



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

The opening of TACOM's new GSPCL vehicle testing lab at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren drew hundreds of visitors to the opening ceremonies and public tours last week.



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The Army Materiel Command band flew in from the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama to perform at the opening of TACOM's new GSPCL lab in Warren last week.

New TACOM Lab at Detroit Arsenal Site Can Test Every Ground Vehicle Platform in U.S. Military Inventory

by Gerald Scott News Dept.

TACOM Lifecycle Management Command opened its new vehicle test lab in Warren and participants said this debut puts the Army entity at the head of the class.

Indeed, the bright and shiny GSPCL - for Ground Systems Power and Energy Laboratory - offers TACOM and its TARDEC partner a suite of new military and heavy vehicle test equipment and cells that is comprehensive enough to make even the Big Three swoon.

The eight-labs-in-one GSPCL facility offers numerous testing capabilities and an unmatched combination of resources in a single lab. GSPCL is located at the center of the Detroit Arsenal in Warren.

TACOM hosted a grand opening last week and hundreds attended, including all manner of visitors from the Pentagon and Washington, D.C. But then, there was much to show off, according to officials at the Detroit Arsenal.

GSPCL is described as offering shared access to industry and academia to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas to develop emerging energy technologies and validate ground vehicle systems - research that could also help the U.S. achieve its related energy security goals.

"GSPCL gives the Army overarching, full-spectrum testing and evaluation capability," said TARDEC Interim Director Jennifer Hitchcock.

"The GSPCL's unique facilities will allow the Army to drive innovation for tomorrow's energy solutions."

More than one guest speaker at the kickoff ceremony remarked about how fuel convoys in Iraq and Afghanistan put U.S. soldiers at extreme risk - statistics show that one

in 46 fuel convoys result in either a fatality or serious injury to allied troops fighting in those wars.

Numerous TARDEC research scientists, engineers and technicians are already moving into the 30,000-square-foot GSPCL facility.

The Power and Energy/Vehicle Environmental Lab, or PEVEL - is the centerpiece lab and features one of the world's largest environmental chambers, enabling testing at a wide degree of temperatures found in battlefield environments.

The lab's dynamometer and environmental chamber combination allows for full mission profile testing of every ground vehicle platform in the military inventory, in any environmental condition.

The Calorimeter Lab is the world's largest and is capable of testing radiators, charge air coolers, oil coolers individually or all three simultaneously.

And the Energy Storage Lab makes it possible to safely test and evaluate advanced chemistry battery vehicle modules. Explosion-proof battery test chambers enable safe testing of advanced chemistry battery packs.

Visiting dignitaries at the event included U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who sits on the Senate Committee on Budget.

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Ohio Firm Brings Classic Car Auction Back to Novi

by Gerald Scott News Dept.

A hole in the local auto industry is being filled nicely by an Ohio firm these days.

That's because Classic MotorCar Auctions of Canton, Ohio, is bringing an entirely new Spring Classic Car Auction to Novi on April 21-22.

The Spring Classic Auto Auction will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and there is a \$10 public admission fee.

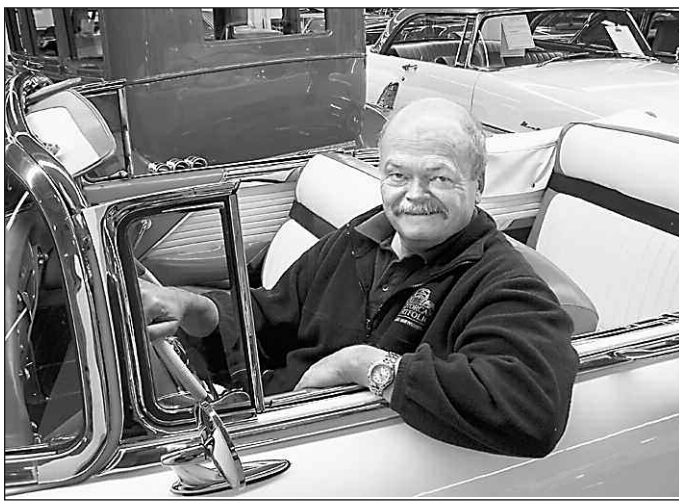
Bob Lichty, co-founder of Classic MotorCar Auctions, is described as a car guy's "car guy" and he's bringing the event to the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"I really consider my career a privilege - I got out of college and never looked back, I've had something to do with classic cars for the last 40 years," Lichty said in a recent phone interview.

Prior to the founding of Motorcar Portfolio (the parent of the auction house), with Gary Brown, Bob Lichty was the executive director of the Canton Classic Car Museum.

He is past president of the national Lincoln Highway Association for which he co-chaired a 3300 mile historic highway tour across the United States.

He and his wife are currently



Bob Lichty of Ohio auction house Classic MotorCar is bringing a new medium-sized auction to Novi on April 21-22. Cars at this auction are expected to be sold anywhere from \$2,500 on up to \$150,000, but will sell for a moderate price, on average, he said.

working on the 2013 Lincoln Highway Centennial tours. Prior to returning to his home area of northeastern Ohio in 1995, Mr. Lichty was marketing director for the world famous Blackhawk Collection in Danville, California. Earlier in his career, he held management positions with notable collector car industry companies including, Hemmings Motor News, Old Cars Weekly, and Carlisle Productions.

"With my background, I decided to start Classic MotorCar Auctions about three years ago to pick up a void in

Ohio for auctions," he said.

"Then when we saw the void created in Novi, for that auction, which always had been one of my favorites to attend - I thought, shoot, we're in the auction business . . . I guess we'll go up in Novi and do it.

"We talked to the Suburban Collection Showplace, asked them if they wanted another auction and they were extremely supportive.

"Detroit's a big 'car guy' town, for cripe's sakes, so to not have a mid-range auction for the average guy, seemed kind of a shame.

"I used to come up from Ohio for that show every year."

So this will be Classic Mo-

torCar Auctions' first such auction at Novi.

Lichty said that his auction will likely be more affordable to the average bidder than previously - from \$2,500 on up to the heavyweights, he guesses.

This auction will be heavy on Big Three classic cars, too, always a favorite for Detroit audiences for obvious reasons.

"We've got some wonderful cars with a broad range: there's a 1940 Buick Century convertible, which is a really rare car, a 1969 Boss Mustang 429, an exceptional muscle cars, a couple of neat, 1929 roadsters for the hot rod people and there's even a 1950s-style speedboat in there, and some later stuff up into the 1980s," Lichty said.

"It's really fun, I like the mix. We've got a lot of the typical Big Three cars, a lot of Ford, Chevy, Buicks, Corvettes, in the sale, typical of what's popular in the Detroit area.

"Right now they range from low-end, \$2,500, all the way up to a couple of resto-mods that should draw \$130,000, but a lot of cars in the \$25,000 to \$30,000 range.

"The last-minute consignments are driving me crazy, but we're looking right now at 175 to 200 cars (for the April 21-22 event)."

For a more complete listing, visit the auction house's Web site at classicmotorcarsauctions.com.

1,700 UAW-Ford Employees Agree To Take Buyouts and Leave Firm

DETROIT (AP) - About 1,700 Ford Motor Co. factory workers have decided to take early retirement offers and will leave the company by June 1.

The automaker says it will bring back about 250 laid-off employees and hire some replacements at lower wages.

Ford offered the buyouts to all 41,000 factory workers last fall in an effort to cut its skilled trades and production workforces. It offered skilled trades workers like electricians and plumbers \$100,000 to retire. Production workers were offered \$50,000. The company has about 9,000 skilled tradesmen, which it

says is too many.

Spokeswoman Marcey Evans says Ford won't replace all of the retiring workers. New factory hires will be paid around \$16 per hour, a little more than half the wage of a longtime union worker. Skilled tradesmen make above \$30 per hour, but changes in factory equipment in recent years have cut the number of workers needed.

Ford is adding thousands of workers this year to help satisfy growing U.S. auto sales. Factories in Wayne, Michigan, near Detroit; Louisville, Kentucky; Chicago and near Kansas City, Missouri, are getting additional workers.

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