



# POWERLine



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

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## Whitacre to Continue as GM CEO

Edward E. Whitacre, Jr., has agreed to continue as chairman and CEO of GM, it was announced Monday, Jan. 25.

Whitacre also expressed the GM board's commitment that the company will pay back in full the U.S. Treasury, Canadian, and Ontario government loans by June.

Whitacre's appointment reflects GM's progress since the new company was formed last summer.

"The board of directors asked if I would be willing to stay on at GM and help continue the company's road back to success," Whitacre said. "Having spent the past few months learning the business, meeting with our employees, customers and dealers, and working with the GM leadership team, I was both honored and pleased to accept this role. This is a great company with an even greater future, and I want to be part it.

"We've made significant progress in the past couple of months, so much so that I can confirm with certainty that we will pay back in full the U.S. Treasury and Canadian government loans by June," Whitacre said. "This represents a significant milestone in our journey back to being a profitable and viable company."

A replay of Whitacre's broadcast is now available on Socrates (<http://socrates.gm.com/>).

## GM First Major U.S. Automaker to Manufacture Electric Motors

GM will expand its in-house electric vehicle development capabilities by becoming the first major U.S. automaker to design and manufacture electric motors, a core technology for hybrids and electric vehicles.

By doing so, GM will lower costs and improve performance, quality, reliability and manufacturability of electric motors by controlling design, materials selection and production processes. The first GM-designed and built electric motors are scheduled to debut in 2013 in next-generation, rear-wheel-drive two-mode hybrid technology.

"Electric motor innovation supported the first wave of automotive growth a century ago with the electric starter, which eliminated the need for a hand crank, and revolutionized automotive travel for the customer," said Tom Stephens, GM vice chairman, Global Product Operations. "We think the electrification of today's automobiles will be just as revolutionary and just as beneficial to our customers. Electric motors will play a huge role in that."

## GF6 Offices Moved

Effective this past Monday, Jan. 25, the GF6 manufacturing and engineering offices have moved off of the mezzanine level. The new office location is in the Administration building. The former BT-500 area houses the new GF6 Manufacturing offices and the former mail room / blueprint room / EDS area houses the new GF6 Engineering offices.

Also, note that Quality Systems moved to the former plant engineering area.

## Hear Here

One of our major safety objectives in establishing both RWD and FWD operations was to assure a noise level in our plant below the OSHA and GM threshold which requires hearing protection. We are very proud and gratified to have achieved that goal. Our joint plant Noise Committee continues to regularly monitor noise levels to make certain we remain below the threshold.

Because our noise levels fall within the "safe" range, we are not required to mandate annual hearing tests nor are our people required to wear hearing protection. Our Noise Committee members unanimously agree, however, that encouraging the use of hearing protection and regular hearing tests is the right thing to do.

Everyone's hearing decreases naturally with age. However, exposure to high noise levels from any source does accelerate the process. A voluntary hearing test, scheduled on your own time, in our state-of-the-art Medical Department takes approximately ten minutes to complete. Calling ahead (ext. 5133) to schedule an appointment will minimize your wait for the test.

There are a few areas in our plant where the measured noise can approach a concerning decibel level. Those working in our Powerhouse, on our Valve Body Machining line, on our Pump Cover Machining line, and in the Pinion Gears area (Green), are particularly encouraged to voluntarily wear hearing protection and consider regular voluntary hearing tests.

As we have indicated many times, hearing loss is FOREVER. Once your hearing degrades, it will NOT restore. There is no medical fix or medication that will cause your hearing to improve. It only makes sense to do all you can to protect your hearing. Wearing ear plugs is easy, convenient and painless. They are available in our Medical Department. Your joint plant Noise Committee encourages you to always err on the side of your hearing.

# Driven to Distraction

By Wanda Wellman, Plant Communications Manager

For a long time, the most visible and most controversial source of driver in-attention has been the handheld cell phone. Cell phone use and texting while driving has become very common: According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), at any given moment, more than 1 million U.S. drivers are talking on handheld cell phones. Why is this a problem? Cell phones (also called wireless phones) are a known distraction. In a 2008 survey by Nationwide Insurance, 67 percent of people admitted to using a cell phone while driving.

These numbers have generated an obvious concern about cell phone safety. Dozens of countries have banned the use of handheld phones while driving. In the U.S., California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Utah, Washington, D.C. and many municipalities have fully outlawed in-vehicle handheld phone use. Dozens of states have banned cell phone use by minors and bus drivers. Many other attempts at strong state legislation have failed or been tabled.

Each year, too many thousands of families suffer the loss of loved ones due to Distracted Driving or DWY – Driving While Yakking. Distracted Driving, whether texting, using hands-free or handheld phones puts drivers at risk; drivers are also risking the lives of others on the road.

The organization, FocusDriven, campaigns for cell-free driving. FocusDriven provides victims of cell phone distracted drivers, and their friends and families, with an outlet for sharing their stories. They also provide those interested in this issue with opportunities to get involved. FocusDriven can help you petition your state legislation; educate your friends, families and coworkers about the hazards of Distracted Driving; or share your story with state representatives to help support legislation for safer roadways. To learn more about FocusDriven and how you can become involved, visit [www.focusdriven.org](http://www.focusdriven.org) or login to [abcnews.go.com/GMA/](http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/) and check out the video clip “Mothers Against Texting and Driving” featured on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.

Studies have shown that talking on phones, regardless of phone type (handheld or hands-free) has negative impacts on a driver’s performance. Performance while using a hands-free phone was rarely found to be better when using a handheld phone. Some studies have found that drivers compensate for the harmful effects of cell phone use when using a handheld phone but neglect to do so when using a hands-free phone.

A comparison of the cell phone driver and the drunk driver shows that, when controlling for driving difficulty and time on task, cell phone drivers exhibited greater impairment than intoxicated drivers.

During a 14-month study period, a total of 26,798 cell phone calls were made. This study indicates the risk of collision when using a cell phone was four times higher than the risk when a cell phone was not in use. The relative risk was similar for drivers who differed in personal characteristics such as age and driving experience. Thirty-nine percent of the drivers called emergency services after the collision, suggesting that having a cellular telephone may have had advantages in the aftermath of an event.

These and other statistics were featured on The Oprah Show earlier last week in the segment “This Show Could Save Your Life: America’s New Deadly Obsession” – watch clips of the show at <http://www.oprah.com/showinfo/Americas-New-Deadly-Obsession>

I know from personal experience the convenience of cell phones often outweighs the risk associated and it’s difficult not to pick up your phone while driving. AAA recommends you not use your cell phone while driving. However, if you must call when behind the wheel, AAA suggests:

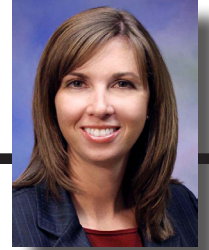
- Recognize that driving requires your full attention.
- Before you get into the car, become familiar with the phone’s features.
- Use the phone only if it’s absolutely necessary.
- Use the phone only when and where it’s safe to do so.
- Ask a passenger to place the call for you and to do the talking.
- Keep the call short.
- Tell the person at the other end that you’re driving.
- Get off the phone as soon as possible—especially in traffic or bad weather.
- Don’t combine a phone conversation with other distractions.
- Secure your phone so it doesn’t become a projectile in a crash.

I also recommend using your vehicle’s Bluetooth device even though you might sound like you’re calling from the “bottom of a barrel.”

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*“I know from personal experience the convenience of cell phones often outweighs the risk associated and it’s difficult not to pick up your phone while driving.”*

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# Employee's Safety Responsibilities

By Jim Watt, Area Manager-Assembly TTO 6 Speed

All employers are responsible for maintaining a safe work place and adopting an injury and illness prevention program to protect people from job hazards. Additionally, all Toledo Team members have the responsibility for maintaining a safe work place. Just what does that mean?

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*"Remember that it's only when you own 'Safety is our Value' that our workplace will be truly safe."*

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## Here are a few simple points to remember:

- Know and follow all of the plant's health and safety rules.
- Attend, and participate in, all of the safety training provided.
- Know and understand the Emergency signals for take cover and evacuation.
- Read and understand the SOSs, JESs and SOPs for your operations.
- Never operate any equipment unless you have been properly trained.
- Perform all pre-op checks on your equipment before you begin.
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner keeping safety foremost in your thoughts.
- Be a good role model for your co-workers.
- Maintain your work area and Team Centers in a clean and orderly manner.
- Always use the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) for your job.
- Talk with your teammates about safety.
- Report all accidents and near misses immediately.
- Report to Medical for treatment for all injuries.
- Complete all preventative maintenance tasks as scheduled.
- Always "Take Two" before performing a new task.
- Be your Brothers and Sisters keeper.

Remember that it's only when you own "Safety is our Value" that our workplace will be truly safe.

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## Toyota Halts Sales of Recalled Models

### Production of 8 vehicle lines suspended to fix faulty gas pedals

Toyota Motor Corp., scrambling to contain damage to its reputation for safety, is halting sales and production of eight models that the automaker recalled last week to fix gas pedals that could get stuck.

Toyota said Tuesday it had told its U.S. dealers to stop selling the vehicles, which include the popular RAV4 compact sport utility vehicle and the Corolla and Camry sedans.

Toyota's action seemed unprecedented in scope, although the company and other automakers have halted output of vehicles while they tried to correct a problem.

The Japanese automaker's move will be costly, affecting models that account for close to half of its U.S. sales as well as production at five assembly plants and one engine factory in North America for about a week.

"They're going to extraordinary measures to make sure that the buying public feels comfortable with their automobiles," said Jeff Caponigro, president of Caponigro Public Relations Inc., which has offices in Southfield and Tampa, Fla.

"Once that reputation has a crack in it, it can be disastrous for the company."

Some analysts said the issue may be getting away from

Toyota. Tuesday's announcement followed reports that the automaker was still selling the models that were included in last week's recall of 2.3 million cars and trucks.

Toyota is struggling to draw a line under this dangerous problem, which emerged with a recall last fall of 4.3 million vehicles after many reports over the years of "unintended acceleration." Some were linked to fatal accidents, including a high-profile crash near San Diego last year that killed four people.

### Toyota seeks fast solution

"Helping ensure the safety of our customers and restoring confidence in Toyota are very important to our company," said Toyota Group Vice President Bob Carter, general manager of the Toyota division in North America.

"This action is necessary until a remedy is finalized. We're making every effort to address this situation for our customers as quickly as possible."

Some safety advocates trace complaints about acceleration-related issues in Toyota vehicles to its introduction a little over a decade ago of electronic throttle control, or drive-by-wire. In such a system, a driver putting pressure on the accelerator pedal is actually sending an electronic signal to the throttle.

Toyota announced the latest recall on Jan. 21 as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration was considering opening a formal investigation into the new issue involving the pedal. Source: The Detroit News.

## Just announced: additional GM Owner Loyalty Cash

Get \$1,000 or \$2,000 in Owner Loyalty Cash plus your discount.



JUST ANNOUNCED:  
**\$2,000** OWNER LOYALTY CASH<sup>1</sup>  
ON SELECT FULL-SIZE PICKUPS  
OR \$1,000 ON NEARLY ALL OTHER MODELS.

### It Pays to be Loyal

We're giving you Owner Loyalty Cash good toward almost every new 2009 and 2010 GM vehicle. As long as you or someone in your household owns or leases a 1999 or newer model year GM vehicle, you can redeem your Owner Loyalty Cash and use it toward an eligible, new one.

But act quickly — this exclusive offer ends February 1, 2010. To see the list of eligible vehicles, or to get more information, click here.

### Your discount pays off.

Want even more great savings? It's easy. Combine your Owner Loyalty Cash with your GM employee discount, plus most current incentives.

To get started, go to [gmfamilyfirst.com](http://gmfamilyfirst.com) and obtain your authorization number. Then, head to your dealer by February 1, 2010.

## 37th Annual UAW Local 14 Bowling Tournament

Registration forms and rules are in the Union Work Center  
Jug's Bowling Center - March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14  
\$20 per event

Open to all unit members of UAW Local 14  
Registration deadline - Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

**From the Chaplaincy Committee**

*"The wisdom of the wise, and the experience of ages, may be preserved by quotations."*

*Isaac Disraeli*

**How to contact us...**  
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**Deadline for POWERLine is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.**

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## Greater Toledo Auto Show

January 28-31, 2010

Seagate Convention Center - Downtown Toledo

Discounted General Admission Tickets  
\$3 each

Children 12 and under admitted free-with a paid adult

On sale now at Local 14 UAW dues office

First come first served – 100 tickets available

### Show Hours:

Thursday, Jan. 28	3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 29	12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 30	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 31	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

## Haiti Relief Collection

### ADDITIONAL DROP-OFF LOCATIONS AVAILABLE

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.

And, now, employees may drop off their donation  
at the following locations inside the plant:

- RWD6~East Gate
- GF6 ~ West Gate
- Main Entrance ~ Lobby

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

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

**Assembly Update:**  
From our last week ending Jan. 24, 2010

Total build scheduled	7,464
Total actual build	7,479
Production conformance to schedule	98.1 %
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.*