

# Ralco to Build 125,000-Square-Foot HQ

by Jim Stickford

Ralco Industries broke ground on a new world headquarters and manufacturing facility in Auburn Hills on Sept. 6.

"As a rapidly expanding manufacturer of stamping and robotic welded assemblies, our people, facility and location are critical components to our success," said Ralco President Jim Piper.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to grow in Auburn Hills, which we have called home for more than 25 years. The city of Auburn Hills and Oakland County's dedicated workforce, great infrastructure, and pro-business climate make this the perfect place to expand our operations.

"Cooperation and leadership from the MEDC, Oakland County, and the City of Auburn Hills demonstrated commitment to economic development for Michigan and our success as a business.

"Guidance from our real estate advisor, Plante Moran Cresa, developer J.B. Donaldson, and Wynn Design team made this truly a team effort."

Auburn Hills City Manager Pete Auger said: "We are thrilled that Ralco Industries, Inc. has made the decision to continue to invest and expand in Auburn Hills. This project demonstrates Ralco's commitment to the community and to the state of Michigan. Ralco is a valued corporate partner and their decision to build here in Auburn Hills further

solidifies our reputation as the premier global manufacturing address in the Midwest."

Plante Moran Cresa President and CEO Bill Lichwalla said, "Plante Moran Cresa is proud to have the opportunity to act as a real estate advisor and owner's representative during the planning, site selection, design and construction of Ralco Industries, Inc.'s new world headquarters. This new facility will reflect the world-class workforce, innovation and leading technology Ralco Industries, Inc. delivers to its customers."

Sarah Piper, building project manager, said the company has been a Michigan-based outfit since 1970 and has been in Auburn Hills since 1987.

"This project has been years in the making," Piper said. "We've been working on it since 2006 and we're thrilled to stay in Michigan."

There was some thought about relocating in the South, but the state was able to provide Ralco with the incentives it needed to stay in the state, Piper said.

She added that they were pleased to see Steve Hilfiner, executive vice president and COO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation at the groundbreaking. He and the MEDC's efforts to keep Ralco in the state paid off, she said.

The 125,000-square-foot building itself will be on 18.5 acres of property along the north side of Taylor Road near the Fieldstone Golf Club, Piper said. It should be

completed and running by the end of the summer of 2014.

Currently, Ralco has four facilities located in and around Auburn Hills. Once the building is complete, all operations will be under one roof, Piper said.

Established in 1970, Ralco Industries manufacturers complex, tight-tolerance metal stampings and welded assembly solutions in both the automotive and non-automotive markets with a complete range of services that include product design, prototype build, tooling design, tooling build and production manufacturing.

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# Czubay Retires; Felice VP

Ford has announced a series of changes within its senior leadership team.

Ken Czubay, vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service, is retiring after working for more than four decades in the auto industry. In parallel, John Felice was elected a Ford Motor Company officer and named vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

Czubay began his career at Ford in 1970 and served in a variety of management and executive roles at the company for 13 years. In 1983, he left Ford to join Nissan North America and later Southeast Toyota Distributors. He rejoined Ford in 2008 as the company's leader for U.S. Marketing, Sales, Dealer and Service Operations.

"Ken is one of the top sales and marketing executives in the auto industry," said Joe Hinrichs, executive vice president and president of The Americas. "His knowledge, passion and strong relationships with our dealers have enabled Ford to capture increased market share and enhance the customer experience. We are grateful for his leadership and congratulate him on his retirement."

Succeeding Czubay is Felice, currently general sales manager for Ford and Lincoln. Felice will report to Hinrichs and to Jim Farley, executive vice president, Global Sales, Marketing and Service and Lincoln. Felice will be the senior leader for U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service for Ford and Lincoln. During his nearly 30-year career, Felice served in a variety of senior marketing and sales jobs in the U.S. and Asia.

Ford also announced that Barb Samardzich has been appointed chief operating officer, Ford of Europe. She will be responsible for many of Ford of Europe's operations, including Manufacturing, Quality, Product Development, Purchasing, and Sustainability, Environment and Safety Engineering. Samardzich will continue to report to Stephen Odell, executive vice president and president of Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Succeeding Samardzich is Joe Bakaj, who is appointed vice president, Product Development, Ford of Europe. Bakaj currently is vice president, Powertrain Engineering, and oversees all engine and transmission engineering around the world. In his new role, Bakaj will report to Samardzich and to Raj Nair, group vice president, Global Product Development.

In addition, Bob Fascetti was elected a Ford Motor Company officer and named vice president, Powertrain Engineering, succeeding Bakaj. He will report to Nair. In his current role as director, Global Engine Engineering, Fascetti leads the engineering operations for all of Ford's engine development worldwide. During his 25-year career, he has served in a variety of senior leadership positions in Ford's powertrain, product development and manufacturing operations.

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