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NEWS

International

Jaguar Land Rover eyes sites in Eastern Europe

Sources in Eastern Europe have confirmed that **Jaguar Land Rover Automotive PLC** is looking for a site in the region. "They are addressing construction companies to show them potential solutions for their premises," the Slovak business daily *Hospodárske noviny* writes quoting an unnamed source. "They are deciding between Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary". According to the Polish business newspaper *Puls Biznesu*, Jaguar Land Rover is looking for 150 to 200 hectares sites. "The company considers a plant which could employ up to 6,000 people. It is interested in locations close to the western border of the country. Within two weeks it will decide which countries will be on the short list," *Puls Biznesu* quoted an unnamed person close to the negotiations. Earlier a Hungarian website reported that **Tata Group** is studying the possibility of a production site in the Hungarian city of Szombathely, which could employ up to 10,000.

ChemChina to buy majority in Pirelli

China National Chemical Corporation (ChemChina) agreed to buy majority of tyre manufacturer **Pirelli & C. S.p.A.** in a 7.1 billion euro (\$7.7 billion) deal. In a first phase, ChemChina's tyre making unit **China National Tire & Rubber** will buy the 26.2 percent Italian holding firm **Cam Finanziaria S.p.A. (Camfin)** owns in Pirelli. After that it will launch a mandatory takeover bid for the rest. The bid will be launched by a vehicle controlled by the Chinese group and partly owned by Camfin investors - Pirelli's Head **Marco Tronchetti Provera**, Italian banks **UniCredit** and **Intesa Sanpaolo**, and Russia's **OAO NK Rosneft**. The offer will be launched at €15, valuing the group at €7.1 billion excluding net debt of almost €1 billion at the end of 2014. Pirelli's less profitable truck and industrial tyre business would be folded into ChemChina's listed unit **Aeolus (Fengshen Tires Stock Ltd. Comp.)**, allowing it to double its output from 6 to 12 million tyres per year.

FEV acquires D2T Powertrain Engineering

FEV GmbH, a provider of engineering services for powertrain and vehicle technologies headquartered in Aachen, Germany has announced the acquisition of French test systems and engineering service provider **D2T Powertrain Engineering S.A.** located in Trappes, from **IFP Investissements**. FEV takes over the business of D2T in France, its subsidiaries in Germany, China, the U.S. and interests in South Korea and Japan. D2T employs more than 450 people worldwide. D2T's customers include OEMs and suppliers of the automotive, commercial vehicle, marine and aviation industries, as well as oil companies and research and development institutions.

Belarus

Construction of new BelGee plant to start this year

Construction of a new car plant of the **SZAO BelGee** joint venture will start in 2015, **Vladimir Miranovich**, head of the Borisovsky district administration, told journalists. "Construction of the new BelGee plant will begin this year, a contract has already been signed" said Miranovich. "The plant will be located in the Borisov district and is designed to produce 60,000 cars per year in the first phase."

Czech Republic

Kvasiny: Škoda signs memorandum with Czech Government and Hradec Králové authorities

Škoda Auto a.s. has signed a memorandum on cooperation in Kvasiny with the Czech Government and Hradec Králové authorities. The memorandum was officially concluded during a visit from the Czech Prime Minister **Bohuslav Sobotka**, Minister of Commerce and Industry **Jan Mládek** and District Governor of Hradec Králové, **Lubomír Franc**. Public investments from the Czech state and Hradec Králové region will be focused on improving the transport infrastructure and technical infrastructure in Kvasiny and Hradec Králové regions. In addition, the education and the healthcare sectors will be improved. Expanding and modernising the Kvasiny plant will be financed exclusively by Škoda. For this purpose, the manufacturer will be investing

around CZK 7.2 billion over the next three years. Škoda says that it will create up to 1,300 new jobs and increased production capacity up to 280,000 vehicles per year at the Kvasiny plant by 2018. However, Ceauto already reported, the company plans to produce up to 310,000 cars in Kvasiny per year.

Hungary

FAG expands in Debrecen

FAG Magyarország Ipari Kft, a member of the German **Schaeffler Group** which produces ball bearings, launched a HUF 12 billion (around €39 million) development project, which is supported by a Hungarian government subsidy to the tune of HUF 772 million. FAG plans to add production and warehouse capacity, increasing the total capacity of the plant from 20 million pieces a year to 30 million pieces said **Péter Szabó**, managing director of the plant, at a press conference.

Prec-Cast opens new production facility in Sátoraljaújhely

Prec-Cast Öntödei Kft, the Hungarian subsidiary of family-owned German **Wolf Group**, has inaugurated its new 12,000 square metre production hall in Sátoraljaújhely. The HUF 2 billion investment was partly funded by a European Union grant. **Wilhelm Rambold**, owner and director of the company, said to the Hungarian news agency MTI, that the Hungarian headcount will be increased from the current 1,030 people to over 1,300.

Poppe+Potthoff closes investment project in Ajka

László Gellén, managing director of **Poppe + Potthoff Hungária Kft**, has announced that the company has completed its HUF 3 billion expansion project in Ajka. Capacity at the plant was increased, 10 new jobs were created and new machinery was installed as well. Poppe + Potthoff mainly produces parts for common rail diesel systems.

Kazakhstan/Russia

Azia Avto confirms plans for assembly of more Lada models

AO Azia Avto has confirmed reports that it is targeting the assembly of several **Lada** models at its current plans in Ust-Kamenogorsk, according to a report published by Kolesa.ru. Plans call for the restart of the Lada 4x4 assembly in Ust-Kamenogorsk (now the company may assemble the Lada 4x4 Urban version) as well as additional Lada models which were never before assembled in Kazakhstan such as the Lada Priora, Granta and Vesta. "We really are in negotiations with our partner **ОАО АвтоVAZ** regarding the resumption of SKD-output of the Lada 4x4 SUV (version Urban) and the MKD-production of Lada Priora, Granta and Vesta models. In this case we are exclusively talking about existing capacities of the Azia Avto assembly plant," **Erik Sagymbaev**, President of Azia Avto, is quoted as saying by Kolesa.ru. "It is likely that the output of these models in Kazakhstan will start in the autumn of this year. The target will be the domestic market. But the shipments of the Lada 4x4 Urban to border regions of the Russian Federation is also not excluded." According to the report, Azia Avto is now more focusing on the assembly of Lada models compared to the **Chevrolet**, **Kia** and **Škoda** brands it also assembles because of the high Russian content and resulting lower prices of Lada cars under the current currency situation.

Macedonia

Accomplast to establish plant in Prilep

German supplier **Accomplast GmbH**, which specialises in plastic injection moulding of car parts, plans to establish a plant in Prilep. The investment was announced by Macedonian Minister for Foreign Investments **Bill Pavleski** and Prilep mayor **Marjan Risteski**. The investment, estimated at several million euros, is expected to create 250 new jobs. "We have already established our new company here '**Injection Moulding Prilep**' and now we are looking for an adequate plant for our machines and equipment," said Accomplast's manager **Frank Michaelis**. The German company is expected to launch its production process within a year saying this brownfield investment could be turned into a greenfield investment after an adequate market research.

Aktiva Automotive opens new plant in Stip

Macedonian company **Aktiva Automotive** has officially opened a new plant in the industrial zone of Stip. The new factory will manufacture welded elements for bus chassis for the needs of the Belgian bus manufacturer **Van Hool NV** which operates a plant in the technical-industrial development zone Bunardzik in Skopje. The project created 100 new jobs. In addition, the company plans the construction of new production facilities which should create another 200 new jobs. Construction of the new plant is expected to start in few months. According to **Philip Van Hool**, the Belgian company's CEO, Aktiva Automotive would meet the needs of Van Hool both in Macedonia and Belgium.

Poland

Volkswagen to produce about 50 Crafter versions in Poznań

The new **Volkswagen Poznań Sp. z o.o.** plant, which will launch production of the next-generation **VW Crafter** in the second half of 2016, will manufacture about 50 derivatives of the Crafter including special body versions according to **Cezary Tadej**, the future head of assembly at the new plant.

Automotive CEE Day: 2nd edition to be held in Krakow

The second edition of purchasing meeting **Automotive CEE Day** will take place on the 28th and 29th of April in Krakow. The objective of the meeting is the opportunity to establish first contact between OEM purchasing departments, Tier 1 suppliers and potential suppliers. Companies such as **Honda Motor Europe**, **PSA Peugeot Citroën**, **GM Manufacturing Poland** (powertrain), **Solaris**, **Polaris**, **Toyota** (powertrain), **BorgWarner**, **TRW** (steering), **Sanden**, **Nexteer Automotive**, **Mando** and **Gedia** have confirmed their presence at the event which is organised by the analytic company **AutomotiveSuppliers.pl**. Last year, participants held over 220 meetings, arranged beforehand via a special online platform. Detailed information is available on www.automotiveceeday.eu

Pass-Pol to expand production in Sanok

Polish supplier **Pass-Pol Sp. z o.o.** plans an expansion of its production activities in Sanok. The possibility to purchase additional land was agreed during a meeting between Pass-Pol's Head **Marian Cyrek** with **Tadeusz**

Pióro, Mayor of Sanok. Pass-Pol, which manufactures parts for the automotive industry as well as for household equipment, employs almost 2,500 people. Its main areas of activity are production of straight and bended hoses including cooling, fuel and brake system components; shaping of polyamides; steel pipe processing: cutting, upsetting, shaping, soldering as well as assembly of parts consisting of different components such as rubber hoses, polyamides, steel pipes, plastic connectors, moulded articles, valves, electro-valves, filters, steel components. Customers include **Aston Martin, Audi, Bentley, BMW, Daimler, Ford, Jaguar Land Rover, Magna Steyr, Seat, Škoda, Volvo** and **Volkswagen**.

Nifco opens new hall in Świdnica

Nifco Poland Sp. z o.o. has opened a new production hall on the territory of the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone INVEST-PARK in Świdnia. The investment, which includes new production lines for parts destined for **Porsche** cars and **VW Caddy** and Transporter models, was about PLN 60 million. Currently Nifco Poland employs almost 400 people, a year ago the company had some 150 employees. A next investment is in preparation.

Romania

Ford considers second model for Craiova

Ford Motor Co. is currently analyzing the possibility to manufacture the **Ford EcoSport** SUV at its **Ford Romania S.A.** plant in Craiova. "We are talking about an intention and an opportunity that Ford will build a second model in Craiova, the EcoSport SUV. Production could start in the second half of 2017," **Ovidiu Cioroianu**, a Ford union leader, is quoted as saying by Hotnews.ro. According to Ovidiu, Ford will most likely make a decision in a couple of months. Ford representatives met with Romanian Prime Minister **Victor Ponta**, but there is no official information on the theme of the meeting. Ford may ask the government for infrastructure improvements and may even request a new state aid, local media speculated. Currently the Ford B-Max is the only car manufactured in Craiova. Some 53,000 units were produced last year. The idea to produce a second model in Craiova is not new. Ford already planned to produce two models in Craiova when it took over the plant.

Russia

Volkswagen to cut production, jobs in Kaluga

000 Volkswagen Group Rus will reduce production at its plant in Kaluga. The factory will work four days a week from April (calendar week 14) to July (calendar week 30). For the non-working Fridays the staff will receive two thirds of its normal wages. Production will be suspended on the 5th to the 8th of May and from the 12th to the 15th of May. Starting from mid-May, the number of shifts will be reduced from three to two. Volkswagen will not extend contracts with 150 contracted workers. The company will offer some employees of the car plant in Kaluga a transfer to its new engine plant in Kaluga which is expected to start production in the second half of this year or its warehouse operation in Chekhov near Moscow which is to be opened in the second quarter. In addition, the company will offer compensation packages for employees who will agree to a voluntary redundancy plan. Volkswagen has also sent 120 paint shop and assembly workers from Russia to the German plants in Zwickau and Emden for training programs which will last three months.

GM-AvtoVAZ halts next-generation Niva project, negotiates support with regional government

Whilst production of the **Chevrolet Niva** continues at the **ZAO GM-AvtoVAZ** plant in Togliatti, the work on the next-generation Niva project, originally scheduled to be launched on the market in 2016, has been halted. "We confirm the next generation Niva is halted in view of the current economic environment which has become very challenging. We don't have any further announcement to make at this time being," GM-AvtoVAZ said in a statement. There was a meeting with **Nikolay Merkushkin**, the Governor of the Samara Region. The meeting was joined by **Gregory Hagy**, GM-AvtoVAZ's Member of the Supervisory Board, **Jeff Glover**, Managing Director of GM-AvtoVAZ, **Alexander Kobenko**, Vice Governor and Minister of the Economic Development, Investment and Trade of the Samara Region, **Sergey Bezrukov**, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Technology of the Samara Region as well as **Alexey Pakhomenko**, Managing Director of the Special Economic Zone of Togliatti. "There was a meeting with the Governor to check on possibilities to get support from them for guarantees and some other issues," GM-AvtoVAZ said. According to Governor Merkushkin, "the Samara Region government is very interested that the company develops and continues to work, particularly under conditions of a difficult economic situation in the country. For the start of production of the new Chevrolet Niva regional authorities are ready to support GM-AvtoVAZ, including provision of guarantees for a soft loan."

Government to subsidise vehicle makers with RUB 10 billion

Russian Prime Minister **Dmitry Medvedev** has signed a decree on the allocation of RUB 10 billion for compensation of costs in connection with the production of motor vehicles. The measure is expected to provide additional utilisation of production capacity in the 1st quarter of 2015 in the volume of about 110,000 cars in order to keep jobs of companies of automotive and related industries. The subsidy is given in the amount of 90 percent of the cost for production, but no more than the maximum for the subsidy. The maximum amount of the subsidy depends on the volume of cars produced in 2014. Companies at which passenger cars account for more than 50 percent of the production will receive grants of up to RUB 400 million if they manufactured less than 40,000 cars last year. In the case the production was between 40,000 to 110,000 cars, the subsidy amount is up to RUB 600 million. If the production was between 110,000 to 180,000 vehicles the subsidy will be up to RUB 1 billion and in the case the production exceeded 180,000 units the grant will be up to RUB 2 billion. Subsidies will be higher in case the companies have scientific and technical engineering centres. Other conditions are valid for commercial vehicle manufacturers.

AvtoVAZ may become shareholder of several suppliers which belong to OAT

OAO AvtoVAZ may acquire parts of the business of its largest supplier, the **Obyedinennye Avtomobilnye Tekhnologii (OAT)** holding reports RBK quoting four unnamed sources which are close to the deal. OAT, which is at least partly owned by **GK Rostekh**, was the main reason for troubles with suppliers AvtoVAZ experienced last autumn. Because of the problems, AvtoVAZ had to stop production of the **Lada Kalina** and **Granta** cars for some days and also manufactured thousands of incomplete cars which were completed later. AvtoVAZ may acquire following shares in companies which belong to OAT: **ZAO Motor-Super** (99 percent), **OAO Dimitrovgradsky Avtoagregatny Zavod/DAAZ** (40 percent), **ZAO Serdobsky Mashinostroitelny**

Zavod/SMZ (25 percent), **OA OSVAR** (20 percent), **Rosavtoplast** (125 percent) and **Vazinterservice/VIS** (10 percent). According to the report, AvtoVAZ also may take over 100 percent of **Cimos-ZKS**, the joint venture created by the Russian company **OOO Zavod Klimaticheskikh Sistem (ZKS)** and the Slovenian supplier **Cimos d.d.**

Kremlin on GM's decision to significantly reduce activities in Russia

The Kremlin said it regretted a decision by **General Motors Co.** to significantly reduce its presence in Russia and that GM would lose out when the market returned to growth. „We can express regret but on the other hand there never is a vacuum on the market, if one company leaves, other companies fill this gap and ... the company unfortunately has put itself at a disadvantage for when the market picks up,” **Dmitry Peskov**, the Kremlin spokesman, told journalists. „The development always goes in waves, falling sales will be replaced by explosive growth...and then the company will be among the losers,” said Peskov. Russia's Industry and Trade Minister **Denis Manturov** said GM's business strategy has failed and the company is losing competition because its production localization is only 25 percent. The ministry will not take any steps against the company to punish it for the cancellation of the industry assembly agreement, he added.

Avtotor mothballs half of assembly capacity

OOO Avtotor Holding had to mothball its assembly capacity dedicated to the assembly of **General Motors Co.** vehicles this month in conjunction with GM's decision to phase out assembly in Kaliningrad. About 50 percent of Avtotor's total capacity was dedicated to the GM activities. Some 500 employees will be laid off because of GM's decision. “We continue to produce **BMW, Kia** and **Hyundai** cars and we plan to launch new models. In particular, the plant in Kaliningrad is launching production of the new model **Kia Sorento** and it produces the **BMW X6** model 2015,” a source at Avtotor told TASS. Avtotor is in talks with potential partners about production at the mothballed capacity based on new contracts. “But it is unlikely that these agreements will be signed this year” a company representative said according to TASS.

GAZ to reduce investment by 20 percent

Gruppa GAZ plans to invest about RUB 4 billion, GAZ's President **Vadim Sorokin** said in an interview with Rossiya 24 TV. That means a reduction of planned investments by about 20 percent compared to previous plans. Last year GAZ said that it plans to invest some RUB 5 billion in 2015. According to GAZ, some planned investments were transferred to 2016.

Ford to stay in Russia, offer bonus for owners of brands which are leaving the market

OOO Ford Sollers Holding has published a press release which says the Ford brand is staying in Russia. The company underlines it will introduce four new models in Russia including the **Ford Mondeo, Focus** and **Fiesta** and it will open its new Russian engine plant this year. The company says it fulfils its obligations regarding the local content and confirms the plan to achieve the average level of localisation of production of 60 percent by 2018. “Last year, the company switched to the use of steel and other raw materials from local suppliers,” Ford Sollers said in a statement. The company said it will support customers of brands which are leaving the

market when buying a new Ford car. "The company will offer additional savings of RUB 50,000 to customers who purchase any new car Ford, handing over in payment an used car of any brand which terminated its activities in Russia," said Ford Sollers. The company also said it will consider expanding its presence in Russia's regions through cooperation with existing dealerships of brands which are leaving the market.

PCMA not to extend agreements with contracted workers

The **OOO PCMA Rus** car plant in Kaluga will not extend contracts with contracted workers, trade unions reports. According to a representative of the trade unions, about 40 percent of the employees are contracted workers with contracts expiring on the 31st of March. The measure may involve 500 to 800 people.

Citroën: Shamla to leave Russia

Jean-Loius Shamla, Head of **Citroën** activities in Russia, will finish his work in the country at the end of March. His successor will be named later.

Ford Sollers reports 5,000th EcoSport from Naberezhnye Chelny

OOO Ford Sollers Holding has manufactured the 5,000th **Ford EcoSport** SUV at its plant in Naberezhnye Chelny. The EcoSport is assembled in CKD mode with a significant local content.

Russia/Serbia/Montagenro/Bosnia and Herzegovina/Macedonia

GAZ unveils LCVs at Belgrade motor show

Gruppa GAZ used the Belgrade motor show to unveil its vehicles to potential clients from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Macedonia. **GAZ** GAZelle Next single-cabin and crew cabin trucks and speciality vehicles including the fire-fighting vehicle and ambulance were shown. In addition, four-wheel drive vehicles which belong to the Business model range, including the mobile repairs shop based on the GAZ Sobol 4x4, were presented. As reported earlier, GAZ's new Serbian importer **Verano Motologic** plans to launch sales of GAZ vehicles in Serbia in the second quarter and add the other countries mentioned above later this year.

Serbia

Aunde to increase wages

The **Aunde Italia Group** will increase wages at its plant in Jagodina by 20 percent starting from the 1st of April, **Dragan Marković-Palma**, head of Jagodina's city council, said during a meeting with employees at the plant. In addition, 200 workers are to receive permanent employment contracts. The Aunde factory in Jagodina was opened in March 2014.

Slovakia

PSA to invest in Full Kitting logistics system

PCA Slovakia s.r.o. will invest some €4.5 million in the modernisation of the logistics in the assembly at its plant in Trnava for the implementation of the Full Kitting project in the upcoming 12 months. The implementation of Full Kitting starts in these days at the door line as pilot operation with the preparation of a "kitting zone". It will continue with personnel training and modification as well installation of new equipment. The operational start is scheduled for April. In a next phase, the Full Kitting technology will be extended to the preparation of the dashboard. Full Kitting is a new way of automatic parts flow from the logistics to the assembly point. It increases the flexibility of the production.

Continental to expand plant in Zvolen

Continental Automotive Systems Slovakia s.r.o. plans to expand its plant in Zvolen. The R&D building, which was finalised in fall 2013, is to be expanded by 2,024 square metres. Construction work is to start in May and to be finished in November. The investment will be about €2.65 million. About 80 new jobs are to be created as a result of the expansion. Currently the company employs more than 1,000 people, of that 146 in the R&D department. The plant in Zvolen, which launched its production in February 2006, produces brake calipers. It manufactured some 50 million brake calipers since 2006.

Slovenia

Letrika renames foreign subsidiaries

Letrika d.d. has renamed three foreign subsidiaries due to the integration in the **Mahle Group**. The new names are **Mahle Letrika France S.A.S.** (formerly known as **Letrika France S.A.S.**), **Mahle Letrika Deutschland GmbH** (**Letrika Deutschland GmbH**) and **Mahle Letrika USA Inc.** (**Letrika USA Inc.**).

Uzbekistan

GM's engine plant received higher level of quality integration

The **GM Powertrain Uzbekistan YoAJ** engine plant received a third level of quality integration to its production process - BIQ III. In line with the level of the Global Manufacturing System (GMS) introduction, the level of integration of quality into production process of the plant (BIQ) is determined. At the launch of the plant, GM Powertrain Uzbekistan received the second level. After an audit by **General Motors Co.**'s specialists, which took place in early March, GM Powertrain Uzbekistan received the third level BIQ III.

Uzbekistan/Russia

GM: Unclear situation regarding Chevrolet exports to Russia

The situation regarding the export of **Chevrolet** cars manufactured at **GM Uzbekistan YoAJ** is unclear. Currently, GM Uzbekistan exports Chevrolet Spark and Cobalt cars to Russia which are sold through **General**

Motors Co.'s Russian distribution network. In addition, Uzbek-made **Daewoo** Matiz, Nexia and Gentra models are sold in Russia via a separate network. Last week GM said that the only Chevrolet cars it plans to sell in Russia in the future are North American products such as the Corvette, Camaro and Tahoe as well as the Russian-made Chevrolet Niva. However, an unnamed source at **AK Uzavtosanoat**, the majority shareholder of GM Uzbekistan, told RIA Novosti is not planning to decrease number of models of cars, which are exported. The source said that GM Uzbekistan "The export model range will not change, we will implement all plans," the source is quoted as saying. Theoretically, the cars now exported as Chevrolets could be re-badged as Daewoo for Russia. However, **GM Korea**, which is responsible for the activities in Uzbekistan within GM, told Ceauto that "there is no plan to change the Chevrolet brand badge of Spark and Cobalt to Daewoo".

NEWS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Algeria

Ival Group to establish own company for body production

Ival Group, the Algerian distributor of **Fiat Professional** and **Iveco** vehicles, will launch an industrial project according to the statement of the company's CEO **Mohamed Bairi**. Ival plans to produce bodies for commercial vehicles. According to Bairi, Ival has already acquired licences from two companies, one Italian and one Spanish. The industrial project will be operational in late 2015 and will be based on the conversion of Fiat Professional and Iveco vehicles. The company plans to recruit at least 300 people for the project.

Egypt

BMW launches locally assembled X5

BMW AG is launching sales of the Egyptian-assembled **BMW X5**. Assembly of the car is already underway at the **Bavarian Auto Group** plant in the 6th of October City. Locally assembled X5 was unveiled at the Automech Formula Motor Show in Cairo in mid-March. First cars are expected to be delivered to clients soon.

Iran

Iran reports production increase by more than 50 percent

About 1.147 million vehicles were manufactured in Iran during the last Iranian year 1393 which ended on the 20th of March, up 54 percent compared to the previous year, according to a report by Iran's Ministry of Industries and Mines, Trend.az reports. The total figure includes some 1.126 million cars and light commercial vehicles, 20,679 trucks as well as 580 buses and minibuses. **Iran Khodro Co. (IKCO)** produced about 616,000 units, 69 percent more year on year. Iran also exported about 27,000 vehicles during the period, which represents an increase by 190 percent.

Morocco

Renault produces Lodgy parts for India

Renault S.A.'s car plant in Tangier is manufacturing parts destined for the assembly of the **Renault** Lodgy in India. "We are making a lot of parts for Lodgy to be exported to India," said **Bernard Cambier**, Renault's Senior Vice President and Chairman of the Africa-Middle East-India Region (AMI). According to Cambier, the production of the Lodgy in India started with small volumes in January. The Indian market launch is scheduled for April.

Nigeria

Renault continues negotiations with Dana Motors on assembly

Renault S.A. has confirmed that it is continuing the negotiations about an assembly project with its Nigerian importer **Dana Motors**. "The project was postponed because of ebola, but now we have some engineers in Nigeria and they are finishing this local assembly project," said **Bernard Cambier**, Renault's Senior Vice President and Chairman of the Africa-Middle East-India Region (AMI). According to Cambier, the official announcement could be made in the coming months. Dana already launches assembly of **Kia** cars in 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **April, 9-12:** POZNAN, POLAND: MOTOR SHOW
<http://www.motorshow.pl>
- » **April, 23-24:** ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN: EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM
<http://www.ebf.kz>
- » **April, 28-29:** KRAKOW, POLAND: AUTOMOTIVE CEE DAY
<http://www.automotiveceeday.eu>
- » **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/>
- » **June, 2-3:** VIENNA, AUSTRIA: AUTORETAIL EUROPE
<http://www.autoretail-europe.com>
- » **October, 28-30:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY: AUTOMOTIVE HUNGARY
<http://automotiveexpo.hu>

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