



A 2014 Buick Encore's brakes are put to the test.

GM's New Brake Chassis Dynamometer Moves Toward Silencing Brake Noise

Talk about bringing the world to Michigan.

Engineers at General Motors' new brake testing facility in Milford know the differences between moans, squeals, grinds, groans and grunts – annoying noises common to their work.

Now, with a new brake chassis dynamometer, they can simulate braking in weather conditions that range from Alaska to a tropical island.

With the new facility that opened earlier this year, GM ve-

hicles can now make up to 1,900 stops in two-and-a-half days compared with 1,000 stops in two weeks using previous testing methods.

The result is a quiet braking experience that customers associate with a quality vehicle, said Brent Lowe, GM performance engineer for Brake Noise Development.

"If we do our job correctly, the customer won't notice our work," said Lowe. "Watch any movie and you'll hear brake

squeal every time a car stops because Hollywood loves to add the brake squeaking sound effect, and nothing bugs me more. We work to make sure our brakes lead the industry in silence."

The new dynamometer was developed in conjunction with supplier Link Engineering. The state-of-the-art equipment can run 24 hours a day, simulate underbody airflow, and change temperatures and humidity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Boasts a 707 HP Engine

The new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT, with its supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi Hellcat engine, produces 707 horsepower and 650 lb.-ft. of torque, making it the most powerful Challenger ever and Dodge's most powerful V8 ever.

The Challenger's new 6.2-liter Supercharged Hellcat engine is also the first factory supercharged Hemi, as well as Dodge and SRT's first application of V8 supercharger technology.

For the first time in Chrysler

Group history, the new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT with a Hellcat engine comes standard with two key fobs – red and black, said Dodge brand president Tim Kuniskis.

The red key fob is the only key that can unlock the full 707 horsepower and torque potential of the Challenger SRT Hellcat engine, while the black key fob limits the driver to a reduced engine output of 500 horsepower.

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Dodge's new Challenger SRT muscle car with supercharged Hemi

OSU Students Win GM's EcoCar 2 Contest By Getting the Weight Out of Car's Seats

by Jim Stickford

They didn't exactly get the lead out, but it was close.

The Ohio State University's design team ended up the winner of the EcoCAR 2 automotive design contest – sponsored by GM and the U.S. Department of Energy – in large part thanks to the materials and expertise supplied by Johnson Controls of Plymouth.

Students worked with Johnson Controls engineers to lightweight the vehicle's seats.

David Emerling, the Ohio State faculty member who supervised the team of 40 undergraduate and graduate students, who have majors in various fields from photography to mechanical engineering, said they were able to achieve their targeted goals in part because of the help provided by Johnson Controls.

Emerling described EcoCAR 2 as a three-year competition managed by Argonne National Laboratory and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, GM and 30 other government and industry leaders.

The contest gave students the opportunity to gain real-world automotive engineering experience while striving to improve the environmental impact and energy efficiency of an already efficient vehicle – the 2013 Chevrolet Malibu, Emerling said.

"The contest's length allowed it to follow the cadence of the development time used by automakers to build a car," Emerling said.

The first year of the contest was what Emerling called the design phase. Participating schools

were given the Computer Assisted Design (CAD) specs of the 2013 Malibu for the 2011-12 school year. They had a year to work on the specs to design a more fuel-efficient Malibu.

The criteria for energy efficiency was from "well to wheel," Emerling said. That meant that the success of the design would be determined by more than just fuel efficiency.

For example, if a school designed a totally electric car, it wouldn't use gasoline, but judges would look at how much energy was used to mine the rare metals and to transport the rare metals to the factory. They would look at how energy was needed to transport the various parts to the vehicle construction point.

In year two, Emerling said, students have their work reviewed by experts from companies like Johnson Controls. They then built a working prototype es-

tablishing proof of concept.

In year three, students then turn the prototypes into working vehicles that are ready for the showroom floor.

That meant vehicles had to look good as well as work. No loose threads on seats and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The winning car in GM's EcoCar 2 design contest

GM's Ignition Lawsuit Reveals New Facts

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors' deadly ignition switch flaws emerged from an effort to improve its cars.

As the company began developing new small cars in the late 1990s, it listened to customers who complained about "cheap-feeling" switches that required too much effort to turn. GM set about making switches that would work more smoothly and give drivers the impression that they were better designed, a GM switch engineer testified in a lawsuit deposition in the spring of 2013.

The switches, though, were too loose, touching off events that led to at least 13 deaths, more than 50 crashes and a raft of legal trouble for the Detroit automaker.

Former U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas, hired by GM in March to investigate the switch problems, told a congressional subcommittee last month that GM wanted each small-car ignition to "feel like it was a European sports car or something." After years of lag-

ging behind the Japanese, GM was eager to make better, more competitive small cars.

But, as it turned out, the new switches in models such as the Chevrolet Cobalt and Saturn Ion can unexpectedly slip from "run" to "accessory," causing engines to stall. That shuts off the power steering, making cars harder to control, and disables air bags in crashes. GM says the problem has caused at least 13 deaths, but some members of Congress put the death toll near 100.

The problem led GM to recall 2.6 million small cars in February, and forced the company to admit it knew about the switch troubles for more than a decade before taking action. It has touched off federal investigations and prodded GM to review other safety issues, leading to 54 recalls this year covering 29 million vehicles.

The Associated Press traced the history of the problem using Valukas' report as well as a deposition of GM switch engineer Ray DeGiorgio that was released by a House subcommittee. The deposition was also released by lawyers suing GM, but DeGiorgio's

comments were redacted in that version.

In a wrongful death case in Georgia, DeGiorgio testified that he started out trying to make the switches easier to turn. But from the beginning he was consumed by electrical issues in the switch, not its mechanical parts.

When the switch supplier, Delphi, pointed out tests showing the switches turned too easily, DeGiorgio told Delphi not to change them because he was concerned mechanical alterations would harm the switch's electrical performance, according to Valukas.

Delphi spokeswoman Claudia Tapia said the company isn't commenting on the details of GM's recall.

In the end, DeGiorgio approved switches that were far below GM's specifications for the force required to turn them. The result was a smooth-turning key, but also one that could slip out of position. Several years later, DeGiorgio signed off on a design change that fixed the problem, but he didn't change the part number,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Ford Recalls 100,000 Vehicles For Safety Issues

DETROIT (AP) – Ford is recalling 100,610 vehicles in North America for various safety defects.

The company announced the six separate recalls July 8. No injuries, accidents or fires related to any of the defects have been reported, Ford officials said.

The largest recall, of 92,022 vehicles, affects the 2013-14 Ford Taurus, Lincoln MKS and Police Interceptor sedans; 2013-14 Ford Flex and Lincoln MKT crossovers; 2012-14 Edge crossover, and 2014 Lincoln MKX crossover.

Ford says the right-hand half-shaft, which is part of the axle, isn't properly seated and may disengage over time, making the vehicles inoperable.

The vehicles are also at risk of rolling unexpectedly if they are parked without the parking brake on.

Ford will notify owners of the vehicles in the half-shaft recall by mail beginning the week of Aug. 25.

In all of the cases, dealers will repair the vehicles for free.

Ford is also recalling:

- 5,264 2011-14 F59 commercial stripped chassis. The company says corrosion in the electrical junction block could cause the vehicles to short-circuit, increasing the risk of a fire or the loss of electrical power.

- 2,124 2014 Ford Escape SUVs. Ford says their panoramic glass roofs have an improperly cured bond that could cause the roofs to leak or separate from the vehicles.

- 635 2014 F53 motor home stripped chassis and F59 commercial stripped chassis. The company says the brake calipers may have been incorrectly made, which could result in a leak and a loss in braking performance.

- 368 2014 Transit Connect vehicles. Ford says the brake reservoir caps in vehicles shipped to Puerto Rico have European labels that don't conform to U.S. labeling requirements.

- 197 2014 Ford Fiesta subcompacts. Ford says their fuel tanks may be missing an adhesive layer, which could cause them to leak fuel and increase the risk of a fire.

Ford said it identified all of the problems through internal tests, as well as warranty claims.

Ford will begin notifying owners affected by the five additional recalls this month.

GM's Ignition Lawsuit Reveals New Facts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which stymied later attempts to figure out what was wrong.

Repeated efforts to reach DeGiorgio have been unsuccessful. He was one of 15 employees dismissed by the company last month due to the recalls. At a House subcommittee hearing last month, GM CEO Mary Barra didn't mince words when lawmakers asked her about DeGiorgio's statements to Valukas and congressional investigators.

"I don't find Mr. DeGiorgio credible," Barra said.

GM spokesman Greg Martin said Valukas' report cites several opportunities that the company missed to fix the problem before the switches went into production. "It should never have happened regardless of what the reasons for changing the initial specifications for the switches were," he said.

Subsequent safety reviews also found ignition switch troubles in other cars. The company has issued five recalls for 17.1 million cars with switch problems this year.

Among the recalls are 3.4 million large cars like the Chevrolet Impala, which had switches De-

Giorgio worked on. GM says the combined force of a large bump and a swinging key chain can cause those switches to slip and stall the engine. GM is changing the key hole from a slot to a small circle to limit how much key chains can swing and tug on the ignition.

Unlike the Cobalt and Ion switches, GM says the ignition switches on the large cars meet its specifications, and the key de-

sign is the problem. GM says it conducted eight different driving tests with the new key and the ignition didn't move out of the "run" position in any of the tests.

But some experts believe the switches can still slip out of "run" too easily. "They're finding that it's still possible for it to happen," said Erin Shipp, a mechanical engineer who helped uncover the small-car ignition switch problems.

Ford to Set Up \$1M Mulally Engineering Scholarship Plan

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – Ford Motor Co. is planning a \$1 million scholarship program named in honor of former CEO Alan Mulally.

The Alan Mulally Leadership in Engineering Scholarship announced July 10 provides financial assistance to students pursuing degrees in automotive engineering.

Mulally was CEO of Boeing before he joined Ford in 2006 and served as president, CEO and a board member at Ford until his retirement on June 30.

Mulally achieved superstar status by putting an end to infighting, keeping the company out of bankruptcy and getting Ford to build cars that people like to drive.

The scholarship program will award 10 one-time \$10,000 scholarships each year to outstanding sophomore or junior engineering students at certain universities around the world.

The program, according to Ford, is scheduled to begin its run of 10 years starting in the spring of 2015.

GM's Recent Recalls Focus on Older Models

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors' safety crisis deepened dramatically June 30 when the automaker added 8.2 million vehicles to its ballooning list of cars recalled over faulty ignition switches.

The latest recalls involve mainly older midsize cars and bring GM's total recalls in North America to 29 million this year, surpassing the 22 million recalled by all automakers last year. They also raise questions about the safety of ignition switches in cars made by all manufacturers.

In the latest recalls, GM said keys may be jostled or accidentally bumped, causing the ignition to slip out of the "run" position. The recalls cover seven vehicles, including the Chevrolet Malibu from 1997 to 2005, the Pontiac Grand Prix from 2004 to 2008, and the 2003-14 Cadillac CTS.

The company is aware of three deaths, eight injuries and seven crashes involving the vehicles, although it says there's no clear evidence that faulty switches caused the accidents.

Air bags didn't deploy in the three fatal accidents, which is a sign that the ignition was out of position. But air bags may not

deploy for other reasons as well.

A GM spokesman couldn't say last week if more recalls are imminent. But this may be the end of the recalls associated with a 60-day review of all of the company's ignition switches.

At the company's annual meeting earlier in June, CEO Mary Barra said she hoped most recalls related to that review would be completed by the end of the month.

Karl Brauer, an industry analyst with *Kelley Blue Book*, said the number of recalls – while huge – may be a good thing for the company in the long run.

"I think there's a new standard for what GM considers a potential safety defect, and Mary Barra has no tolerance or patience for potential safety defects that are unresolved," he said.

In a statement last week, Barra said "we will act appropriately and without hesitation" if any new issues come to light.

GM has been reviewing the performance of its ignition switches since the first recalls were announced, and it continues to find more that can turn too easily. Of the 29 million vehicles recalled by the company this year, 17.1 million have

been due to ignition switches.

The problem has drawn the attention of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the government's road safety agency. On June 18, the agency opened two investigations into ignition switches in Chrysler minivans and SUVs, and acknowledged that it's looking at the whole industry.

The agency is looking into how long air bags remain active after the switches are moved out of the run position. In many cases, the answer is less than a second.

GM's recalls on June 30 bring this year's total so far to more than 40 million for the U.S. industry, far surpassing the old full-year record of 30.8 million from 2004.

The vehicles recalled June 30 have switches that do conform to GM's specifications. In these cases, the keys can move the ignition out of position because of jarring, bumps from the driver's knee or the weight of a heavy key chain.

The cars recalled will get replacement keys; the small cars recalled in February are getting new ignitions.

GM has announced 54 separate recalls this year.

NHTSA Checking Complaints of Nissan's Delayed Braking Action

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – The U.S. government's road safety agency is investigating complaints that a trim panel can cause unwanted acceleration in Nissan Versa small cars.

The probe covers about 360,000 Nissan Versa and Versa Note subcompacts from the 2012 through 2014 model years.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in documents posted last week on its website that four drivers have complained that a trim panel near the gas pedal can trap the edge of a driver's shoe. This can stop the driver from releasing the gas pedal quickly and delay braking.

There are no reports of crashes or injuries, although one driver complained of a close call at an intersection on June 9.

As the driver accelerated to make a left turn, a plastic trim panel that covers the center console trapped the driver's shoe and stopped it from moving off the gas pedal, the complaint said.

"I used my right hand to grab my leg and pulled harder, immediately braking hard, then backing my foot off the brake as I squealed and skidded around the corner, almost going over the curb and crashing," the driver wrote.

The driver reported that the edge of the trim piece wasn't secured and trapped the sole of a leather work boot.

Drivers who file complaints are not identified by NHTSA. Two of the four complaints were from drivers of rental cars, the agency said. A fifth complaint was filed in an unidentified foreign country, according to NHTSA.

Investigations can lead to recalls, but so far there are none in this case.

Seat Belt Retractor Causes GM Recall

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors is recalling 28,789 Saab convertibles because the driver's seat belt retractor can break.

The recall involves vehicles from the 2004-11 model years.

GM says if the retractor breaks, the seat belt will immediately loosen and won't work properly.

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Wendy Santure, WCMA Mobile Unit Lead



Krissy Pudlik, UAW Training and Development Lead

Silencing Brake Noise is Tricky Job For GM Engineers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The ability to control and replicate the conditions that our customers' vehicles are driven under is just as important as the ability to control the brake pressure, vehicle speed and direction," Lowe said.

The 14,000-square-foot development facility is located at the GM Proving Ground in Milford.

"The concept of a silent brake is actually very complicated," said Lowe. "Braking creates friction and the more friction present amounts to more noise."

"Though the sound of brakes squealing is something every driver can easily identify as a nuisance, it is one of the more difficult things to actually remove. We have been very successful at taking on that challenge at GM."

Before the new facility, the team had to rely on test driving vehicles at the track and a two-wheel-drive chassis dynamometer that offered far less control over humidity and temperature.

"With our previous methods and equipment, we became really good at finding and mitigating approximately 85 percent of existing brake noises," Lowe said.

"With this new facility, we'll be able to locate and address the remaining 15 percent of brake noise frequencies."

Chrysler and United Way Team Up to Help Local Children

Chrysler's World Class Manufacturing Academy (WCMA) Mobile Unit is partnering with Southeastern Michigan United Way to provide learning activities to local children.

The joint program is part of the organization's summer "Meet Up and Eat Up" block parties, designed to bring food and necessities to families throughout June and July.

The WCMA Mobile Unit made its first appearance June 27 at the Farwell Recreation Center in Detroit, said Chrysler spokesperson Erica Tackett.

The WCMA Mobile Unit will provide fun, interactive activities with an educational twist at United Way block parties.

Kids will have the opportunity to design and color their own cars using an interactive coloring game set up on a smart board setup outside a trailer.

They will also be able to play the game Pictionary on a Wii and explore educational children's

apps on the mobile trailer's 14 iPads.

Financial management information will be available for parents.

Chrysler Group employees from the WCMA also will be volunteering during the block party events.

Housed in a refurbished motorsports trailer, the mobile version of Chrysler Group's innovative WCM training facility based in Warren, Mich., brings classes and the WCM methodology directly to employees at their manufacturing sites in the U.S. and Canada.

World Class Manufacturing, first implemented by Fiat in 2006 and introduced to Chrysler Group in June 2009, is a methodology that focuses on reducing waste, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety in a systematic and organized way.

"We are excited to be a part of United Way block parties this

summer, and providing a fun and interactive learning experience for the kids using the technology available in the mobile unit," said Wendy Santure, WCMA Mobile Unit Lead.

"In addition, the mobile unit will be traveling to various high schools in the area and speaking with students about career opportunities in manufacturing and sharing stories from current Chrysler Group employees. We are looking forward to continuing the partnership with United Way into the fall."

Southeastern Michigan United Way began the "Meet Up and Eat Up" events last year to provide food and other necessities to families in need during the summer and has since seen an increase of 19 percent in kids utilizing the program.

Together with No Kid Hungry, United Way provides meals for nearly 250,000 students who qualify for free or reduced lunches during the school year.

OU Names George Hynd as New President

Following a national search, the Oakland University Board of Trustees has appointed George W. Hynd as the school's new president.

Hynd becomes the sixth president in the University's history, succeeding Betty J. Youngblood, who had served as interim president since July 2013.

Hynd, who formerly served as provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs for the College of Charleston (South Carolina), was selected after an extensive search led by a 12-member Oakland University Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee headed by board chair Michael Kramer.

Kramer said that Hynd's credentials and experience as a college provost, dean and professor helped him stand out during the hiring process.

"George's qualifications and abilities were a natural match for us at OU," Kramer said. "We thoroughly reviewed all the candidates, each outstanding in their own right and George was the best fit to take us forward."

As provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs, Hynd was responsible for all undergraduate and graduate programs at the College of Charleston, including seven academic schools and programs at the College of Charleston North Campus and at Grice Marine Laboratory at Fort Johnson.

Since assuming that role in 2010, Hynd has successfully managed an academic affairs budget of nearly \$90 million and created



George Hynd

comes the opportunity "to go out and tell the story of what's happening at Oakland University," both locally and in Lansing.

Before joining the College of Charleston, Hynd held positions as senior vice provost for education and innovation and dean and director of the Mary Lou Fulton Institute and Graduate School of Education at Arizona State University.

Responsible for facilitating innovation and collaboration in educational programs across the university's four campuses, Hynd's accomplishments included creating an external funding office infrastructure to increase grant activity, facilitating faculty integration between the Institute and Graduate School of Education, and fostering various program-related development initiatives.

With more than 40 years of educational experience, Hynd's career includes a number of other leadership roles at nationally-recognized universities.

While serving as dean of the College of Education at Purdue University from 2003-07, he created two new multidisciplinary centers – the Center for P-12 Engagement and the Center for Research and Engagement in Science and Mathematics Education.

In addition, a \$14 million development campaign led to a three-fold increase in the number of undergraduate scholarships and establishment of four new endowed professorships in the college.

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Ron Capps Ends NHRA Nationals As Runner-Up

After earning a Wally trophy two weeks ago, Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) driver Ron Capps found himself back in a final elimination showdown with his Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car and this time came away with a runner-up finish at the eighth annual Summit Racing Equipment National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Nationals on July 6.

This is the third time that Capps finished runner-up at Norwalk, Ohio's Summit Racing Motorsports Park and the 41st time in his career.

Seeded fifth, Capps' second final round appearance of the season pitted him against 16-time NHRA champion, John Force, against whom he made a strong pass with a 4.135 second (305.56 mile per hour) elapsed time run, but was beaten by his opponent's time of 4.113 seconds (317.27 mph).

"It was another close race, but we raced well today," Capps said. "We didn't expect it to slow down against Force so (crew chief, Rahn) Tobler started looking at the computer right away to see what happened. The car just moved to the left down there."

"We just want to keep gaining points but we hate to have to race our teammates like that," said Capps who moves into third place in the standing after beating two of his three teammates. "We always say our teammates are tougher to race than Force and other opponents. Everybody is so good right now. It's so tight."

With Capps' runner-up finish, Don Schumacher Racing has wrapped up the four-week stretch with a Mopar in each final round of eliminations of the last four national events including wins by Tommy Johnson Jr. at Bristol, Tenn., Capps at Epping, N.H., and Matt Hagan at Joliet, Ill.

DSR qualified three of their Dodge Charger R/T machines in the top five positions on the Funny Car eliminations ladder with Johnson Jr., Hagan and Capps in the 3-4-5 positions respectively, with Jack Beckman also in the top half of the ladder with an eighth place seeding. All four drivers won their first-round matchups.

For the second round, the sun came out to heat up the track making navigation and setup a bit trickier after having had four evening qualifying sessions in cooler temperatures. The first to bow out was Johnson when he lost his second round pairing against Cruz Pedregon.

The winner of last week's Route 66 Nationals near Chicago and fourth-place qualifier, Hagan, was a bit too anxious to get his Mopar Express Lane Dodge through his second round matchup with his DSR teammate Capps. He turned on the red light, fouling out by -.176 seconds, to have his 4.112-second (310.84 mph) pass disqualified helping Capps advance with a 4.130-second (309 mph) pass to the semifinals against his other teammate, Beckman.

Capps edged Beckman in their matchup but the semifinal appearance helped boost Beckman back into the top ten in the points standings, which helps determine the field for a six-race Countdown to the Championship that begins after the Labor Day weekend.

In Pro Stock action, both Mopars won their respective opening round matchups to advance and face one another in the second round, with Jeg Coughlin Jr.'s JEGS.com Dodge Dart earning lane choice over Allen Johnson's "Magneti Marelli Offered by Mopar" Dodge Dart.

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2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Boasts a 707 HP Engine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition to 707 horsepower, the new Challenger SRT Hellcat has been redesigned and reengineered with performance-enhancing technologies inside and out, including the new TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission and a new interior inspired by the classic 1971 Challenger.

"The muscle car community takes this kind of thing seriously," Kuniskis said.

"These were the numbers that the team set out to hit and they hit a home run.

"In fact, we're calling this the most powerful muscle car ever, so you could actually call it a grand slam."

The Dodge and SRT brands now offer the most complete lineup of muscle cars in the market, said Kuniskis, including the new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT - with a standard powerful and fuel-efficient Pentastar V6 engine combined with the TorqueFlite eight-speed transmission that delivers 300 horsepower and an estimated 30 miles per gallon - and the 2015 Dodge Challenger R/T

with the high-torque 5.7-liter Hemi now paired with the TorqueFlite eight-speed or six-speed manual transmission.

Both are joined by the new 6.4-liter Hemi Challenger Scat Pack that delivers 485 horsepower and 475 lb.-ft. of torque with the TorqueFlite eight-speed or six-speed manual.

"We like to call Dodge the mainstream performance brand for Chrysler," Kuniskis said. "And we've folded the SRT brand into Dodge.

"This is the ultimate performing car for Chrysler.

"Is it for everyone?"

"No, but there is an audience for this type of car and we think we've built the ultimate version.

"It's got 707 hp, but it's not built for a race course, it's built for the everyday driver who wants something special for when he's on the road."

The 2015 Dodge Challenger and Challenger SRTs are built at the Brampton, Ontario, Assembly Plant.

They'll start arriving in Dodge dealerships in the third quarter of 2014.



2015 Chrysler 200

New 2015 Chrysler 200 Just 'Starting to Sell'

Chrysler's new 2015 200 had its first full sales month in June, and the news looks good.

"Just like we all have friends we can depend on no matter what, many car companies have vehicles they can depend on, no matter what," wrote Mike Driehorst, Chrysler's editorial director, online media, on a Chrysler blog last week.

"Ram pickups, Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan minivans, and the Jeep Cherokee led Chrysler Group's U.S. sales to another year-over-year monthly increase last month: 171,086 vehicles sold for a 9 percent gain over June 2013.

"With new Chrysler 200s still filling dealers' stock and new Dodge Chargers and Challengers on the horizon, June sales were down - but you know it won't be for long."

The automaker's June sales numbers showed that while Chrysler 200 sales were down 41 percent last month, more than 5,000 of the 7,345 sold were 2015 models; up from 595 in May.

And things should only get better, said Chrysler spokesperson Ralph Kisiel.

"The 200 is starting to sell," Kisiel said. "We're still in the initial stages of its launch. Each month, we'll have more and more inventory at dealers. In May, we just started shipping them. At this point, we're still building inventory."

The thing to remember, Kisiel said, is that it takes time to build a new vehicle's inventory. In June, Chrysler still sold more than 2,000 of the 2014 200s. As time goes on, that number will get smaller and there won't be any more 2014 200s left.

And the inventory for the 2015

200s is only going to grow.

"Over the next few months, we will see inventory build and that's when we can expect sales to take off," Kisiel said. "The dealers have been telling us that when they get 200s, the vehicles don't stay on the lots for long - they turn quickly."

The public and the dealers seem to be clearly excited about the 200's new launch, Kisiel said. But he added that it's difficult to predict any kind of sales trend based on such limited data.

"Let's face it, we've only had a few weeks of the 200 being at dealerships," said Kisiel. "A couple of weeks in May and the month of June.

"But having said that, we're happy with what we've seen so far."

Chrysler Honors Supplier Bosch

Robert Bosch was recently named a Supplier of the Year for extraordinary performance in design, earning the company the Design for Six Sigma award during the Chrysler Group's fourth Annual Strategy Meeting and Supplier Awards Event.

"At Bosch, we strive to design and develop top-of-the-line, technically sound products," said Mike Mansueti, president, Robert Bosch. "Our success - and that of our customers - depends on our ability to produce high-quality products.

"This award reinforces that our team's focused work is paying off. We are happy to receive such an award from Chrysler and look forward to strengthening our relationship going forward."



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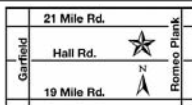
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Cadillac, Supplier Team Up To Improve ATS Handling

Cadillac and ZF Lenksysteme GmbH, a leading supplier of automotive steering systems, have teamed to create world-class dynamic handling and steering for all models of the 2015 ATS, said GM spokesman Brian Corbett.

"Starting with the excellent mechanical steering system, the electronic power assist steering gives a wider range of assist, resulting in an incredibly communicative, well-weighted and responsive steering experience," said Kevin Woodward, global key account at ZF Lenksysteme.

For 2015 ATS models, including the new ATS Coupe, the feel of the electronic power-assisted steering has been improved through revised programming within the electronic control unit.

New programming broadens the range of steering assist at low and high vehicle speeds, based on wheel speed, steering angle and even the car's chassis mode.

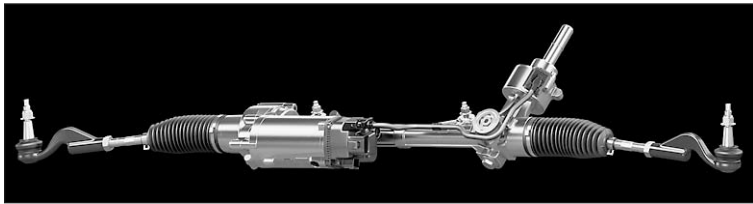
"It means that you don't have to sacrifice parking lot feel for

spirited driving feel," Woodward said. "The new software change illustrates our ability to balance the goal of spirited performance, nimble and quick-responding steering with the premium luxury feel expected by Cadillac owners."

The electric, variable-assist power steering system from ZF Lenksysteme is designed to deliver excellent response and on-center characteristics while saving fuel since engine power isn't directly required to assist gear movement – as is the case with conventional hydraulic systems.

"Premium electric power steering by ZF Lenksysteme steering gear has great torsional stiffness and low operating friction to enhance the steering feel with almost perfect linear response," Woodward said.

Additionally, the steering column and intermediate shaft feature stiff, direct-acting and low-friction ball bearing designs for a more immediate, connected-to-the-road feel for the driver, said Corbett.



The ATS' new electronic power-assisted steering system

FordDirect Moves Three Into Senior Executive Posts

FordDirect, a joint venture between Ford Motor Company and its franchise dealers, announced the promotion of several FordDirect employees, including the appointment of three employees to senior vice president.

James Casazza is now senior vice president of Digital Retail Solutions, John Gottschalk was made senior vice president of Customer Engagement, and Marianne Tappy was made senior vice president of Global Digital Innovation.

Casazza joined FordDirect seven years ago and most recently held the position of vice president of Dealer Services. As senior vice president of Digital Retail Solutions, Casazza leads product strategy and delivery across a portfolio of digital marketing services including websites, mobile solutions, consumer marketing and inventory management. He previously held roles in technology and Product Development at FordDirect.

Prior to joining FordDirect, Casazza was a product development engineer in Telematics at General Motors.

Gottschalk has more than 17 years of automotive retail experience, and was vice president of Business Development and Strategy before being named senior

vice president of Customer Engagement.

In this role, he leads the Customer Engagement team across all business lines where his responsibilities include building and maintaining customer relationships. Gottschalk's previous experience includes more than seven years at his family's Ford dealership in Pittsburgh, where as vice president he helped develop AutoNationDirect.com and established the sales and finance process for AutoNation's Online Auto buying service.

Tappy was most recently the vice president of Digital Strategy and Business Development for FordDirect before her promotion to senior vice president of Global Digital Innovation.

She joined FordDirect seven years ago, after working for Ford Motor Company, Digitas and Medtronic in various engineering and marketing positions.

Tappy is now responsible for setting the global strategic direction across various digital experiences, including online shopping, social and digital advertising.

"We are confident in the ability of our employees and happy to recognize their valuable contributions to FordDirect," said Stacey Coopes, FordDirect CEO.

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EMPLOYEE	\$399

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36 MO. LEASE	MSRP \$36,870
EVERYONE	\$314
FRIENDS & FAMILY	\$308
EMPLOYEE	\$299

2014 SRX FWD
CROSSOVER STANDARD

\$2599 due at signing plus 1st payment, tax, title, plate & doc. No sec. deposit required. Non-GM Vehicle Lease Conquest must own or lease 2004 or newer non-GM vehicle

36 MO. LEASE	MSRP \$38,530
EVERYONE	\$356
FRIENDS & FAMILY	\$341
EMPLOYEE	\$299

2014 XTS FWD
SEDAN STANDARD COLLECTION

\$399 due at signing plus 1st payment, tax, title, plate & doc. No sec. deposit required. Non-GM Vehicle Lease Conquest must own or lease 2004 or newer non-GM vehicle

36 MO. LEASE	MSRP \$45,665
EVERYONE	\$457
FRIENDS & FAMILY	\$449
EMPLOYEE	\$399

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STANDARD

\$1,059 due at signing with lease loyalty.

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EMPLOYEE	\$499

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- 38 MPG on the Highway!



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- Aluminum Wheels!
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- Power Locks & Windows! • Cruise/Tilt Wheel!
- AM/FM/XM Radio w/CD! • Remote Keyless Entry!
- 17" Aluminum Wheels!
- 32 MPG on the Highway!



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- Automatic Transmission! • Power Locks & Windows!
- Cruise & Tilt Wheel! • 17" Aluminum Wheels!
- 4.2" Color Screen Radio! • Remote Keyless Entry!
- 23 MPG on the Highway!



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OSU Students Win GM's EcoCAR 2 Competition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

paint job had to look professional.

Ohio State's team, Emerling said, decided to have their Malibu powered by E-85 ethanol fuel. And they added an electrical system to power the motor.

That meant having a lot of batteries and having a lot of batteries meant adding weight.

And that's where Johnson Controls proved very useful, Emerling said.

He contacted the company and asked them for help with the seats.

Johnson Controls spokesperson Mary Kay Dodero said, "One way to improve mileage is to remove weight.

"After the engines, seats are one of the heaviest things in a car. So students worked with our people to reduce the weight of the seats.

"Our engineers said they had a good time working with the students and enjoyed being a part of the contest."

Thanks to modern communications technology, Johnson Controls engineers were able to stay in touch with the students, Dodero said.

Key features of the Johnson Controls seats, which were designed specifically for Ohio State's EcoCAR 2, include:

- recyclable polyester fabric;
- eco-thread stitching;
- eco-adhesive lamination;
- natural dyes to create a customized printed design;
- lightweight, soy-based foam;
- bio-plastic side and back panels;
- a tablet-accessory attachment that easily connects portable consumer electronic de-

vices to the back of the front-seat headrests for viewing by rear-seat passengers.

Over the course of three years, the Ohio State team consistently met incremental goals that strengthened their position against the other university teams, said EcoCAR 2 spokesperson Kimberly DeClark.

"Their series-parallel plug-in hybrid Malibu excelled at GM's Proving Ground in Milford in June, where it was put through a series of strenuous technical and safety tests similar to those used for real-world production vehicles," DeClark said.

"The EcoCAR 2 competition has been an incredible journey and learning experience for everyone at Ohio State, and that's what really matters - winning the top spot is just a bonus," said Ohio State student Katherine Bovee.

"We are all excited to take everything we have learned into the workplace after graduation."

The team's unique design achieved 50 miles per gallon of gas equivalent, while using 315 Watt-hours per mile of electricity, DeClark said.

The vehicle impressed the judges with stellar numbers and even lessened the amount of criteria emissions by half, compared with the base vehicle.

"Ohio State met and exceeded the EcoCAR 2 goals at every point in the competition," said Dr. Michael Knotek, deputy undersecretary for Science and Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

"Their innovative work has contributed significantly to the future of energy-efficient technology in the automotive industry, and we wish all members of the team the best."

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2014 EQUINOX LS

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No Security Deposit Required

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No Security Deposit Required

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2014-15 Manchester United players show off the year's soccer shirt, which has the Chevrolet logo.

Chevy Kicks Off Manchester Soccer Deal

Chevrolet will offer six exclusive ticket packages for charity auction, including a once-in-a-lifetime "Ultimate Manchester United Fan Experience."

The "ultimate" package is for the highly anticipated match against Real Madrid at the University of Michigan's stadium in Ann Arbor as part of the Guinness International Champions Cup.

Soccer fans can place bids now through July 22 for a chance to win one of six ticket packages that include four tickets to the match, hospitality, pre-game access and more. Complete auction details are available at charitybuzz.com/manchesterunited.

Proceeds from the auction hosted at charitybuzz.com will benefit United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

As the official shirt sponsor of Manchester United, the team will wear Chevrolet-branded shirts during the Aug. 2 match that also feature a commemorative United Way badge. Each auction winner will receive one of the game-worn shirts from the team's new kit, which debuted earlier this week.

"Like the athletes who give their all on the field and the lifelong fans who go the distance to support them, Chevrolet wants to connect everyone with the spirit that makes soccer the world's favorite sport," said General Motors president Dan Ammann, chair for the 2014-15 United Way for Southeastern Michigan Workplace Campaign.

"From backyards to the 'Big House,' Chevrolet is proud to support our local communities and United Way."

The auction extends GM's and the GM Foundation's ongoing support of United Way and its mission to improve communities and individual lives by focusing on education, financial stability and such basic needs as food and shelter, said GM spokesperson Cristi Vazquez.

In 2010, the GM Foundation pledged its largest grant ever — \$27.1 million to United Way for Southeastern Michigan to establish a "Network of Excellence" in seven Detroit-area high schools.

The grant is also helping to advance early childhood education in the area. Over the last two years, GM employees and re-

tirees have contributed more than \$11 million through the company's United Way campaign, and have donated more than 7,200 hours of volunteer service at the Network of Excellence schools since 2011.

"United Way for Southeastern Michigan is honored to partner with Chevrolet for the Manchester United auction packages — these are two of the most storied and beloved brands in the world," said Michael J. Brennan, president & CEO, United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

"With the same spirit that soccer fans unite to support their team, we are committed to uniting the community in support of making Greater Detroit one of the best places to live and work. We are deeply grateful to GM for their partnership and for this exciting opportunity to move our mission forward."

The Manchester United ticket packages available for auction:

- Ultimate Package — Four VIP tickets to the Aug. 2 Manchester United vs. Real Madrid game, pre-game pitchside walk, game-worn shirt (signed), meet-and-greet with Manchester United players, on-field mascot escorting player on field (7-13-year-old), attend open training session, four tickets to a match at Old Trafford Stadium.

- VIP Package — four VIP tickets to the Manchester United vs. Real Madrid match, pre-game pitchside walk, game-worn shirt, four tickets to a match at Old Trafford Stadium.

- Executive Package — four VIP tickets to the Aug. 2 Manchester United vs. Real Madrid game, pre-game pitchside walk, game-worn shirt (signed) meet-and-greet with Manchester United players.

- Fred the Red Package — four VIP tickets to the Aug. 2 Manchester United vs. Real Madrid game, pre-game pitchside walk, game-worn shirt, on-field mascot escorting player on field (7-13-year-old).

- Super Fan Package — four VIP tickets to the Aug. 2 Manchester United vs. Real Madrid match, pre-game pitchside walk, game-worn shirt.

- Red Devil Package — four tickets to the Aug. 2 Manchester United vs. Real Madrid match, pre-game pitchside walk, game-

worn shirt, attend open training session.

The Aug. 2 match is just part of Chevrolet's summer promotions associated with Manchester United.

Chevrolet and Manchester United fans debuted the football club's 2014-15 season shirt on July 9. Fans were invited to upload photos of themselves wearing a digital version of the new shirt at www.chevroletfc.com, and share it via their social channels, said Vazquez.

The idea, she said, is to put fans at the center of the brand's debut on the shirt via a unique digital experience and is part of Chevrolet's "What Do You #Play-For?" global campaign to bring football fans closer to the sport.

"Manchester United has more than 659 million supporters around the world, and we want them to know that we march side by side with them," said Tim Mahoney, chief marketing officer, Global Chevrolet.

"We wanted to celebrate this new shirt with Manchester United supporters in an historic way because they deserve to be part of this important moment in club history."

To celebrate the kickoff of its seven-year Manchester United shirt sponsorship, Chevrolet last week released an enhanced version of its video at www.chevroletfc.com that pays homage to the history of iconic Manchester United shirts, dating to the club's inception in 1878.

Ford Predicts Better Times for Europe

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford says it remains on track to make a profit in Europe next year despite the fragile economy.

Ford hasn't earned a pretax profit in Europe since 2010, and it lost \$1.6 billion in the region last year. Ford Europe President Stephen Odell said last week that three plant closures and more than a dozen new products are helping reverse that.

Ford's sales are up 6.6 percent in Europe this year, outpacing the industry. Commercial vehicle sales rose 21 percent in June after Ford launched new vans, and Odell said Europe's first 500 Mustang sports cars sold out in 30 seconds.

Ford Donates \$1M to New African American Museum

Ford Motor Company has donated \$1 million to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The donation from Ford Motor Company Fund, the company's philanthropic arm, will support the museum's capital campaign, said Fund spokesperson Todd Nissen.

It will also go toward funding key programs when the museum — the only national site devoted exclusively to documenting African American life, art, history and culture — opens on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in 2016.

"Since Henry Ford's groundbreaking \$5 a day wage in 1913, which paid people equally regardless of race, Ford has invested in programs that empower and celebrate the African American community," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.

"Ford is proud to work with the Smithsonian on this museum that will recognize the tremendous contributions of African Americans to our country and our world."

Ford and the Smithsonian Institution jointly made the announcement on the Fourth of July at the 20th anniversary of the ESSENCE Festival in New Orleans.

Ford's relationship with the Smithsonian dates back 40 years, Nissen said, with the company donating more than \$11.5 million to support exhibits and programs that provide educational opportunities for families:

- Ford Fund supported the Smithsonian Freedom's Sisters, which celebrated 20 African American women who fought for equality for all Americans and

traveled to 12 cities from 2007 to 2012.

- In 2013, Ford Fund worked with the Smithsonian American History Museum to expand its Spark!Lab to three museums across the country. Designed to look and feel like an inventor's workshop, these spaces challenge children to create, experiment and invent in interactive innovation workshops.

- Ford Fund currently supports the museum's American Sabor exhibit that explores the influence of Latino musicians in America and is traveling to 13 cities through 2015.

- Ford Fund also is investing in conservation research for the giant panda at the National Zoo, including the popular Panda Cam, which allows visitors from around the world to view the newest panda cub online.

"We are so pleased that the Ford Motor Company Fund has chosen to join hundreds of donors from across the country to build a groundswell of support for the National Museum of African American History and Culture — we recognize this as a vote of confidence," said Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the museum.

"It is a genuine honor to have the company join us in our commitment to bring to the nation's capital a truly innovative cultural resource — one capable of telling a richer and fuller story of the development of this country."

"We also applaud the Ford Motor Company for having a long history of contributing to the growth of African American communities for families who migrated to Detroit from the rural South," Bunch added.

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Council to Focus on Key Connected Car Issues

A Connected Car Council has been formed and its inaugural members named.

Automotive technology expert and co-founder of the Connected Car Conference (C3) Doug Newcomb last week announced the formation of the council, which comprises thought leaders "on the cutting edge of the connected car space" from the automotive and technology industries, as well as experts on public policy and communications, said Newcomb.

The Connected Car Council will "serve the purpose of converting the complexities of the connected car dialogue into action for various stakeholders," said council spokesperson Michelle Suzuki.

The council will also guide development of the content and programming for future Connected Car Council events.

Initially, the council will focus on five key issues facing the connected car:

- Driver Distraction
- Big Data Collection
- The Networked Car
- Infotainment Platforms
- Privacy and Security

The council will establish positions and provide guidance on these issues to its members to help create actionable solutions

Preh Wins Award For Innovative Technology

Preh, an automotive supplier with its North American headquarters in Novi, has won first place for "Innovative HMI Technology" in the first CAR HMI Awards 2014.

The award was presented in a recent ceremony in Berlin attended by a large gathering of HMI professionals from the vehicle manufacturing and system supplier industries.

HMI (human machine interface) is the connection between man and machine, where maximum convenience and minimum distraction issues play a central role in the design of operational concepts.

Other first-place winners included NVIDIA Corporation, and Scania Group/Volkswagen Research for "HMI Design Innovation."

Individual projects were judged on a point system with regard to level of innovation, complexity, achievement and maturity of the HMI project, said Preh spokesperson Barrett Kalellis.

Preh Advanced Development director Dr. Matthias Lust received the trophy and official certificate at the gala dinner reception. In addition, the winner received a monetary prize which Preh donated to a charity, Kalellis said.

"We are pleased that our center console concept was chosen by an independent jury of experts as the first-place winner," Lust said. "For our advanced development team, this award is recognition and motivation at the same time, while it also demonstrates the vast range of technologies in our company."

"More and more, SmartPhones and tablets are influencing the HMI concepts of future vehicle generations. This award also shows that we at Preh have addressed the right issues in our product development, and that ease of operation, as well as driving safety, are not incompatible." Overall, Kalellis said, the five-member jury praised the center console's combination of different input systems, which improve driving safety.

In particular, the judges pointed to the ease of access to functions with triple feedback - tactile, visual and audible.

for the various parties, who include automakers, technology suppliers, policymakers, media and others. This is important within the rapidly evolving connected car space, Suzuki said.

The work of the Council will be curated by Newcomb, who has nearly three decades of experience as an automotive and technology journalist to guide stakeholders from multiple industries through the complex world of the connected car, Suzuki said.

"The Connected Car Council will not only help guide the content and direction of C3 events, but also provide expert information, research and opinion that cuts through the clutter and provides clarity to this fast-paced and crucial part of the automotive and technology industry," said Newcomb.

Members of the council:

- Gloria Bergquist, vice president, Public Affairs, Auto Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers;
- Derek Kuhn, VP, Sales and Marketing, QNX Software Systems;
- Andreas Mai, director, Smart Connected Vehicles, Cisco;
- Chris Barker, senior vice president, Business Development, Waggenger Edstrom;
- Niall Berkery, executive director, Business Development, Telenav;
- Joel Hoffmann, automotive strategist, Intel;
- John Absmeier, director, Delphi Labs @ Silicon Valley and Global Automated Driving Business Development;
- Danny Shapiro, senior director of Automotive, NVIDIA;
- John Suh, managing director, Hyundai Ventures.

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Sport-Inspired Package Coming on New 2015 Explorer

It's always helpful to listen to what customers want and then give it to them.

That's what Ford has done with the new 2015 Explorer, said Matt Zuehlk, Ford Explorer brand manager.

The Dearborn automaker is bringing new options to utility vehicle customers for 2015, including a sport-inspired appearance package that raises the bar on comfort and technology without breaking the bank, as well as new colors and features, said Ford spokesman William Mattiace.

"Customers asked for more and this is our answer," said Zuehlk.

"We know consumers love the look of Explorer Sport. With this package, you get that for Explorer XLT.

"It looks bold and rugged, and offers impressive technology at a surprising value."

Available later this month, the new option brings even greater variety, as customer demand for utility vehicles increases, Zuehlk said.

Explorer sales topped 20,000 in May for the first time since July

2005, with 20,346 vehicles sold – a 21 percent increase compared with May 2013.

Based on Ford analysis of Polk new vehicle retail registration data from IHS Automotive, Mattiace said Ford is gaining share in the millennial demographic, defined as buyers ages 18-34.

According to the analysis, as vehicle registrations within this demographic have increased 33 percent since 2009, Ford's share has increased 72 percent, more than double the industry pace. That means retail share for the Ford brand in this age group grew from 9.4 percent in 2009 to 12 percent today.

Since 2009, Explorer has contributed 21 percent to Ford's overall growth in retail registrations within this coveted demographic, Mattiace said.

"Explorer contributes more to Ford's millennial sales and share growth than any other passenger car or utility vehicle in the lineup," said Erich Merkle, U.S. sales analyst for Ford.

"This is more proof Explorer attracts all types of customers with great looks and third-row versatility."



2015 Ford Explorer

The new appearance package for Explorer XLT includes striking exterior details, with 20-inch machined aluminum wheels featuring painted pockets, black body-side cladding and roof rack rails, Mattiace said.

Other features, Mattiace said, include a Magnetic Metallic painted grille, mirror caps and liftgate appliqué, "EXPLORER" hood badge and body-color door handles.

The package also features technology upgrades, said Mattiace, such as SYNC with MyFord

Touch, two 4.2-inch color LCD screens in the instrument cluster, an 8-inch color LCD touch screen in the Meteorite Black center stack, two USB ports and an SD card reader.

Additional updates for 2015, said Mattiace, include new 18-inch aluminum wheels, now standard on the base model; Class III trailer tow package, now standard on Explorer Sport; and three new colors – Bronze Fire Metallic Tinted Clearcoat, Caribou Metallic and Magnetic Metallic.

Clean Diesel Cars Hit Sales Boom In First 6 Months

U.S. clean diesel car sales have increased 25 percent during the first six months of 2014 while the overall U.S. car market has increased by 4.2 percent, according to data compiled by Hybrid Cars.com and Baum and Associates.

The 2014 clean diesel sales total includes six months of consecutive sales increases, including double-digit increases in March (up 39.5 percent), April (up 60.4 percent) and May (up 26.8 percent).

June 2014 was the 43rd monthly increase in clean diesel sales in the past 47 months, with 31 of those months registering double-digit increases.

"Sustained and mostly double-digit increases in sales each month over a four-year period prove that U.S. consumers are embracing the benefits of clean diesel technology and its proven high fuel efficiency, great driving performance, and long-term value," said Allen Schaeffer, the executive director of the Diesel Technology Forum.

Ford China Sales Jump To Record First Half

Ford China raced to a record first half, with 549,256 vehicles sold in the first six months of 2014, up 35 percent compared with 407,474 sold during the same period last year.

Driven by continued strong demand for the Ford Focus, Ford Kuga, Ford Mondeo and the Ford EcoSport, Ford China's June sales increased 17 percent with 87,783 vehicles sold, up from 75,166 sold in the same period last year, said Ford spokesperson Jake Dylik.

"Ford's strong sales in the first half demonstrate the success of our accelerated China growth plan," said John Lawler, chairman and CEO of Ford China. "We continue to grow our sales network, increase capacity and hire great employees – all to deliver the high quality, safety, fuel efficiency and smart technologies that Chinese customers demand."

Changan Ford (CAF), Ford's passenger car joint venture, also enjoyed a record first half, selling 397,958 vehicles, up 39 percent from the 286,433 vehicles sold in the first half of 2013. CAF's June sales reached 67,187 vehicles, up 23 percent compared with 54,774 sold in June 2013.

The Ford Focus nameplate continued to lead CAF sales in the first half with 201,464 units sold, up 9 percent from 185,648 unit sales in the first half of 2013. June sales for the Ford Focus nameplate reached 33,614 vehicles, up seven percent from June 2013.

The Ford Mondeo nameplate also sold well in the first half, with 59,726 vehicles sold, a 124 percent increase compared with the 26,691 sold in the first half of 2013. June sales for the Ford Mondeo nameplate reached 10,044 vehicles, a 168 percent increase from June 2013.

Sales for the Ford Kuga and Ford EcoSport SUVs were also up in the first half. Ford Kuga sales rose 78 percent in the first six months with 66,225 wholesales sold. June sales for the Ford Kuga reached 10,901 vehicles, up 18 percent from the same period last year.

Ford EcoSport sales more than doubled in the first six months, increasing 103 percent from a year earlier with 33,403 vehicles sold. June sales for the Ford EcoSport were also up, increasing 28 percent from June 2013 with 7,201 vehicles sold.

During the first half of 2014, Ford China also experienced a 70 percent increase in sales for its imported passenger vehicles, the Ford Focus ST, the Ford Fiesta ST, the Ford Edge and the Ford Explorer. Imported vehicle sales in the first half reached 18,360 vehicles compared with 10,811 in the first half of 2013.

Jiangling Motors Corporation (JMC), Ford's commercial vehicle investment in China, also delivered its best first-half performance, selling 132,938 vehicles, a 21 percent increase from 110,230 sold in the first six months of 2013. June sales were up 19 percent with 19,012 vehicles sold compared with 16,022 sold in June 2013.

As part of its accelerated China growth plan, Ford last month opened its \$350 million transmission plant in Chongqing.

Ford's first transmission plant in the Asia Pacific region, the Changan Ford Transmission Plant (CAFTP) will produce 400,000 units a year to help meet growing demand from Chinese consumers.

During the same month, Ford also launched 88 new dealerships across China in one day, taking its total count of dealer points in China to 750.

Corvette Among 'Five Best Fun Cars for CEOs'

Chief Executive magazine and Edmunds.com recently published the "Five Best Fun Cars for CEOs," part of an annual feature that runs on both organizations' websites.

The five 2014-model cars featured are:

- Jaguar F Type V8 S;
- Porsche 911 Turbo S;
- Audi RS 7;
- BMW i8;
- Chevrolet Corvette Stingray.

Each car was evaluated based on its horsepower, price as tested, miles per gallon, added benefits, negatives, said Edmunds spokesperson Jeannine Fallon, as well as "what it says about the driver." The Jaguar F, for example, has the "coolest headlights in the universe," while the Audi RS 7's Bang & Olufsen sound system "is incredible."

The Chevrolet Corvette cost the least of the five vehicles, coming in at \$66,080.

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