



Raised garden beds in Detroit were one-way parts containers from GM Orion Assembly.

Visteon Completes Sale of Unit

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich. – Visteon Corp. consolidated its business in a significant way recently.

That's because Visteon announced last week that it has completed the sale of its automotive lighting business to Varroc Group, a global provider of automotive parts, for \$72 million in cash, subject to price adjustments. The two companies had announced plans for the sale back on March 12.

"This transaction completes an important step in our strategic plan to focus on our core businesses and strong joint venture relationships," said Don Stebbins, Visteon chairman, chief executive officer and president.

"I am pleased with the completion of the sale and with the efforts of both companies to ensure a smooth transition for our customers, suppliers and the employees involved."

The business sold to Varroc had 2011 revenue of \$531 million and encompasses a wide range of exterior lighting products supplied to global vehicle manufacturers, including front and rear lighting systems, auxiliary lamps and

key subcomponents such as projectors and electronic modules.

It includes manufacturing and engineering facilities in Novy Jicin and Rychvald, Czech Republic; Monterrey, Mexico; and Pune, India.

In total, about 4,200 manufacturing, engineering and administrative employees are part of the business sold to Varroc.

As announced March 12, the two companies also have an agreement for Varroc to acquire Visteon's equity interest in a China-based lighting joint venture, Visteon TYC Corporation, for \$20 million.

That transaction is expected to be completed after Varroc finishes its due diligence process and other conditions are satisfied.

Overall, the auto lighting business has become a curious one, with the advent of LED diodes giving designers significantly more leeway in their creativity, especially on interior design.

As cars are "tricked out" by customers post-sale, look for lighting to become as big as tires and wheels have over the past decade or so.

SAE Site Now Multilingual

WARRENDALE, Pa. – As part of its global strategy, key portions of SAE International's website now are available in eight different languages, in addition to English.

The eight additional languages are Brazilian/Portuguese, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean and Russian.

While by no means a complete list of languages, these eight new websites help provide an important entree into SAE International's full complement of programs, products and services, especially its technical standard and papers.

"SAE International already has a strong international presence, especially online," said David L. Schutt, PhD, chief executive officer of SAE International.

"These new native-language websites are the first of many steps we are taking to continue to serve the global mobility engineering community. It's all about service and mission."

SAE says globalism drove this move.

Orion's Parts Containers of Yesterday Become Detroit's Garden Beds Today

By Gerald Scott

Through the magic of industrial recycling, used parts containers at the GM Orion Assembly plant in Oakland County have lately become garden beds in Detroit.

This concept played out at the new Cadillac Urban Gardens in southwest Detroit, on the site of the old executive parking lot attached to the Cadillac Clark St. factory.

There, General Motors and its partners officially unveiled the Cadillac Urban Gardens, a community project where 250 shipping crates from Orion Assembly are converted into raised garden beds.

The crates were described by GM Orion engineers as one-way shipping crates that would otherwise have to be recycled by destroying them to recover the raw materials. Now, they are serving a secondary purpose as hosting vegetable growth in an urban environment.

The once-abandoned southwest Detroit parking lot will now benefit nearby residents, providing them with nutritious and locally grown food.

"Instead of recycling this material, we found a direct reuse, which saves energy and resources," said John Bradburn, GM's manager of waste reduction efforts. "We seek opportunities for projects in our backyard that reduce environmental impact and strengthen communities."

Bradburn and a host of participants and suppliers including Frank Venegas, chairman of Ideal Group, which now occupies the former Cadillac Clark St. facility, gathered for the kickoff of the Garden.

This project is a result of a collaboration with eight-time GM Supplier of the Year Ideal Group, and composting company Detroit Dirt.

The soil for the garden beds is supplied by Detroit Dirt and is sourced from local partners, including Detroit

Zoo animal manure, Astro Café coffee grounds, as well as composted food scraps from the Marriott Hotel at the GM RenCen and GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant, home of the Chevy Volt.

Besides GM, several organizations helped to make the project a reality.

Detroit Dirt, as noted, provided urban planning expertise, and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision created the urban environmental plan; Rush Trucking delivered the GM Orion-donated crates for volunteers from the Ideal Group, Congress of Communities, Better Day Ministries and Southwest Detroit residents to begin planting.

"Our mission is to create a space that promotes the health and security of our community," said Venegas.

"Cadillac Urban Gardens is producing vegetables, community health and growth."

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GM Metal Model Maker to Parachute 70 Times in a Day to Benefit 'Dogs'

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where somebody is attached to him, on a regular basis.

Ekstrom served in the Army in the early 1960s and he was stationed in West Germany during that Cold War era. But he didn't begin skydiving as a sport until 1967, well after he left the service.

"I was out for almost three years before I found someone else who wanted to go – that guy probably has 7 or 8 jumps and I have 13,000," Ekstrom mused.

"I do tandems, with people strapped on the front. The most I've gotten in one year was 565 jumps, which is pretty good for Michigan because you have such a limited jump season.

"You close down in November and don't open up again until April."

For the record, his first jump occurred on Dec. 8, 1967.

"The plane I'll be doing these from is called a Cessna 182, mostly what we jump from now is called a Grand Caravan, a Cessna 208, which has a turbine engine. It'll climb 1,200 feet a minute with a full load. With the 182, you can get maybe 800 feet a minute, if that," he added.

The lowest altitude that he's legally allowed to jump from is 2,000 feet. The highest he's jumped from is 24,000 feet.

Other than his first five jumps, called static line jumps because the rip cord is pulled as you jump, 99 percent of his jumps involve free fall that can average 70 or more seconds.

Ekstrom estimates he has spent 183 hours in "free fall" before pulling the cord. Also,

he estimates of his 13,000 jumps, he's done tandem with 3,700 "passengers." He once tandemed with an 85-year-old lady who needed a walker to move around, she did the jump and went back to her walker with the thrill of a lifetime behind her.

Also, of that 13,000, he estimates 50 have involved safety "events" where he has to release the main chute and engage the spare in order to land safely. Fifty sounds like a lot but he says it's not, that the percentages toward safety are largely in his favor, plus with his experience he knows how to avoid trouble in a hurry.

So there you go. Seventy jumps at age 70 figures to be old hat for this wily veteran.

Plus, it benefits Leader Dogs for the Blind. His hobby has become the wind beneath his wings. So to speak.

Chrysler to Dip Its Toe in Sci-Fi Movie Culture

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extension of the movie.

The "Wings" ad is already at www.chrysler.com/totalrecall.

Additional elements of the multi-tiered partnership include interior and exterior vehicle branding and social media and website support.

Meanwhile, "Total Recall" is an action thriller about reality and memory, inspired anew by the famous short story, "We Can Remember it for You Wholesale" by Philip K. Dick.

"Welcome to Rekal, the company that can turn your dreams into real memories," reads the book leaf. "For a factory worker named Douglas Quaid, even

though he's got a beautiful wife whom he loves, the mind trip sounds like the perfect vacation from his frustrating life – real memories of life as a super spy might be just what he needs. But when the procedure goes horribly wrong, Quaid becomes a hunted man.

"Finding himself on the run from the police, controlled by

Chancellor Coahaagen, there is no one Quaid can trust, except possibly a rebel fighter working for the head of the underground resistance.

The line between fantasy and reality gets blurred and the fate of his world hangs in the balance as Quaid discovers his true identity, his true love and his true fate."

HF35 Hybrid Brings New Life To Van Dyke Transmission

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world," said Jim Tetrault, vice president of North America Manufacturing.

"This demonstrates our commitment to bringing jobs and technology back into Ford and North America – actions that not only benefit our employees but our customers and the communities where we do business."

The new assembly line and other capacity actions at Van Dyke Transmission include the addition of 25 new jobs, part of Ford's commitment to add 12,000 U.S. hourly jobs by 2015. The plant recently added 130 jobs as part of the hybrid transmission launch, with the remaining workers scheduled to start work by the end of the month. Van Dyke Transmission now has 1,350 workers.

The HF35, which incorporates two electric motors, is

the first hybrid transmission to be designed and built by Ford. Previously, hybrid transmission production was handled by a supplier in Japan. By bringing the development work in-house, Ford reduced development costs 20 percent.

Investments at Van Dyke include manufacturing, capital equipment, launch and engineering costs and supplier tooling upgrades. New flexible equipment allows the plant to build both HF35 and 6F, a conventional Ford six-speed automatic transmission, at the same time.

Ford engineered the HF35 and upgraded the controls with a goal of creating the industry's highest-performing, smoothest-operating hybrid transmission.

HF35 will be used in five electrified Ford vehicles being introduced this year to provide customers with a range of fuel-efficient options.

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Fuel Economy Rate Is Same

After a three-month drop, fuel economy of all new vehicles sold in the U.S. remained unchanged in July, say researchers at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

Average fuel economy (window-sticker values) of cars, light trucks, minivans and SUVs purchased in July was 23.6 mpg, a 17-percent increase (3.5 mpg) from October of 2007, the first month of monitoring by UMTRI resident researchers Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle. See UMTRI's website for further information and details.