



Subhash Dhar, chairman and CEO of Energy Power Systems. He used to work with Stan Ovshinsky at Energy Conversion Devices.

Ovshinsky Disciple Eyes Lead-Acid Battery Future

By Gerald Scott

If Subhash Dhar and his colleagues at Energy Power Systems in Troy have their way, it just might be “back to the future” for the auto industry as far as the batteries that power our cars go.

You almost never hear mainstream references to lead-acid batteries anymore, but you will if Dhar's vision comes to fruition.

Lead-acid batteries still have a long future powering internal combustion engines, but they're almost never referenced as far as hybrids and EVs go.

Dhar is quietly leading the push for a new generation of lead acid batteries and considering that he worked for a time with Stan Ovshinsky at Energy Conversion Devices, well, don't count Dhar out.

“I was there 24 years, I was a young man when I started with Stan in 1981, I was there until 2004. We saw the best and worst,” he observed.

Dhar is taking the best of what he learned from Ovshinsky and ECD in the 20th century and applying it to auto transportation problems of the 21st.

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GM Foundation Sponsors Job Fair for Veterans

By Gerald Scott

DETROIT – Considering that GM's support of the U.S. military goes back over a century, it's no surprise that GM is also now supporting military veterans coming back from service who need jobs.

At the first of several job fairs supported in part with a \$250,000 gift from GM and the GM Foundation, members of GM's talent acquisition department are interviewing veterans attending the National Veteran Small Business Conference.

The effort is part of GM's support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes program. GM participated in the huge National Veteran Small Business Expo and job fair at Cobo Center in Detroit, held from June 26-28.

GM is recruiting qualified veterans to fill some salaried and hourly job vacancies. Last week, it asked its network of more than 7,000 suppliers and dealers to consider hiring veterans and spouses for openings.

With nearly 5,000 military veteran employees, General

Motors' support for the United States armed forces spans generations. Today, Chevrolet assists Cell Phones for Soldiers, Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans, the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, a variety of employment and grassroots initiatives, and is the Official Vehicle of the Army-Navy game.

The GM Military Discount GM Military Discount program offers the industry's best discounts on most Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles for active-duty, reservists, retired service members and spouses.

Meanwhile, GM and the GM Foundation are contributing \$250,000 to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Chamber Foundation's Hiring our Heroes Program, a national grassroots effort to find jobs for returning veterans and their spouses, many of whom have put their own careers on hold because of long separations and overseas deployments due to military service.

Since Hiring our Heroes was launched in March of 2011, more than 9,500 veterans and

Traveling Chrysler Showroom Will Visit Midwest Suppliers

AUBURN HILLS – Chrysler Group LLC hit the road last week with its 2012 mobile showroom to visit employee, affinity partner and supplier sites over the next 19 weeks.

This year's version of the road tour is bigger and better, featuring 16 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram Truck, SRT and FIAT brand vehicles, including the all-new 2013 Dodge Dart compact car, the Fiat 500 Abarth and the Chrysler 300 Luxury Series, the most luxurious and fuel-efficient Chrysler flagship sedan ever.

Called the “Chrysler Affiliate Rewards/Employee Advantage Road Tour,” this mobile marketing event is designed for thousands of employees who work for Chrysler Group, affiliated companies like Case New Holland and suppliers like Re-

public Steel, in Canton, Ohio; Federal Mogul Corp., in Southfield, Mich., and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in Detroit.

“This extensive, cross-country tour offers great opportunities to test drive our all-new Dodge Dart and models from all of our brands,” said Reid Bigland, President and CEO – Dodge Brand and Head of U.S. Sales.

“We are bringing the showroom to you at your place of employment. Enjoy lunch, talk to our product and brand specialists, and most importantly, drive the models that make up our strongest product lineup ever.”

Nearly 22,500 people participated in last year's road tour, and 1,115 of them took a test drive.

The 95-stop tour lands at the IAC Group in Southfield late last week and will continue through late October. This fun-filled, half-day event takes place at a company's headquarters where employees eat lunch, take a test drive, talk to product specialists, learn about vehicle discount information and get their photo taken with a Dodge Charger SRT8 Super Bee, which salutes the fun-loving past of Dodge muscle cars with its legendary 392 HEMI V-8.

The tour includes build-your-own-vehicle kiosks, brand immersion centers, Uconnect in-vehicle presentations, event giveaways and a daily grand prize. This year's tour also features a lowered-floor Chrysler Town & Country or Dodge Grand Caravan



Bosch employees in Plymouth check out Chrysler's mobile showroom, which will tour the midwest.



General Motors Talent Acquisition Senior Manager Mark McKeen (l to r), Global Planning & Program Management Manager Kevin L. Jones and GM Employee Placement Manager Joseph Wilson, Jr.

spouses have actually found jobs, according to the National Chamber Foundation, which said that it is on track with partner agencies to host 400 hiring fairs during this year alone.

The goal is to engage the business community in committing to hire 500,000 veterans by the end of 2014.

GM also said it is recruiting

qualified veterans to fill some salaried and hourly job vacancies and is encouraging its network of more than 700 suppliers and dealers to hire veterans and spouses for openings.

As noted, GM sponsored a booth at the National Veteran Small Business Expo and job fair at Cobo Center last week.

The UAW Veterans Dept. also attended in support of this recruiting effort.

In a June 19 letter addressed to suppliers and dealers, GM Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson asked them to support Hiring our Heroes by considering veterans and spouses when filling current and future job openings.

NADA: Used Prices to Drop in July

McLEAN, Va. – Moderate seasonal demand will drive down prices in all used-vehicle segments over the coming months, says Jonathan Banks, senior analyst with the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Used Car Guide.

This short-term sales forecast and other industry data were released last week as part of the June, 2012 edition of “Guidelines,” a monthly report containing information and insight on car and truck prices, new and used market trends and the overall economy.

“NADA's current forecast points to used-vehicle prices dropping by 3 percent in July,” Banks said.

NADA's forecast for July indicates that prices in the compact and midsize used-car segments will drop between 3.5 and 4.5 percent compared with June. Used-vehicle prices are down 1.6 percent in June compared with May, according to the NADA Used Car Guide.

“Falling gasoline prices will result in greater depreciation of compact and midsize cars, but will help moderate losses for light trucks, such as large pickups and SUVs,” Banks added.

In June, prices of compact and midsize used cars declined the most by 2.5 and 2.8 percent, respectively; the remaining vehicle segments dropped 0.8 to 1.4 percent.

USCAR Turns 20

SOUTHFIELD – Since its founding 20 years ago, USCAR has been the focal point of collaborative R&D among Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors.

It has also been the primary portal for collaborative research between the three U.S. automakers and the U.S. government, as both work to address broad societal goals related to sustainable automotive transportation.

USCAR (1992 - 2002) marked 20 years in June.

Said USCAR Executive Director Steve Zimmer, “USCAR's 20th anniversary certainly is cause for celebration. Our three member companies have arrived at an important milestone, since USCAR's founding on June 8, 1992.”

“Two decades of teamwork and collaboration in addressing some of the industry's toughest challenges have resulted in 20 years of successes,” he added.

“We have created technical solutions that enabled most hybrid-electric vehicles on the road today. We have moved new materials, advanced manufacturing and new joining technologies into production.

“We've benchmarked vehicles and engines collaboratively, saving each member company millions of dollars in the process.”

Advanced battery research for the automakers for hybrids and EVs was also authored by USCAR.

Turbocharging versus Supercharging

FARMINGTON HILLS – Several technical experts will discuss “Turbocharging vs. Supercharging: The Key to Engine Downsizing” at a Tech-Fast (technical breakfast meeting) hosted by the SAE Detroit Section on Tuesday, July 17, from 7-9 a.m. at the San Marino Club in Troy.

“Tech-Fasts are focused technical breakfast meetings on current topics of interest and a great way to get up to speed in a certain area, with minimal effort and expense,” said Brian Sangeorzan, 2012 SAE Detroit Section Chair.

“Additionally, Tech-Fasts offer an unparalleled opportunity to make connections with the subject-area experts, and peers from other companies, to discuss common technical and legislative issues.

Turbochargers and Superchargers can offset performance losses generally associated with each technology as it attempts to set the stage for future vehicle powertrains.

For that matter, auto industry experts have said that if Detroit is actually going to meet the aggressive 2025 EPA standards of 54.5 mpg for passenger cars, that it will be done on the back of advanced technology Turbocharging and Supercharging.

Note that as OEMs reduce engine displacements – the new 1.0L / 3-cylinder engine from Ford, for example – actually weighs only 214 lbs. This new type of engine may need Turbocharging to advance torque curves and these topics will be discussed.

Experts from Eaton, Borg-Warner and Honeywell will lead the panel discussion moderated by Dave Dronzkowski, senior manager, Systems & Component Reliability, at Chrysler. Visit the SAE Detroit Section Web site for more details.

Ford Rolls Out Its New Lineup On Test Track

Story and photo by Gerald Scott

Ford Motor Co. is now in the enviable position of seeing its engine displacements decreasing – all while its fuel economy is increasing.

This came to light last week in Dearborn, where Ford hosted national media for its 2013 all-product ride and drive at the test track there.

There's plenty of good news for Ford to report – by the end of this year, the automaker says, it will have eight vehicles that get over 40 mpg highway, a number it says is more than



2013 Ford Fusion SE on display at Ford's test track in Dearborn.

what GM and Toyota are offering combined.

And that number is double of what Ford itself was offering as recently as 2011.

Ford executives Mark Fields and Raj Nair addressed this and other trends.

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