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### NEWS

#### Bulgaria

##### ***Yanev appointed new Executive Director of InvestBulgaria Agency***

**Stamen Yanev** has been appointed the new Executive Director of **InvestBulgaria Agency**, designated by the Minister of Economy **Bozhidar Loukarsky** and coordinated with the Prime Minister **Boyko Borisov**. Yanev is a lawyer, specialized in mergers and acquisitions, as well as in the field of investment. His professional career has passed through several major international consulting companies, including the Bulgarian divisions of some of the largest audit firms in the world. **Madzhide Ahmedova** has been appointed Deputy Executive Director of InvestBulgaria Agency. She is an economist and has managerial experience in public administration and in the real economy.

### Czech Republic

#### **Hyundai starts production of facelifted i30**

**Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech s.r.o. (HMMC)** has launched volume production of the facelifted **Hyundai i30** model range at its plant in Nošovice. Serial production of the second-generation i30 started in January 2012.

#### **Hyundai builds 1.5 millionth car**

**Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech s.r.o. (HMMC)** has manufactured its 1.5 millionth car. The milestone car, a **Hyundai i30**, is destined for a customer in Germany.

#### **Mobis: More details on lighting plant in Mošnov**

Following the contract signing last year, more details about the **Mobis Lamp Shop CZ** plant, which will be constructed by **Mobis Automotive Czech s.r.o.** in the industrial zone Mošnov, are included in the documents destined for the environmental impact assessment. The new production hall including office space will have 45,066 square metres covered space. The capacity will be up to 2 million headlamps and 2 million rear lamps per year destined for up to 1 million cars per year. However, the company says that real plans call only for the production of some 900,000 sets per year. The factory will produce headlamps and rear lamps for **Hyundai** and **Kia** cars made in the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as for other customers. The company plans to produce about 150,000 head lamps in 2017, with 491,000 units in 2018, 763,000 units in 2019 and 900,000 units in 2020. In 2017 the plant also plans to produce the first 2,800 rear lamps, with 393,000 units in 2018, 763,000 units in 2019 and 900,000 in 2020. The factory will produce plastic parts needed for the head and rear lamps and source other parts from suppliers. Construction work is expected to start in September 2015 and to be finalised in November 2016.

#### **Leoni to produce front body cable harnesses for Hyundai's new Czech mid size car**

**Leoni AG** has received its first wiring systems order from **Hyundai Motor Company**. Hyundai awarded a double-digit million Euro sales volume over a period of 6 years to the German supplier. Leoni obtained the project to equip a mid-size car model manufactured at the **Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech s.r.o. (HMMC)** plant in Nošovice from December 2016 with a front body cable harness. The business was awarded in mid-January 2015. Leoni will deliver between 130,000 and 160,000 front body harnesses per year. "Hyundai intends to expand its European business in the future and this business award signals a first step for a long-term partnership between both partners in the years to come" Leoni said in a statement. "This order is a big milestone forward concerning the further globalisation of our company and we are looking forward to keep growing with a solid cooperation to Hyundai in the near future," said **Dr. Andreas Brand**, member of the Leoni Management Board and responsible for the wiring systems business: "As a global supplier Leoni has now started its first wiring systems project in Europe with the Korean partner targeting to become a preferred supplier worldwide". According to Leoni, the cable harnesses for Hyundai will be manufactured at an existing plant in Eastern Europe.

### ***Brno Motor Show cancelled***

Organisers have cancelled the **Brno Motor Show 2015 (Autosalon Brno)** in the face of lacklustre support from automakers. Only five brand committed to the event which was scheduled from the 28<sup>th</sup> of May to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

### ***Hungary***

#### ***Daimler may boost car production in Kecskemét***

**Daimler AG** may increase output at its **Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary Kft** factory in Kecskemét. "We have invested a billion euros into this factory and we will invest more" **Thomas Geier**, head of the Kecskemét plant, told a news conference during the production launch of the **Mercedes-Benz CLA Shooting Brake**, Reuters reports. He did not specify the amount of possible investments or the possible output increase. "We will invest in the future as the compact car family develops further" Geier is quoted as saying. "There will be a new series and the Kecskemet factory will take part in this actively".

#### ***Daimler launches production of Mercedes-Benz CLA Shooting Brake***

**Daimler AG** has celebrated the official start of volume production of the **Mercedes-Benz CLA Shooting Brake** at its **Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary Kft** plant in Kecskemét. Hungarian Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** joined the ceremony. The CLA Shooting Brake is the second model series to be exclusively produced in Kecskemét after the CLA. Around 150,000 B-Class and CLA-Class vehicles were produced in Kecskemét last year, and 300,000 units have rolled off the line at the plant since it started production in March 2012. "We would not have been able to write this success story in Kecskemét without the support of politics, the administrative authorities and society. We will continue to rely on this good cooperation" said **Markus Schäfer**, Member of the Divisional Board Mercedes-Benz Cars, Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management. One example of this support is a low-interest export promotion loan totalling €90 million, which the company will use for financing of further investments in the Kecskemét plant in the future, Daimler said. Investments in the Kecskemét plant to date total around €1 billion. After spending €800 million on the construction of the plant, the company has continued to develop the facility. The Kecskemét plant has been operating in three shifts since May 2014. It employed almost 4,000 people at the end of 2014. The B-Class production started in Kecskemét in March 2012. The second product from the Kecskemét plant has been the CLA which started to roll off the line in January 2013.

#### ***Alpine develops its plant in Biatorbágy***

**Alpine Electronics Inc.** will double its production capacity at its **Alpine Európai Elektronikai Ipari Kft (Alpine Electronics Manufacturing of Europe Ltd.)** plant in Biatorbágy. This was announced by **Péter Szijjártó**, foreign minister of Hungary, who also mentioned that the Japanese company will create 500 new workplaces with an investment of around \$39 million. The Hungarian government plans to sign a strategic agreement with the company in the near future.

### ***LeBelier expands in Ajka***

**Le Belier Magyarország Zrt**, the Hungarian subsidiary of French **Le Belier** has signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Hungarian government. After the ceremony, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade announced that Le Belier will make an €25.1 million investment at its Ajka plant, where moulded components are being made. A new hall will be erected, where production will be launched in 2016.

### ***Hungarian government invests in automotive supplier***

**Széchenyi Tőkealap-kezelő Zrt**, a state-owned capital management company has decided to invest HUF 225 million in Kunszentmárton-based **UT Automotive Kft**. UT Automotive was established last year, when privately-owned **Unitrade M&M Kft** decided to spin off its precision manufacturing division which supplies the automotive industry.

## **Hungary/Slovakia**

### ***Daejung sets up shop in Páty***

**CBRE**, a Hungarian real estate company has announced that it has made a deal with **Daejung Europe s.r.o.** on the leasing of a 4,700 square metre production hall, which is located at the **Europolis Industrial Park** in Páty near Budapest. Earlier, Daejung officials were involved in talks regarding a plant in the Hungarian city of Komárom, but these plans have been shelved. According to a Korean official, Daejung, which is a Tier 2 supplier to **Halla Climate Control**, is operating at maximum capacity at its Slovakian plant and the Hungarian plant will be used to boost capacity. Production will be launched at the end of February. By that time 35-40 workers will be hired. Over the next two years €4 million are planned to be invested in the Hungarian plant, where eventually 200 workers will be employed.

## **Kazakhstan**

### ***Azia Avto launches assembly of new Kia Sorento***

**AO Azia Avto** has launched SKD assembly of the new-generation **Kia Sorento** at its plant in Ust-Kamenogorsk. The car starts at KZT 5,797,000.

## **Poland**

### ***ABC buys land in Bydgoszcz***

**ABC Automotive Poland Sp. z o.o.**, the Polish subsidiary of the Canadian **ABC Group**, has acquired 2.6 hectares of land in **Bydgoski Park Przemysłowo-Technologiczny (Bydgoszcz Industrial-Technology Park)**. The company plans to erect a production and logistics hall, plus office space, with about 13,000 square metres of covered space with the start of production scheduled for 2016. The project is expected to create some 150 new jobs.

### **VIA finalises modernization**

The company **VIA Technika Obróbki Powierzchniowej Sp. z o.o.** has finalised investments in the modernisation and expansion of its plant in Komorniki in the municipality of Oroda Śląska. The project included the installation of a new degreasing unit and expansion of working space. Suppliers such as **Gedia Poland**, **HMT**, **Fiuka**, **Schurholz** and **Kirchhoff** are amongst the company's main clients.

### **Russia**

#### **AEB forecasts Russian light vehicle sales to drop 24 percent this year**

The **AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee (AEB AMC)** expects the Russian sales of passenger cars and light commercial vehicles to drop by 24 percent this year. In 2014 new car and LCV sales declined by 10.3 percent or 286,143 units in comparison to the same period of the previous year to 2,491,404 units. "2014 ended with a strong finish, but with a cumulative volume loss of 10 percent remains a disappointing year for the Russian car market" said **Jörg Schreiber**, Chairman of the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee. "In the face of the looming recession, expectations for 2015 are even lower: Our forecast for the total market of PC and LCV next year is 1.89 million units, equivalent to a 24 percent contraction of the market on a year-on-year basis". The expectations of some automakers are even lower. **Philippe Saillard**, head of **Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.**'s activities in Russia, said AEB's 2015 forecast was "slightly higher" than the level he expected, Reuters reports. "We would say somewhere between 1.5 and 1.7 million," **Koichi Takakura**, CEO of **OOO Suzuki Motor Rus**, told Reuters.

#### **AvtoVAZ plans production of 670,000 cars for 2015**

**OOO AvtoVAZ** plans to produce some 670,000 cars this year, the company's President and CEO **Bo Andersson** said in an interview with Kommersant. According to Andersson, there are no plans to cut jobs in 2015. If the sales in Russia would significantly decrease, AvtoVAZ would switch to a four-day working week, Andersson said, describing this possibility as his plan B.

#### **Renault names Pankov head of Renault Russia**

**Andrey Pankov** has been appointed the new Managing Director of **ZAO Renault Russia**, formerly known as **ZAO Avtoframos**. He replaces **Bruno Ancelin** who returned to **Renault S.A.** last fall. Ancelin served as Renault's Senior Vice President, Chairman of Eurasia Region and Managing Director of Renault Russia. Pankov only takes over the position as head of Renault Russia. Prior to his appointment, **Pankov** served as CEO of the **Mitsubishi** distributor **OOO MMC Rus**. Pankov worked during seven years as CEO of Russian Mitsubishi distribution, first at the company **Rolf Import** and later at its successor MMC Rus.

#### **Andersson confirms production of Lada C segment car in Izhevsk**

**Bo Andersson**, President and CEO of **OOO AvtoVAZ**, has confirmed plans for production of a **Lada C** segment car at AvtoVAZ's subsidiary **IzhAvto (OOO OAG)** in Izhevsk. Andersson also confirmed that earlier plans to produce the **Renault** Logan at both Togliatti and Izhevsk factories were definitely cancelled and the Logan will only be manufactured in Togliatti.

### ***AvtoVAZ to build 25 Vestas this month***

**OAO AvtoVAZ** will build 25 **Lada Vesta** pilot vehicles, the company's President and CEO **Bo Andersson** said. The Lada Vesta will have its debut in the WTCC race series in Argentina in March.

### ***Lifan confirms construction of plant in Lipetsk***

**Lifan Motors** will construct its new plant in Lipetsk according to the original plans despite the current economic problems in Russia, **Sun Zejun**, head of Lifan's Russian subsidiary **OOO Lifan Motors Rus**, told the RIA Novosti agency in an interview. "We work according to the schedule, nothing has changed, despite the fact that now the market is uncertain and there are sharp fluctuations of the ruble against the dollar, the euro," Sun Zejun said. According to the letter of intent signed with the governor of the Lipetsk region last October, Lifan plans to invest \$300 million and to create at least 1,500 new jobs in the first phase. The capacity of 60,000 cars per year scheduled for the first phase is to be achieved in 2021. In the second phase, after 2021, Lifan plans to add an engine assembly plant. The exact time schedule is to be defined later in conjunction with the market development. The initial local content is to be 10 to 30 percent, with welding, painting and assembly operations accounting for 10 percent.

### ***Lifan to buy glass from Fuyao Glass' plant in Kaluga***

**Lifan Motors** plans to buy Russian-made automotive glass for its cars assembled in Lipetsk from the Chinese company **Fuyao Glass Industry Group** which operates the Russian plant **OOO Fuyao Steklo Rus (OOO Fuyao Glass Rus)** in Kaluga. "We have agreed with them that this plant in the Kaluga region will provide us with glass," **Sun Zejun**, head of **OOO Lifan Motors Rus**, is quoted as saying by RIA Novosti.

### ***Lifan to continue cooperation with Derways at least until 2018***

**Lifan Motors** expects to continue the cooperation with its current Russian assembler **OOO AK Derways** at least until 2018, **Sun Zejun**, head of **OOO Lifan Motors Rus**, told RIA Novosti. However, the company could continue cooperation with Derways even longer. There are also other possibilities. "Maybe we will find a new line of business cooperation. I don't rule out that we will help to find other manufacturers who will be interesting for Derways," Zejun is quoted as saying.

### ***IzhAvto launches production of Nissan Tiida***

Production of the **Nissan Tiida** hatchback has started at the **IzhAvto (OOO OAG)** plant in Izhevsk, Russian media report, quoting sources at the factory. Nissan Tiida is the hatchback version of the Nissan Sentra, which is manufactured in Izhevsk since last year.

### ***Start of sales of some models to be postponed because of crisis***

Russian start of sales of some imported models will be postponed because of the current market situation. The new-generation **Škoda Fabia** as well as the **Opel Adam** and the **Adam Rocks** are amongst models which are expected to be launched later than originally planned. In addition, some car models currently sold in Russia may be forced out of the market.

### ***Volkswagen launches facelifted Jetta***

**OOO Volkswagen Group Rus** has launched sales of the facelifted **VW Jetta** sedan. The car is made in Russia by contract assembler **Gruppa GAZ** in Nizhny Novgorod.

### ***Chechenavto may expand Lada assembly***

**OAO Chechenavto** may expand assembly of **Lada** cars and add new models, **Denis Manturov**, Russia's Minister of Industry and Trade, told local media. Currently the company assembles the Lada Priora from SKD kits in small volumes at its plant located in Argun in the Russian Republic of Chechnya. According to Manturov, the expansion may be financed by **GK Vneshekonombank**.

## **Serbia**

### ***German E-Cars considers project in Serbia***

Representatives of the German company **German E-Cars GmbH** recently visited Kragujevac. The company is considering a project for production of electric light commercial vehicles and trucks.

## **Slovakia**

### ***Slovakia: Last year's car production slightly behind the 2013 record year***

Last year, the three Slovak car manufacturers produced more than 970,000 cars according to preliminary data presented by local industry body **ZAP (Zväz automobilového priemyslu)**, compared to the record figure of 987,718 cars achieved in 2013. It means that Slovakia is again world's leading per-capita car maker. The figure published by ZAP is not exact, because the country's largest car maker **Volkswagen Slovakia a.s.** did not provide an exact information. The company will only publish its exact figures in March. Volkswagen Slovakia manufactured more than 391,000 vehicles, **Kia Motors Slovakia s.r.o.** produced 323,720 cars and **PCA Slovakia s.r.o.** manufactured 255,176 vehicles in 2014. **Jaroslav Holeček**, President of ZAP, expects a slightly higher production for 2015. "980,000 is a conservative expectation" Holeček said when asked about 2015. However, the situation on the Russian car market is the main risk for the Slovak car industry. Last year, Kia Motors Slovakia exported about 18 percent of its car production to Russia and Russia is also an important market for Volkswagen Slovakia. In contrast, PCA Slovakia's shipments to Russia are small. The Slovak statistics also include Porsche Cayenne bodies, which are manufactured by Volkswagen Slovakia and shipped for final assembly to Germany. However even without the Cayenne bodies, Slovakia would still be keeping its per-capita position.

### ***Kia posts record production again***

**Kia Motors Slovakia s.r.o.** produced 323,720 cars in 2014, a 7.2 percent year-on-year increase and the plant's new record. The **Kia Sportage** accounted for about 55 percent of total production, followed by cee'd in all three body versions (36 percent) and Venga (9 percent). The company's largest export market was Russia with about 18 percent of the total production, followed by the United Kingdom (13 percent), Germany



(9 percent), Italy (6 percent) and Spain (6 percent). In addition, Kia Motors Slovakia manufactured more than 493,000 engines, a slight increase compared to 2013, which also represents a record output. Gasoline engines represented more than 50 percent of overall production. The most popular engine was the 1.6 litre diesel, with 22 percent of total 2014 engine production. Almost a half of the total engine output was shipped to the **Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech s.r.o. (HMMC)** plant in the Czech Republic. The launch of the new-generation Kia Sportage will be the company's main product innovation in 2015.

### **PCA Slovakia reports new production record**

**PCA Slovakia s.r.o.** manufactured 255,176 cars in 2014, up 2.7 percent from 2013. Last year's result was the plant's record output. However, the plant has still not reached its installed capacity. In 2014, the capacity utilisation was 85 percent. The 2014 figure includes 206,562 **Peugeot** 208 cars, up 11.8 percent, as well as 48,614 **Citroën** C3 Picasso vehicles, down 23.6 percent. 90.28 percent of all manufactured cars were five-door vehicles, while three-door hatchbacks accounted for the remaining 9.72 percent. More than 52 percent of all cars were equipped with diesel engines. The largest markets for cars manufactured by PCA Slovakia were Italy, Germany and France. Only 924 cars were shipped to Russia.

## **Slovenia**

### **Hidria signs master restructuring agreement**

**Hidria d.d.** said it had signed a master restructuring agreement with banks, which marks the launch of financial restructuring of the group. The company did not reveal the details of the deal. It only said that credit payments would now be aligned with future investment needs and cash flow.

## **Turkey**

### **Tofaş appoints new CEO**

**Cengiz Eroldu**, previously CFO of **Tofaş Türk Otomobil Fabrikası A.Ş.**, has been appointed the new CEO of the company. He replaces **Kamil Başaran**, who worked at this position since January 2012. Eroldu started his career in 1989 at Tofaş's shareholder **Koç Holding** and joined Tofaş in 1995. He has been working as the company's CFO since 2008.

### **Tunalıoğlu leaves Renault**

According to Turkish media reports **Tarık Tunalıoğlu** has decided to leave **Renault S.A.** He was the first Turkish-born Managing Director of the **Oyak Renault Otomobil Fabrikaları A.Ş.** joint venture, before he was promoted to manage the Euromed-Africa region of the French company in October 2013.

### **Ford Otosan's Istanbul engineering base certified as R&D centre**

**Ford Otomotiv Sanayi A.Ş. (Ford Otosan)** said its new engineering base in Istanbul's district Sancaktepe has received the title and certification as a research and development centre following approval from the



Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. The company's R&D activities which were previously carried out at the **TÜBİTAK MAM Technology Free Zone** branch located in Gebze in the province of Kocaeli have been stopped and moved to the new R&D centre at Sancaktepe. The official closing process of Ford Otosan's branch in Gebze is continuing.

### ***Karsan announces official start of production for Hyundai H350***

In a filing to the Istanbul stock exchange, **Karsan Otomotiv Sanayii ve Ticaret A.Ş** announced that it will launch production of the new **Hyundai** H350 light commercial vehicle in March. The agreement between **Hyundai Motor Company** and Karsan calls for the production of 200,000 units during the next seven years. The new H350 which was introduced at the 2014 Hannover Motor Show is larger than the current Hyundai H-1/Starex.

## **Uzbekistan**

### ***GM Uzbekistan: Damas welding line at new site with higher capacity***

Together with the transfer of the **Chevrolet** Damas welding line from the **GM Uzbekistan YoAJ** plant in Asaka to the new site in Pitnak in the Khorezm region last year, the capacity of the line was increased from five to eight bodies per hour, **Ismaildzhani Nazirov**, GM Uzbekistan's head of production, told the newspaper *Narodnoye Slovo*.

### ***Iveco Daily may be assembled in Uzbekistan***

**AK Uzavtosanoat** is considering the assembly of **Iveco** Daily minibuses, *Podrobno.uz* reports. According to the report, five vehicles were purchased in order to be tested in Uzbekistan. Four of them were tested by the company **AO Toshshahartransxizmat** in Tashkent.

## NEWS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

### Iran

#### ***Iran Khodro to reduce emissions of its cars***

**Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO)** plans to reduce emissions of its cars. "A comprehensive program for improving emission standards is compiled and based on this program all IKCO products will meet at least Euro VI and other related global standards by 2026" said IKCO's CEO and President **Hashem Yekehzare**. Production of fuel efficient, turbocharged and hybrid engines is amongst the environmental protection programs IKCO has targeted, he added. According to Yekehzare, IKCO started research of hybrid cars and plans to produce such cars in the future. IKCO said it has started production of 1.2 and 1.4 litre fuel efficient engines, it is studying development of turbocharged engines and it is supposed to introduce new IKCO brand cars enjoying new platforms and fuel efficient engines by 2016. "All IKCO cars meet Euro IV standard while car production processes and part suppliers that are supervised by SAPCO have been upgraded to meet this standard," explained Yekehzare "By doing so, fuel consumption and emissions of our cars have decreased by 5 to 7 percent and 35 to 50 percent respectively".

#### ***Pars Khodro to launch Haise minibus***

**Pars Khodro**, a subsidiary of **Saipa Automotive Manufacturing Group**, will launch **Jinbei Haise** minibus in cooperation with the Chinese company **Brilliance Auto (Huachen Group Auto Holding Co. Ltd.)** According to **Mehrdad Abouzar Khani**, usage development manager and assistant of deputy of quality assurance in Pars Khodro, the van will be available in Cargo, Standard, Deluxe, Flagship (dual tone body) and Ambulance versions. The vehicles will be used for example as police vans, vehicles transporting prisoners or people with disabilities, as taxi and tourist transportation vehicle, Pars Khodro's executive said.

#### ***Kerman Motor launches locally assembled JAC S5***

**Kerman Motor**, the Iranian assembler of **JAC** and **Lifan** cars, has launched sales of the locally made JAC S5 crossover. The assembly of JAC S5 at Kerman Motor started in December 2014.

#### ***Iran Khodro Diesel receives national quality award***

**Iran Khodro Diesel**, the commercial vehicle subsidiary of **Iran Khodro Industrial Group**, has achieved the award of "dedication to quality" for its two products: Arian minibus and WH truck. "First national quality award in auto industry of Iran was applied under the observation of Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and **Iran Institute of Standards and Industrial Research** and by efforts of **Iran Quality Management Association** in this year," said **Majid Kahzadi**, quality deputy in Iran Khodro Diesel.

### South Africa

#### ***Nissan may lose incentives in case of low production***

**Nissan South Africa (Pty) Ltd.** is in danger of not meeting the 50,000 unit annual production threshold at its plant in Rosslyn and to lose important incentives this year, iol.co.za reports. The minimum 50,000 unit annual output mark qualifies local vehicle manufacturers for incentives in terms of the **Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP)**. According to Nissan SA's Managing Director **Mike Whitfield** the company had produced "just over 50 000" vehicles in 2014. It is not clear whether the company will manage to produce at least 50,000 vehicles per year in 2015 and 2016. "We have models getting towards the end of their lifecycle and we will only ramp up with the new model in the future. I'm not able to say when" Whitfield is quoted as saying by iol.co.za. "We are looking at opportunities to ensure we meet it (the volume requirements) but it's going to be a very tight call and a challenge and related to our product lifecycle" he added. Meeting this target would depend on vehicle demand in South Africa as well as other countries in Africa and the Middle East. If Nissan did not achieve the production volume requirement, it would still earn the production incentive in the APDP, but lose the vehicle assembly allowance (VAA) support, Whitfield said.

#### ***Nissan: Unclear situation on production of new model***

The situation regarding the production of the new **Nissan NP300 Navara** pickup at the **Nissan South Africa (Pty) Ltd.** plant in Rosslyn remains unclear. Currently the factory produces the small NP200 pickup and the larger NP300 Hardbody pickup. In August 2012 Nissan announced a ZAR 1 billion investment in the Rosslyn plant with the intention of doubling production to about 100,000 units a year. Increased production would begin from the 2014 financial year, **Toshiyuki Shiga, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.**'s COO at that time, said when announcing the investment during his visit to Africa. However, the projects, which includes production of the new NP300 Navara, have been delayed. Nissan SA's Managing Director **Mike Whitfield** said that because of the global delay of the launch, the South African subsidiary was still involved in serious discussions and negotiations with its parent company about the production of the new model, iol.co.za reports. According to Whitfield Nissan SA was not yet at the contract signing stage, but hoped to conclude these negotiations soon, the report says. Nissan SA is also studying the possible production of Nissan's new taxi vehicle.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **March, 5-15:** GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: 85TH MOTOR SHOW  
<http://www.salon-auto.ch>
- » **March, 17-19:** MOSCOW, RUSSIA: RUSSIAN AUTOMOTIVE FORUM  
<http://www.russianautomotive.com/>
- » **March, 24-26:** ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA: AUTOPROM RUSSIA, 2015  
<http://autopromrussia.ru/>
- » **April, 9-12:** POZNAN, POLAND: MOTOR SHOW  
<http://www.motorshow.pl>
- » **April, 23-24:** ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN: EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM  
<http://www.ebf.kz>
- » **May, 19-21:** NOVO MESTO, SLOVENIA: STRATEGIC COOPERATION & JOINT PRODUCTION IN CAR BODY ENGINEERING  
<http://www.automotive-circle.com/>
- » **June, 8-10:** GYŐR, HUNGARY: EUROPEAN AUTOMOTIVE CONGRESS  
<http://eaec2015.org/>

### IMPRINT

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