

INDEX

• International _____	1	• Slovenia _____	10
• Belarus _____	2	• Turkey _____	10
• Czech Republic _____	2	• Ukraine _____	11
• Hungary _____	3	• Uzbekistan _____	11
• Kazakhstan _____	4	• News from Middle East and Africa _____	11
• Poland _____	4	• Middle East and Africa _____	11
• Romania _____	6	• Iran _____	12
• Russia _____	6	• Iran/Kyrgyzstan _____	12
• Russia/Turkey _____	8	• This week on ceauto.co.hu _____	13
• Serbia/Montenegro _____	9	• Imprint _____	13
• Slovakia _____	9		

NEWS

International

Johnson Controls and SAIC's Yanfeng sign global automotive interiors joint venture agreement

Johnson Controls Inc. and **Yanfeng Automotive Trim Systems Co., Ltd.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Huayu Automotive Systems Co., Ltd. (HASCO)**, the component group of **Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC)**, have announced the signing of the agreement for a global automotive interiors joint venture. The new joint venture will be called **Yanfeng Automotive Interiors**, and will be the largest automotive interiors company in the world with revenues of approximately \$8.5 billion with a backlog to reach \$10 billion in the next few years. Yanfeng will hold the majority 70 percent share in the joint venture, and Johnson Controls will have a 30 percent share. The companies signed a definitive agreement in May 2014

to form this joint venture, which is expected to begin operations in July 2015, subject to receipt of all regulatory approvals. The new company will be headquartered in Shanghai with more than 90 manufacturing, global engineering, development and customer centres in the United States, Europe, China, Japan and India. The product portfolio will include instrument panels and cockpit systems, door panels, floor consoles and overhead consoles.

Belarus

Belarusian government receives FAW Hongqi convertibles and Roewe SUVs from China

The Belarusian government has received two exclusive Chinese convertibles **FAW Hongqi L5**. The vehicles are part of Chinese military assistance according to an agreement between the Ministry of defence of the Republic of Belarus and the defense Ministry of China. Both vehicles arrived in Minsk by aircraft from China earlier this month according to a report published by the Belarusian military newspaper – The glory of the Motherland. They are expected to be used in the military parade on the 9th of May (Victory Day) in Minsk. The Chinese-made convertibles, which are 555.5 cm long, will replace the traditional Russian **Chaika GAZ-14** which have been used at the Victory Days in the past. In addition to both convertibles, the Belarusian Ministry of defence also received some other cars such as for example **Roewe W5 SUV** as part of the Chinese support.

Czech Republic

Škoda sells over 100,000 cars in one month for the first time

Škoda Auto a.s. sold about 102,100 cars in March, up 6.2 percent from like-2014. For the first time the brand passed the 100,000 cars mark in one month. Between January and March, the Czech car-maker delivered some 265,100 vehicles to customers – 7.2 percent more than in the same period last year and a new record for the first three months of a year.

Škoda Fabia R 5 receives green light from FIA

The **International Automobile Federation (FIA)** has finalised the homologation of the new **Škoda Fabia R 5** rally car. The Fabia R 5 is based on the third-generation Fabia and is the successor to the Fabia Super 2000, which went down in history as the most successful rally car in the history of **Škoda Auto a.s.** The Fabia R 5 is equipped with a 1.6-litre turbo engine. That is a considerable change from the two-litre naturally aspirated engine in the Fabia Super 2000. In addition, the new four-wheel drive car also features a five-speed sequential gearbox and McPherson struts. The weight is at least 1,230 kilograms,

Škoda reports record contract for CNG cars

Škoda Auto a.s. has signed a contract with the Czech company **Vítkovice Machinery Group** about the delivery of 300 CNG-powered **Škoda Octavia G-TEC** cars within three years. It is the largest contract for the Octavia G-TEC until now. More than 1,600 Octavia G-TEC cars were sold since the start of sales in June 2014. Vítkovice Machinery Group currently operates 14 CNG filling stations in the Czech Republic. The number is expected to grow to 33 CNG filling stations by the end of 2015.

Lamborghini back in Prague with own showroom

A new **Lamborghini Praha** showroom has been opened in Prague. **Stephan Winkelmann**, President and CEO of **Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A.**, joined the ceremony. The dealership agreement for representing Lamborghini was signed with the Austrian company **Exclusive Cars Vertriebs GmbH**, a subsidiary of Salzburg-based **Porsche Holding GmbH**. The import and retail company **Porsche Inter Auto CZ s.r.o.** was named Lamborghini service partner. The Lamborghini Praha dealership has a sales area of 265 square metres. A few years ago there was another Lamborghini dealership in Prague. It was operated by **Auto Exner**, a car dealer who later ran into financial difficulties.

Hungary

Suzuki appoints new managing director

Naoyuki Takeuchi (60) was appointed the new Managing Director of **Magyar Suzuki Zrt.** He replaces **Ryoichi Oura**, who held the position of both production and Managing Director for the past 12 months. Now the company will again divide the direction of production and the function of CEO. Oura will continue as the Head of Production and member of Board of Directors. Takeuchi has been working for Suzuki since 1980. He arrived at Magyar Suzuki in 2012 and was previously purchasing and quality director at the Hungarian factory.

Apollo Tyres launches construction work in Gyöngyöshalász

Apollo Tyres Ltd. has laid the cornerstone of its first European greenfield factory in Gyöngyöshalász. Realised with an investment of HUF 146 billion (around €490 million) the new plant will be able to produce tyres for 16,000 cars and 3,000 trucks a day. 975 new workplaces are expected to be created.

Papst expands capacity in Vecsés

Papst Hungary Kft announced that it will build a new 7,000 square metre hall at its site in Vecsés, which will include a 5,000 square metre production facility and a 2,000 square metre storage facility. The project is expected to cost €4.5 million and will create 300 new jobs. The project will be finalised by the end of October. A second production hall is also in the works, which is planned for 2017. Papst is focusing on the production of small ventilators, which are used in the automotive, electronics, household and telecommunication industries. According to Papst officials the new halls will focus on automotive products.

Bosch opens new training centre in Hatvan

Robert Bosch Elektronika Kft has opened its new training centre in Hatvan. The company spent HUF 170 million on setting up this new facility which currently has eight classrooms and a capacity of nearly 200 associates.

Kazakhstan

JAC to cooperate with AllurAuto

Under the organisation of China's **National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)**, **Kazakhstan's investment and Development Department**, and the China Foreign Ministry as well as the Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry, the signing ceremony of cooperating enterprises from the two countries, witnessed by the two countries' Premiers, was held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. A cooperation agreement between the Chinese vehicle manufacturer **Anhui Jianghuai Automobile Co. Ltd. (JAC)** and Kazakh company **AllurAuto** was among the 33 cooperation deals signed during the meeting. Accompanied by General Manager of **JAC International She Cairong** and Chairman of the cooperation partner **Andrey Lavrentyev**, JAC Chairman **An Jin** was invited to attend the ceremony to carry out in-depth exchanges with Kazakhstan Premier **Karim Masimov**. According to JAC, Masimov expressed that Kazakhstan government will provide the necessary policy support to the project and encourage JAC development in Kazakhstan. The deal follows earlier negotiations between the two companies, including a visit of An Jin and She Cairong to the **AO AgromashHolding** and **OOO SaryarkaAvtoProm** assembly premises in Kostanay which are controlled by AllurAuto in October 2014. During that visit the JAC representatives discussed the assembly of JAC's cars and commercial vehicles in Kostanay. Details about the cooperation between JAC and AllurAuto are not yet available.

Poland

General Motors: Two millionth vehicle leaves plant in Gliwice

The two millionth vehicle rolled off the production line at the **General Motors Manufacturing Poland Sp. z o.o.** The jubilee car is a **Holden** Cascada with a turbocharged 1.6-litre engine with 170 hp destined for the Australian market. The production of Holden Astra and Cascada cars for Australia and New Zealand started in Gliwice in February. In addition, the production of the **Buick** Cascada destined for the North American market will begin at the end of the year. The first car, the **Opel** Astra Classic, was produced in Gliwice on the 31st of August 1998. Over the years, the Gliwice team has manufactured the Opel Agila and **Suzuki** Wagon R+ small cars, four Astra generations and the Zafira compact minivan. Currently, the plant produces the Astra in three body versions and the Cascada. Volume production of the next-generation Astra will be launched later this year.

Arrinera plans to launch production of its sportscar this year

Polish company **Arrinera Automotive S.A.**, known as **Veno Automotive S.A.** until 2011, exhibited a test version of its **Arrinera** Hussarya 33 sportscar at the Poznań Motor Show. The car is powered by a 7.2 litre V8 engine with 800 hp. It follows the Arrinera concept which was unveiled in 2011. According to the company's representatives, the first car to be produced is the racing version Arrinera Racing GT4. This racing car is to be unveiled in autumn 2015 and production is to start in autumn 2015 as well. Plans call for a limited series of 24 cars. The first cars are to be sold this year, Arrinera's Vice Chairman **Piotr Gniadek** told Polish media. According to Gniadek, the company plans to raise PLN 5 million through bond issue. The company plans to

unveil the final production version of the Arrinera Hussarya 33, which is destined for public streets, at the Geneva Motor Show in March 2016. Production start of the street version is scheduled for autumn 2016 with first delivery in early 2017. Arrinera will sell the car for about €500,000. The company says it plans to make a limited series of 33 units. An Arrinera Roadster may be unveiled in 2017. However, the question is how realistic the plans are. Already in the past, Arrinera's predecessor Veno announced plans which said the production of its sportscar is to start soon but these plans were not realised.



Fire destroys large part of Boryszew's plant in Germany

A fire has destroyed large parts of the **Boryszew Oberflächentechnik Deutschland GmbH** plant in Prenzlau, Germany. The company, a subsidiary of Poland's **Boryszew S.A.**, was a part of the bankrupt **Ymos Group** in the past. The plant employs 292 people.

Faurecia plans new hall in Gorzów

Faurecia Gorzów S.A. plans to construct a new hall at its site in Gorzów. The investment will be at least PLN 56.147 million. The company, which employs 1,642 people at the territory of the **Kostrzyńsko-Słubicka Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A.** special economy zone. Faurecia said it will add at least 18 people as the result of the investment and maintain the employment level at at least 1,600 workers.

Thom Polska starts construction of new plant

The company **Thom Polska Sp. z o.o.** started construction of a new plant which will be located in Radomierz at the territory of the **Kamiennogórska Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna Małej Przedsiębiorczości S.A.** special economy zone. The investment will be PLN 12 million. The plant, which will specialise in precise machining of metal parts, will employ about 100 workers.

Schweiter Technologies finalises acquisition of Plastwag

The acquisition of Polish supplier **Plastwag S.A.** by **Schweiter Technologies AG** of Switzerland has been completed. Plastwag, a medium-sized company located in Mielec, manufactures fibre-reinforced and thermoformed plastic components which are mainly destined for the mass transportation sector but also for other clients.

Romania

Inteva opens new facility in Oradea

Inteva Products LLC announces the opening of a new plant in Oradea. The new facility in Oradea is Inteva's second manufacturing facility in Romania. The site will produce roof system components to serve the business needs of the Roof Systems Product Line and will primarily support operations that serve our European customer base. The company plans to hire more than 100 employees and training will begin this month. Production will begin this summer. "Our new site in Oradea will nearly double our manufacturing presence in Romania" said **Lon Offenbacher**, Inteva Products CEO and President.

Russia

Ford takes control of Ford Sollers, provides additional financial support

Ford Motor Company and **OA O Sollers** agreed certain changes to the structure of their joint venture **OOO Ford Sollers Holding** and the shareholders agreement. Under agreements reached on the 31st of March, Ford will provide additional funding to the Ford Sollers joint venture. The funding will be utilised to serve the strategic targets, such as new product launches and further investments in the localisation of component manufacturing. Under agreed changes to the joint venture structure and shareholders agreement, Ford will obtain a controlling interest in the joint venture through the acquisition of preferred shares, with the 50/50 split of the ordinary shareholder structure unchanged. In addition the agreements provide for certain future rights for the partners to redeem Sollers 50 percent interest in the joint venture at a minimum predetermined value payable at the date of redemption. "We embrace the intentions of Ford to deliver financial support, essential to provide a platform for future growth of the joint venture" said **Nikolay Sobolev**, the First Deputy CEO, CFO of **OA O Sollers**.

Ford Sollers may increase local content to 85 percent

OOO Ford Sollers Holding may increase the local content of its cars assembled in Russia to 83 to 85 percent by 2018 to 2019, **Adil Shirinov**, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Ford Sollers, told Interfax.

This is more than the requirements of the New Decree 166 which asks for 60 percent local content by the end of 2018. „70 percent ist he minimal task,“ Shirinov is quoted as saying. Currently the localization of Ford models manufactured in Russia is up to 40 percent, the report says.

Sollers releases 2014 IFRS results

OA O Sollers has released IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements as of the 31st of December 2014. Sollers Group's revenue for 2014 totalled RUB 47,907 million (RUB 61,317 million in 2013). EBITDA went down to RUB 4,309 million (RUB 6,387 million in 2013). EBITDA margin for 2014 levelled at 9 percent. "The profitability of SsangYong business was negatively influenced by the considerable decline in **SsangYong** sales and substantial depreciation of national currency. Nevertheless, **UAZ** business improved the profitability as well as increased its share on SUV and LCV markets" the company said. Operating profit totalled RUB 3,561 million. Sollers Group's net loss of RUB 3,736 million in 2014 was caused by the comprised share of **OOO Ford Sollers Holding** joint venture losses, which was RUB 5,465 million in 2014. Net profit of Sollers Group, excluding Ford Sollers loss, amounts to RUB 1,729 million, which includes profit from the consolidated business and share of profits from other joint ventures.

Mitsubishi to increase local content to 30 percent

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation plans to increase the local content of its cars assembled at the **OOO PCMA Rus** joint venture plant in Kaluga to 30 percent by the end of 2015, **Naoya Takai**, President of the distributor **OOO MMC Rus**, told Vedomosti. Takai has not provided current localisation level but said it was 17 percent in autumn 2014. According to Takai, the new suppliers will be mainly **Mitsubishi's** existing Japanese partner which will establish production activities in Kaluga or, probably, St. Petersburg. PCMA currently assembles Mitsubishi Outlander and Pajero Sport models. According to Takai, locally assembled vehicles account for up to 55 percent of total sales.

AvtoVAZ to add four free days in May

In addition to the May holidays in Russia, **OA AvtoVAZ** plans to add four non-working days between the 5th and 8th of May. That means that there would be no production between the 1st and 11th of May.

Lifan confirms plans for plant in Lipetsk region

Chinese vehicle manufacturer **Lifan Group** confirmed its plans for the construction of a car plant in the Lipetsk region during the visit of a delegation of the Lipetsk region, which was led by the first deputy governor **Yuri Bozhko**, to Lifan. The government delegation had talks with **Yin Mingshan**, the board chairman of Lifan Group, **Mark Timber**, the vice president of Lifan Group and general manager of **Lifan Import and Export Company** and **Yang Jun**, the vice president of Lifan Group. In the conference, the manager of the new Russian plant made a detailed report about the construction scheduling and future planning. Prior to the meeting, the Lipetsk delegation paid visit to Lifan's car, minivan and motorcycle plants as well as the R&D centre and test drove new products such as **Lifan X60**, **X50**, **820** and **620EV** cars. Lifan's plant in the Lipetsk region is expected to cover 600,000 square metres and to include welding, painting and assembly shops. Initial plans call for the capacity of up to 60,000 units per year. Lifan says it plans to assemble its 650, 730,

820, X50, X60, X70 and X80 models in Russia. Chairman Yin Mingshan said that the Lifan plant in Russia would adopt CKD assembly at initial stage and gradually realize localisation to finally reach the capacity of 200,000 units per year.

MG6 Magnette assembled by Avtotor

About 40 **MG6** Magnette cars assembled at **OOO Avtotor Holding** are parked at the Avtotor plant near the **Kia** assembly facility. "We never comment on negotiations with anyone, but we do not hide signing of formal agreements" Avtotor's General Manager **Alexander Sorokin** said when asked about the MG assembly according to Russky Avtomobil. Ceauto Newsletter already reported in the past that Avtotor had assembled their first MG cars.

Lada XRAY: Details on pilot production schedule

The first two **Lada XRAY** pilot cars are to be assembled at **OOO AvtoVAZ** in April, the Lada XRAY Klub reports. Another 8 pilot vehicles are expected to be assembled in May. The assembly of another batch of 15 pilot cars is to start in June. The first pilot car to be assembled with the same technology as the series production is scheduled for August while the assembly of a pre-series batch of cars is expected to start in November. About 100 CRAY cars are to be assembled between September and November. The launch of volume production is scheduled for the 15th of December.

AvtoVAZ celebrates 45 years of production

OOO AvtoVAZ is celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the production start. The company's first car **VAZ 2101** (later known under the **Lada** brand), a licence version of the **Fiat 124** sedan adapted for Russian manufacturing and road conditions, was manufactured on the 19th of April 1970. The company produced about 4.8 million units of the model.

Accumalux inaugurates plant in Togliatti

Luxembourg-based company **Accumalux S.A.** has officially inaugurated its new Russian plant for battery components **OOO Accumalux Rus** in Togliatti. The plant's capacity is up to two million battery components per year. For about ten years Accumalux shipped parts destined for the Russian battery manufacturer **GK AKOM** from its plants outside of Russia. Now the parts are manufactured in Togliatti and shipped to AKOM's facility in near Zhigulyovsk. Plans call for the delivery of parts to AKOM worth about RUB 280 million this year.

Russia/Turkey

CIE Automotive to start shipments from Togliatti plant this month

OOO CIE Automotive Rus, the Russian subsidiary of **CIE Automotive S.A.** of Spain, will launch shipments of parts from its new plant in Togliatti to **OOO AvtoVAZ** this month. The company is the second resident of the Special Economic Zone of Togliatti which launches production. The company will manufacture aluminium parts for engines. It will ship parts for the H4M engine manufactured at AvtoVAZ. Plans also call for the

shipments of parts to the **Oyak Renault Otomobil Fabrikaları A.Ş.** plant in Turkey. The plant expects to reach its production capacity of 150,000 parts per year in mid-2015. There is an option to increase the capacity to 300,000. Cie Automotive Rus is expected to create 45 jobs by the end of 2015 and about 150 jobs by the end of 2017.

Serbia/Montenegro

Habasit opens representative office in Belgrade

Habasit AG, the Switzerland-based manufacturer of products such as conveyor belts and power transmission belts, has opened a representative office in Belgrade which is responsible for Serbia and Montenegro.

Slovakia

Volkswagen lays cornerstone for new body shop for Porsche Cayenne

Volkswagen Slovakia a.s. celebrated the cornerstone laying ceremony for a new body shop at its site in Bratislava. The 35,700 square metre body shop will be erected at a place which was occupied by a logistics hall in the past. The investment will be €500 million. The new hall will produce bodies for the next-generation **Porsche Cayenne** with start of pilot production scheduled for the second half of 2016. It will include almost 500 industrial robots and employ about 200 workers per shift. According to **Albrecht Reimold**, Volkswagen Slovakia's Chairman of the Board, the capacity will be about 400 bodies per day.

Volkswagen Slovakia to phase out production of old Audi Q7 in June

While the volume production of the second-generation **Audi Q7** started at the **Volkswagen Slovakia a.s.** plant in January, production of the first-generation Q7 will be phased out in June according to **Albrecht Reimold**, the company's Chairman of the Board.

Kia celebrates two millionth car

Kia Motors Slovakia s.r.o. celebrated production of two millionth car at its plant in Teplice nad Váhom near Žilina since the start of production in 2006. The milestone car, a 3-door **Kia cee'd GT** powered by a 1.6 litre turbocharged engine, was shipped to Belgium. Various Kia cee'd models accounted for about 50 percent of total production from 2006, while the Kia Sportage accounted for 39 percent and the Kia Venga for 5 percent. The remaining volume is represented by the **Hyundai ix35**, which was manufactured at the plant in the years 2010 and 2011. Of the two million cars made until now, the largest share was exported to Russia (20 percent), which is followed by the UK (11 percent), Germany (10 percent), Spain (6 percent) and Italy (6 percent).

Johnson Controls receives Superbrands Award

Johnson Controls Inc. has received the **Business Superbrands Award** in Slovakia. Superbrands is an international brand recognition program. The winners of the Slovak Business Superbrands Awards were chosen by the **Slovak Business Brand Council**. Members of this committee are recognised professionals in the fields of marketing, communication and advertising. They have granted this award to companies in Slovakia that successfully develop elite brands with a dynamic brand image.

Slovenia

Cimos compulsory settlement secured

The District Court of Koper has received the votes representing the required majority in order to secure the success of the compulsory settlement of **Cimos d.d.** **Abanka**, **DUTB**, **Gorenjska banka**, **International Finance Corporation**, **NKBM**, **NLB** and **Sid bank**, as well as the Republic of Slovenia, representing about 93 percent of the secured creditors and 83 percent of the unsecured creditors, submitted their supportive votes. DUTB shall be the biggest owner holding about 46 percent of the equity, followed by the Slovenian State (25 percent) and NLB (9 percent). The restructuring process is expected to be finalized in few weeks. "This voting practically concludes the very successful Cimos compulsory settlement process, which was initiated and/or strongly supported by DUTB and the above mentioned financial institutions. Cimos is therefore no longer a financial restructuring case. Also great achievements have been made in the operational stabilization of the company," said **Janne Harjunpää**, Head of Credit Management and Work-out, DUTB. „The next step is to privatize Cimos through an open, transparent and well-advised process, where we are excited to work closely with the deeply experienced and international **EY** team.“

Turkey

Next-generation Opel/Vauxhall Combo not to be made by Tofaş

While the current-generation **Opel/Vauxhall Combo** is based on the **Fiat Doblò** and manufactured at the **Tofaş Türk Otomotiv Fabrikası A.Ş.** plant in Bursa, **PSA Peugeot Citroën** and **General Motors Co.** announced that the next generation small light commercial vehicles (B-LCV) from both companies will be built at the PSA plant in Vigo, Spain. The vehicles will replace the **Citroën Berlingo**, **Peugeot Partner** and **Opel/Vauxhall Combo**. They will be developed on PSA's latest LCV architecture. The first vehicles will be on the market in 2018.

Ford Otosan to launch new R&D centre in Istanbul soon

Ford Otomotiv Sanayi A.Ş. (Ford Otosan) will launch Turkey's largest research and development centre in Istanbul's Sancaktepe soon. Once commissioned at the end of April, the \$26 million centre will employ 1,200 research personnel in engineering roles for **Ford Motor Co.**'s global operations. According to Ford Otosan's General Director **Haydar Yenigün**, the Sancaktepe R&D centre will increase the number of research personnel to 1,450 by the end of 2015. "Ford Otosan serves as a diesel motor engineering centre for Ford's global operations" Yenigün said. The company exported \$300 million worth of engineering services to other Ford divisions in the last 5 years.

New automotive industrial zone to be built in Sakarya

According to a report in Turkish daily, Sabah, a 222 ha land has been chosen by the Sakarya Karasu district to become the **Karasu Automotive Specialization Industrial Zone**. **Fikri Işık**, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology mentioned the industrial zone will focus on the production of high added-value parts and hybrid vehicles.

Meydan Group eyes OEM contracts

Meydan Group, a company focusing on the aftermarket set up **Sevgili Metal Otomotiv Sanayi ve Tic. Ltd.** in 2013. Production of plastic parts, such as fenders, hoods, grilles and bumper reinforcements were launched in late 2014. In an interview with *Dünya*, a Turkish daily **Ömer Faruk Meydan**, Chairman of Meydan Group mentioned his company's plans: "Development of the Konya facility will be completed by next year. We will employ up to 400 people and we aim to be an OEM supplier of local automobile manufacturers, like Fiat and Renault".

Ukraine

Ukraine reduces additional import duty for some cars with gasoline engines

Ukraine has reduced the additional import duty for cars with 1 to 2.2 litre gasoline engines effective from the 14th of April. The additional import duty for cars with 1 to 1.5 litre engines was reduced from 4.31 percent to 2.15 percent, the duty for cars with 1.5 to 2.2 litre engines was reduced from 8.63 percent to 4.32 percent. The new regulation is to be valid for one year.

Uzbekistan

Auto Rad Systems inaugurates new plant

Auto Rad Systems, the Uzbek-Chinese joint venture for the production of brake shoes, has been inaugurated in the Special Industrial Zone Jizak. The company, which makes brake shoes for various vehicle categories, employs 45 people.

NEWS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Middle East and Africa

General Motors forms new Africa and Middle East Operations

General Motors Co. is combining its Africa and Middle East Operations into one business unit. The company announced the formation of the new **GM Africa and Middle East Operations**, to be headed by **Mario A. Spangenberg**, the current **GM Africa** president and managing director, from the 1st of June. "It will strengthen GM's competitiveness in major country markets such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, South Africa and Kenya" said **Stefan Jacoby**, GM Executive Vice President and President, **GM International (GMI)**. In 2014, GM Africa sold 185,500 vehicles and GM Middle East Operations sold 98,200 vehicles. According to Spangenberg, both the Middle East and Africa regions are significant growth opportunities for the company. "The Middle East is the fastest-growing vehicle market outside the BRICS nations," he said. "It is expected to grow to more than 2 million units by 2020. Furthermore, we regard Africa as the next frontier for our industry and we expect impressive growth into the future". In his new role, Spangenberg will maintain offices in Dubai, UAE, and Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The business unit will be headquartered in Dubai. Spangenberg will be supported by **GM Egypt and North Africa** Managing Director **Tarek Atta**; **GM East Africa** Managing Director **Rita Kavash**;

Ian Nicholls, who will be appointed president and managing director, **GM Sub-Saharan Africa Operations**; and a new **GM Middle East Operations** president and managing director, to be announced in due course. The current GM Middle East Operations president and managing director, **Maurice Williams** will repatriate to the USA to take up the position of general manager of sales support for GM.

Nicholls appointed as President and Managing Director of GM Sub-Saharan Africa Operations

General Motors Co. have announced the appointment of **Ian Nicholls** as President and Managing Director of GM's South Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Israel operations, effective from the 1st of June. Based in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Nicholls will assume responsibility for the company's manufacturing, sales and export operations in South Africa, as well as its sales operations in Sub-Saharan Africa markets and Israel. In his new role he reports directly to **Mario A. Spangenberg**, President and Managing Director of GM's newly created Africa and Middle East operations. Prior to this appointment, the South African (Nicholls) served as Vice President of **GM South Africa's** operations and before that Vice President of Planning for GM South Africa.

Iran

Iran Khodro plans higher exports, new markets

Iran Khodro Co. (IKCO) plans to export 30,000 cars (including assembly kits) this Iranian year (21st of March 2015 to 20th of March 2016) said **Ali Elmi**, IKCO's Deputy CEO responsible for export. "We had set the export target of 20,000 units last year, however due to sanctions, exchange fluctuations and problems in opening letters of credit the company exported 7,000 units only". Iraq, Azerbaijan and Venezuela are among the company's export markets. "IKCO board is determined to keep these sites that have been previously invested on running. CKD cars are assembled in these four sites, which present technical and engineering services as well" said Elmi referring to the company's strategy in respect to its foreign assembly sites. In the meantime, IKCO has successfully received the Tunisian Standard Institute's approval to export IKCO Runna to this country. "We wish to restart exporting cars to Egypt and we have discussed the conditions to export to Algeria as well. IKCO considers export to Nigeria and Ivory Coast as well" explained Elmi.

Zamyad is in talks with AVL

Fereidoun Hamidi, managing director of **Zamyad Khodro**, mentioned in an interview with local media that his company is in talks with Austrian engine-development specialist, **AVL List GmbH** regarding the development of a new petrol engine.

Iran/Kyrgyzstan

Zamyad opens showroom Kyrgyzstan

Earlier this month **Zamyad Khodro** opened a showroom in Bishkek in the presence of **Ali Nafaji**, Iran's ambassador to Kyrgyzstan. The company is selling its Z24 pickup truck locally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- » 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>

IMPRINT

Editor: Peter Homola, Phone: +43 664 124 4870 E-mail: peterhomola@ceauto.at

Chief Correspondent: Csaba Delényi. Phone: +36 30 862 7287. E-mail: dcsaba@ceauto.co.hu

Copy Editor: Timothy Rawson

Layout Editor: Katalin Böröcz

Publisher: Pal Negyesi. Phone: +43 664 883 60 677. E-mail: pnegyesi@ceauto.at
ceauto GmbH, Garnisongasse 7/21, 1090 Wien, Austria

CeAuto Newsletter is published on every Wednesday.

Annual subscription price: €209/US\$280/¥28600/INR17600/RMB¥1,710

Subscription service: Boglarka Nemeth, bnemeth@ceauto.co.hu