's event is a one-day affair running from 12 noon to 9 p.m. on May 21. Live entertainment will be featured throughout the day

from the MIS stage. Other activities will include a host of wine, beer and food tasting opportunities from dozens of vendors.

Making its return will be the interactive, fun and informative food pairing seminars from award-winning chef Frank Marrara.

"Chef Frank" hosted several wine and food pairings last year and each of them sold out. Pairings included cherry wine with sinful chocolate mousse, select harvest Riesling with pan seared salmon on a bed of sautéed leeks and sassy rosy wine with sautéed chicken breast, among several other different wine-and-food combinations.

For ticket information and other details, visit the MIS Web site.