

## Detroit Auto Scene

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## Chrysler Gears Up To Sell Stock to Public Next Year

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value of the trust's stake at \$5.6 billion. Fiat has gone to court seeking a judgment on the price, but the trial date is set for next September.

The pricing process for the IPO might be the stimulus needed for the two sides to reach agreement and avoid the public sale. "I'm not selling anything and nor do I think we need to do so," Marchionne said in October.

Marchionne can't spend Chrysler's cash on Fiat's operations unless the companies merge. He has made it clear that he would prefer to settle the dispute without an IPO, but filed the paperwork for the offering in September at the trust's request.

But Chrysler's profits have been propping up Fiat on the balance sheet all year as the Italian automaker struggles in a down European market.

The Auburn Hills automaker earned \$464 million last quarter on U.S. sales of the Ram pickup and Jeep Grand Cherokee, its ninth-straight profitable quarter.

The results boosted Fiat, which earned \$260 million in the third quarter. Without Chrysler's contribution, Fiat would have lost \$340 million.

## Delphi Connect Offered Through U.S. Cellular

Delphi Automotive is now offering its car-to-cloud/cloud-to-car connectivity system to U.S. Cellular customers. Delphi Connect provides drivers with fast, cloud-connected information about their vehicle over the U.S. Cellular network.

Sold through U.S. Cellular, this system allows car owners to remotely control, monitor and track their vehicle in real-time via a smart device or computer.

"Delphi Connect is real-time vehicle connectivity," said Jeff Owens, Delphi chief technology officer. "This system instantly provides drivers with seamless interaction and connectivity to their vehicle."

Among the features available are:

- Virtual key fob – Lock or unlock vehicle doors, open the trunk, start or stop the engine and operate the panic horn with a smart device;
- Vehicle health – Diagnose the vehicle's engine health, vehicle performance issues or monitor overall vehicle status.

## Chrysler's Training Academy Hits the Road with Mobile Unit

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standing the 10 technical pillars that form the system's foundation, how to write a quick kaizen (a suggestion for improvement) and how to create sketches, which are an important component of an effective kaizen.

Students who attend the mobile unit's courses will participate in three rotations, Tinson said.

During the rotations, 42 students take classes inside the unit, as well as underneath a canopy attached to the trailer. A minimum of three academy staff members, including trainers and facilitators, will travel with the unit on each trip.

"By coming to the plants, we can increase the number of Chrysler Group employees who can call themselves 'students of the academy,'" said Santure.

"The benefits of increasing WCM know-how are countless, and the mobile unit enables us to bring WCM knowledge to those who may not be able to travel to the academy on a regular basis."

In addition to the standard academy courses, future plans for the mobile unit include training in specialized topics and hosting validation events.

That's the final step of verifying that lessons learned at the Academy have been applied properly to a plant project, Santure said.

The WCM Academy opened its doors in January 2012 and occupies about 25,000 square feet of the UAW-Chrysler Technology Training Center in Warren, Tinson said.

The Academy was created to accelerate WCM implementation by combining classroom and laboratory sessions, with the emphasis on hands-on exercises in problem-solving.

With a mission to transfer WCM "know-how," the Academy trained more than 3,400 workers from across the automaker's North American manufacturing facilities in its first year, far exceeding its goals.

Those participating in Academy classes apply their learnings

and begin making improvements as soon as they return to their plants, delivering real and measurable benefits for the company, said Tinson.

In May, the WCM Academy received top honors in the 2013 Manufacturing Leadership 100 (ML100) Awards, being named a High Achiever in the New Workforce category, Tinson said.

The High Achiever award recognized Chrysler for receiving the highest score in the category, which identifies companies that involve education and training, knowledge management and transfer, and collaboration with educational institutions as integral to the advancement of manufacturing.

## 2014 SRT Viper TA 'Fastest Supercar on Market' – Gilles

For those who like to go fast, said Chrysler spokesman Dan Reid, the Chrysler Group's SRT (Street and Racing Technology) team has delivered "a properly balanced high-performance machine" – the 2014 SRT Viper TA (Time Attack).

The street-legal SRT Viper TA is specifically built for the performance enthusiast drivers who like to exercise their machines at the more than 150 road-race courses around North America, said Reid.

Based on the SRT model, the lightest Viper in the lineup, the TA Special Edition Package, said Reid, builds upon the vehicle's ultra-low center of gravity, 50/50 weight distribution and largest contact patch in the production car world.

The Viper TA uses chassis parts developed specifically by the SRT chassis dynamics team to attain the most out of the race-car-like chassis and create the most confidence-inspiring Viper ever, according to Reid.

SRT developed new spring rates, dampers, sway bars and brake components, combined as a system with the Viper's available Advanced Aerodynamics Package, to create one of the most track-capable production cars in the world, Reid said.

The changes keep the SRT Viper TA glued to the track, he said, while the brake system is enhanced for improved balance and to resist thermal saturation during track work.

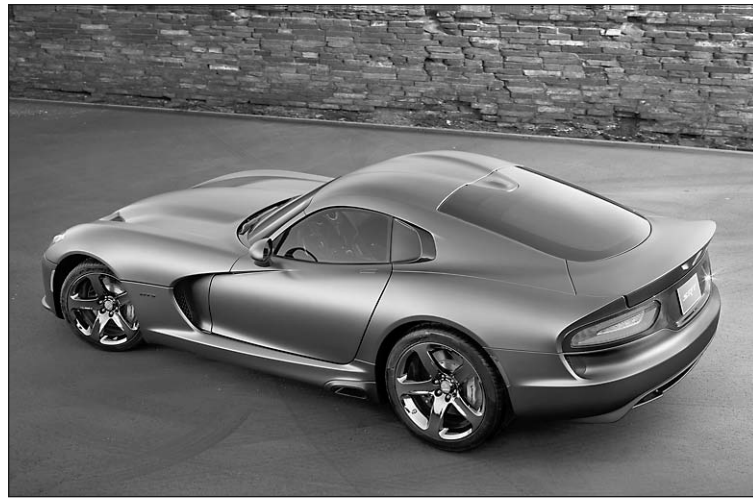
"The new 2014 SRT Viper TA is engineered for the serious performance enthusiast who needs a car that can be driven daily, yet has mind-boggling limits on a road course that would rival many track-only cars," said

Ralph Gilles, president – SRT Brand.

"As one of the best-handling and fastest supercars available on the market today, the TA enables our customers to take their passion for high-performance driving to the next level. The SRT engineering team set out to create a world-class supercar that has few competitors on the track or the road at any price."

Key high-performance equipment for the 2014 SRT Viper TA Special Edition includes:

- Unique race-tuned calibration for the two-mode Bilstein DampTronic suspension system, retuned springs, shocks and road-racing derived sway bars that offer firmer levels of damping and a smaller spread between modes than what is found on the Viper GTS;
- Lighter, carbon fiber structural X-brace that replaces the standard aluminum brace under the hood and ties the four corners of the engine compartment together, contributing to the 50 percent increase in torsional rigidity and stiffness across the Viper lineup;
- New Brembo two-piece, 32 millimeters wide, high-thermal capacity rotors and pads that optimize heat dissipation providing improved extreme use;
- Advanced Aerodynamics Package that includes carbon fiber front splitters and rear spoiler to boost downforce at higher speeds – up to a 700 percent increase at 150 mph;
- Standard Pirelli P Zero Corsa tires that are mounted on ultralightweight, multi-spoke Side-winder II wheels. The brake calipers feature a black anodized finish with the Viper logo shown in TA Orange.



2014 SRT Viper

A carbon fiber rear applique accentuates the rear width proportions and adds another level of detail, Reid said.

Under the hood of the 2014 SRT Viper TA is the handcrafted, all-aluminum 8.4-liter, mid-front V10 overhead-valve engine. Performance ratings are 640 horsepower and 600 lb.-ft. of torque – the most torque of any naturally aspirated sports-car engine in the world, Reid said.

Inside, the performance driver-oriented cabin of the 2014 SRT Viper TA uses the same standard premium ballistic fabric racing seats from Sabelt, featuring a lightweight fiberglass shell created by a state-of-the-art resin transfer molding technology for mass reduction and long-term durability, Reid said. Both driver and passenger seats can also accommodate a 3- or 6-point harness for racing belts.

The standard black interior combination includes unique orange accent stitching on the cloth seats, instrument panel (through the cowl), center stack, console, pull brake, shifter boot, shifter head, steering wheel and upper doors. Curb weight is 3,390 pounds.

The Detroit Zoo is lighting up the night this holiday season with a special "Wild Lights" display every weekend through the first week in January.

Special light displays, as well as live entertainment, arts and crafts, ice carving and a Lego holiday train display, will be featured.

The cost is \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the gate. Children 2 and under are admitted free. Parking is \$5 per car. For more information, call 248-541-5717.

## Zoo Lighting Going Wild

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