



# POWERLine



"Published for the people of GM Powertrain Toledo / UAW Local 14"

JAN. 21, 2010

## GM Powertrain Toledo Employees can support the Haiti Relief Effort at work ....

GM and UAW Local 14 are partnering with the Red Cross to collect bottled water, canned goods and monetary donations. Please bring your donation to the UAW Local 14 Hall on Jackman Road -7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and drop it off at the counter.

At this time, we are unable to accept: clothing and perishable items. Please limit your donation to bottled water, canned goods and monetary donations.

## Chevy Volt Engineers Continue Tweaking as Production Start Nears

Andrew Farah, chief engineer on the '11 Chevrolet Volt, says his team is close to completing validation work on the industry's first extended-range electric vehicle, but engineers continue to tinker with items such as noise, vibration and harshness.

"It's like refinishing your bathroom at home," he tells Ward's. "You know where every flaw is. You neighbors would never see them, but you do.

"This car is that home-improvement project. We know where all the flaws are, but I'm almost satisfied," Farah says.

One sticking point remains NVH (Noise, Vibration and Handling) issues that arise when the car switches from full-electric mode to its internal combustion engine. The Volt is designed to travel 40 miles (64 km) under electric power. After eclipsing that range, a 1.4L gasoline engine kicks on to generate electricity to propel the car another 250 miles (402 km) before a recharge or fill-up is needed.

But engineers continue to wrestle with exactly how much feedback they think passengers should hear and feel when the Volt transitions between those operating modes. Too much NVH would alarm passengers, Farah says. But if the ICE (internal combustion engine), starts too slowly in an effort to optimize NVH, engineers run the risk of depleting the 16-kWh Li-ion battery too far.

A Li-ion battery likes to keep a constant state of charge, never reaching full charge or depleting its charge completely. And a happy Li-ion battery performs better and lasts

longer. GM wants its Volt batteries to last 10 years.

"So it's these finer points we're working on," says Farah, who has been using a production-type Volt as his daily driver for several months.

Volt engineers also are in the middle of what is called a "match check" at GM's Detroit-Hamtramck, MI, assembly plant. The auto maker invested \$336 million to renovate the 24-year-old, 3-million-sq.-ft. (278,709 sq. m) facility last year to accommodate production of the Volt. Now the car's engineers are making sure all of its body panels match to specifications. "We want perfect fit and finish," Farah says.

GM will begin production of the Volt in the fourth quarter, with plans to put customers behind the wheel of the first units by late November. Farah says his team should wrap up validation this summer. *Source – WardsAuto.com – Jan 11, 2010*

## The Importance of Reporting to Medical

*By the plant Safety Team*

We are fortunate at Toledo Powertrain to have a brand new, state-of-the art medical department staffed with extremely capable medical professionals under the direction of our Plant Medical Director, Dr. Victor Roth. If you experience an injury while you are anywhere on our campus, you must get a medical pass from your supervisor and **MUST** report to the Plant Medical Department.

Assessing and treating injuries immediately, even minor injuries, is often the difference in avoiding longer-term complications. Regardless of how minor an injury you believe it to be, you must get a pass (unless the situation is life-threatening or otherwise impractical) and report to our medical department as **REQUIRED**. Reporting to medical after an injury is a "common safety practice" in our plant.

**PLEASE!** If you are injured while you are anywhere on our campus please report to your Supervisor. We would also encourage you to make better use of our current processes that allow you to report a hazard:

- Contact a Salary Health & Safety Representative
- Contact a GM-UAW Health & Safety Representative
- Contact your Supervisor
- Initiate a QRP (Quick Response Process)
- Fill out an ESCP (Employee Safety Concerns Process)

Thanks for your cooperation and support.

# Attention Team Toledo: Happy New Year

By George Williams, senior resource manager

Creating a work environment in which cooperation is highly valued is called TEAMWORK. We believe Safety, like other metrics are more positively affected when Teamwork is at the forefront. In general, the best Team will always come out ahead, even in Safety performance.

Speaking of Teamwork, your UAW/GM Leadership would like to encourage you to be your Brother's/Sister's keeper by practicing the following tips:

- Remind your Brother/Sister to always wear proper PPE. A significant amount of our injuries are due to Employees not wearing their PPE.
- Remind your Brother/Sister to be efficient, but not to hurry. Again, we have experienced a lot of injuries when Employees are hurrying to complete a job.
- If you observe your Brother/Sister behaving unsafely – it's ok to politely remind him/her that you care about their well being and ask them to reconsider behaving unsafely.
- All injuries must be reported to your Group Leader.
- When approaching an intersection always lookout for the other person.
- Help us maintain our standard of starting and finishing all meetings with a Safety message/intervention.
- Utilize the Employee Safety Concerns Process to report any safety hazard you feel is not being addressed.
- Speak positively about your Safety experiences, in general, people love to be a part of positive situations and feel more motivated when things are upbeat.
- When you transfer to another department make sure your Group Leader provide you with a safety intervention via the Safety orientation card.
- Be a Safety Idol – Take Safety home with you as your Family away from work needs your passion as well.
- Be a Safety role model – always follow your Standardized work and don't be afraid to ask questions of your leadership.
- Report any and all Safety hazards to your Leadership.
- Take Two for Safety on every job you perform (Visualize every step from start to finish and analyze hazards along the way) it will open your eyes as well as other's eyes to risks that were not evident before.

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“We value you; we value Teamwork, so let's keep working collaboratively to value Safety!”

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Our leadership (UAW and Management) has a history of working well together; we will continue working together to create an incident free workplace. Your Local Joint Health and Safety Committee, the Plant Safety Review Board, Safety Observation Tour participants, Key Four, Joint Safety Auditors, Local Joint Skilled Trades Committee, are working hard every-day to improve/promote Safety within our facility.

We believe that fundamental safety practices and attitude determine excellent performance.

We value you; we value Teamwork, so let's keep working collaboratively to value Safety!

## In the Media

### Fewer Brands, Better Focus for GM at Auto Show

“Perhaps no display at the Detroit auto show reveals the big brand shakeup the auto industry has endured this past year as much as GM's does,” reports the Detroit Free Press.

Jeff Schuster, J.D. Power and Associates' executive director of global forecasting, told the Free Press that the Detroit auto show is a coming-out of sorts for the new GM and its brands. “I think a couple of things are clear: They are trying to emphasize the individual brands more,” Schuster said. “That's a good sign from a competitive standpoint.”

“Of all their brands, I think Chevrolet is the one that is really positioned the best,” said Erich Merkle, an analyst with Autoconomy.com. “They don't have to recast the image of Chevrolet.”

Industry analyst Jim Hall of 2953 Analytics called time Chevy's weakness. “They don't have the product they need like right now,” he said. “But the advantage to not having it is the market is still not in really good shape. ... The worst thing ... is to launch a really good new car in a bad market because you will have to launch it again.”

That said, Hall was optimistic about future launches. The upcoming Cruze and Aveo small cars bode well for Chevy, which faces tough competition, especially from Ford. The Volt's launch late this year also will generate a lot of attention.

# GM Receives Grant for Engine Development to Boost Efficiency

## New technologies expected to deliver 25 percent better fuel economy

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is awarding General Motors a \$7.7 million grant to accelerate development of four technologies to improve the fuel economy of light-duty vehicles by at least 25 percent while meeting strict future emissions standards.

The GM project integrates technologies including lean combustion, stop-start, active thermal management and an innovative passive selective catalytic reduction (SCR) after-treatment system that collectively push the efficiency of conventional propulsion to its upper limits.

"The DOE grant helps accelerate our efforts in bringing breakthrough technologies to production that optimize fuel efficiency, emissions and vehicle performance," said Dan Hancock, GM vice president of global powertrain engineering.

While the benefits of lean combustion have been known for years, commercial implementation of lean combustion requires an affordable emissions "after-treatment" system capable of meeting stringent U.S. environmental standards. The funding from the DOE offered under this project enables GM to further develop cost effective and novel lean after-treatment technology.

In addition to a "passive SCR" after treatment, the advanced engine development project will also employ a stop-start subsystem. Stop-start subsystems eliminate fuel waste during idle, and reduce hydrocarbon emissions, thus reducing demands on the after-treatment system. An active thermal management system will also be developed to further improve both fuel economy and emissions.

The DOE funded project will involve the 2010 Chevrolet Malibu with an advanced Ecotec direct injected engine and six-speed automatic transmission. Successful project implementation will enable GM to rapidly deploy this technology because Ecotec engines are globally used in a wide range of light-duty vehicles.

Work on the project will be conducted primarily at GM's advanced engineering center in Pontiac, MI and will begin immediately.

## Competition in North America

### Ford's Mulally Concerned about Excess Capacity

Ford does not expect to hire any U.S. unionized workers at the second-tier wage negotiated with the United Auto Workers before next year, Chief Executive Alan Mulally said. New union worker hiring would take "at least a year, maybe 2011, depending on how the economy comes back, the industry comes back," he said.

Mulally also said Ford hoped to get more than several hundred UAW workers to accept buyout packages under a

recent offer. Previously, Ford had shed thousands of union jobs through buyouts, but recent offers have drawn few volunteers.

Overall, Ford has no plans to make widespread hiring across its ranks and in the case of the UAW, it still has some productivity gains it can achieve, executives said.

In terms of pricing competitiveness, Mulally said he hoped the industry had learned its lesson about chasing market share at the expense of profits during the last downturn, but said he remained very concerned about excess production capacity.

"There is nothing worse than overcapacity in the industry and we still have overcapacity," Mulally said. "It's hard to expect rational behavior when you have overcapacity."

Ford is taking out production capacity in North America, consolidating a plant in Michigan, one in Canada and one in Minnesota over two years to bring it in line with demand, assuming markets recover as expected, the automaker has said. *Source – Reuters – January 11, 2010*

### Hyundai Markets Itself as an American Company

Hyundai donated 1,000 coats to city children on January 11, as part of the South Korean automaker's presence at the North American International Auto Show.

The donation, which Focus: HOPE is administering, follows a \$50,000 donation to Children's Hospital of Michigan for cancer research. Hyundai has donated more than \$14 million over the past decade to institutions across the nation to fight cancer. Last year, it donated \$1.3 million.

Dealerships and the automaker partnered for the Detroit donation.

"Even in the face of tough economic times for our industry, we will not waver in our commitment to supporting the medical research and training that will produce better treatments, therapies and, one day, a cure," Hyundai CEO John Krafcik said.

"The auto companies (at the auto show) should think about ways to help the city," said Randi Payton, CEO and founder of On Wheels Media Inc. "Hyundai is leading the way. We want to get more of them doing it." *Source – det-news.com – January 12, 2010*

## Mary Barra Hosts CAP Blogchat on Jan. 21

Mary Barra, Vice President of Human Resources, will host a blog chat to answer employee questions about the Commitment and Accountability Partnership (CAP). The blog chat is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, from 10:00- 11:00 a.m. EST (Detroit time). Mark your calendar or use the reminder feature below. Then, visit this site on Jan. 21 to participate. [http://blogs.gm.com/blogs/prod\\_182/index.php?blog=22&title=mary\\_barra\\_hosts\\_cap\\_blogchat\\_on\\_jan\\_21&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1](http://blogs.gm.com/blogs/prod_182/index.php?blog=22&title=mary_barra_hosts_cap_blogchat_on_jan_21&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1)

## North American International Auto Show

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, through Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010

**\$8 each - Discount tickets**

Tickets available at Local 14 UAW, Dues office  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner Banquet

Powertrain Unit / Local 14

Civil & Human Rights Committee presents  
The 5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner

*The theme is "Keep on Marching".*

Date: January 23, 2010, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
at UAW Local 14 Union Hall

5411 Jackman Rd. Toledo, OH 43613.

**Guest Speaker: Ken Lortz, Region 2B Director**

Tickets are \$25.00 / Table of 8 \$200.00

To purchase tickets, contact Local 14 Dues office at  
419-473-2854 or Rod Tatum 419-508-9010.

## Attention Golfers

### Local 14 Afternoon Golf League at Whiteford Valley

League Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010 at 3:45 p.m.

Avon's Bar / Local 14 Union Hall

Open to all league members and  
anyone interested in golfing in the league  
tee times start at 3:54 p.m. - two divisions: A and B

*For more information or to sign up, contact:  
Dan Lewis GF6 Launch Team (419) 944-5509*

## From the Chaplaincy Committee

*"How we think shows through in how we act. Attitudes are mirrors of the mind. They reflect thinking."*

*David Joseph Schwartz*

### How to contact us...

GMPT Toledo Transmission Plant  
1455 W. Alexis Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43697-0909  
Communications Integrator - UAW: Daniel Macut  
Direct Connect: 131\*128\*3895; cell: (419) 408-1476  
Email submissions to daniel.macut@gm.com  
Communications Manager - GM: Wanda Wellman - 5280

**Deadline for POWERLine is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.**

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## Detroit Red Wings Bus Trip

Red Wings vs. LA Kings

Joe Louis Arena, Detroit, MI

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.

Cost \$35 per person includes: 1 pop & 1 hotdog at game

Only 48 tickets available

**Tailgate 4 p.m.**

Buses leave Local 14 Union Hall

5 p.m. sharp

Tickets available at the Local 14 Union Hall

**Cash only**

First come, first served

Monday- Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

## New Chevy Billboards Posted around Detroit, Michigan



[www.uawlocal14.org](http://www.uawlocal14.org)

## Assembly Update:

From our last week ending Jan. 17, 2010

Total build scheduled	9,330
Total actual build	9,265
Production conformance to schedule	95.2 %
Next week's daily build	1,866

*Schedules are subject to change. These figures are based on the best information we have at this time.*