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NEWS

International

BorgWarner to acquire Remy

BorgWarner Inc. has announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire **Remy International Inc.**, a global producer of rotating electrical components. Remy has operations in ten countries on five different continents. As of the 31st of December 2014 the company employed 6,600 people and, for the fiscal year, it generated sales of \$1.2 billion. Under the terms of the agreement, BorgWarner will acquire each of the outstanding shares of Remy for \$29.50 in cash, which implies an enterprise value of Remy of approximately \$1.2 billion. The transaction is expected to be accretive to earnings in the first year. "The acquisition will be another step in executing our plan, to profitably grow revenue to \$15 billion by 2020," said **James Verrier**, President and CEO of BorgWarner. The completion of the transaction is subject to certain customary terms and conditions, including the approval of Remy's stockholders and antitrust and other regulatory clearances in the United States and abroad. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Renault-Nissan appoints new head of alliance manufacturing engineering & supply chain management

Jérôme Olive (57) has been appointed Alliance Executive Vice President, Alliance Manufacturing Engineering & Supply Chain Management, at the **Renault-Nissan Alliance** effective as of the 1st of August. Olive, currently Senior Vice President, Manufacturing and Logistics Europe, **Renault S.A.**, replaces **Shohei Kimura** who will move to a new leadership position in manufacturing within the **Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.** Kimura has been head of the converged Alliance Manufacturing Engineering & Supply Chain Management function since its creation in April 2014. **Jose-Vicente de los Mozos** will add Olive's current responsibilities to his duties as Executive Vice President for Manufacturing & Supply Chain at Renault. Olive joined Renault in 1982. Prior to his current position he was Managing Director of the Renault Group in Romania and Managing Director of **Automobile Dacia S.A.** In 2013, he also served as Industrial Director for Renault's Euromed-Africa Region, in addition to his role in Romania.

Belarus

BELGEE: More details on Chinese loan

The Belarusian government has published the amount of a loan for the building of the **SZAO BELGEE** plant which was agreed between Belarus and China's **Eximbank** during the visit of China's President **Xi Jinping** to Minsk in May. Eximbank will provide a \$158.7 million loan. **OAO BPS-Sberbank** will act as agent bank.

Belarus/Russia

Unison to assemble Chevrolet Tahoe and Cadillac Escalade

General Motors Co. and **SP ZAO Unison** have signed an agreement on the SKD assembly of **Chevrolet Tahoe** and **Cadillac Escalade**. The cars will be mainly destined for the Russian market. Unison launched assembly of the **Opel Mokka** at its plant in Obchak near Minsk earlier this year. It also assembles **Peugeot**, **Citroën** and **Zotye** cars.

Czech Republic

Škoda prepares pilot production of Seat SUV

Škoda Auto a.s. is gearing up for the production of a new SUV it will manufacture for the **Seat S.A.** Pilot production of the **Seat SUV** at the plant in Kvasiny is to start after the summer break.

Seat considers Chinese sales of new SUV

Seat S.A. is considering sales of its first SUV, production of which is now in preparation at **Škoda Auto a.s.** plant in Kvasiny, in China according to Seat's CEO **Jürgen Stackmann**. Stackmann said the SUV would have to be built in a Volkswagen plant in China for local customers. "The SUV would be a very good fit," for China, Stackmann told journalists at a press event in London. According to the Seat CEO, the SUV was "fully China ready" if the decision was taken.

Škoda builds new emission centre in Mladá Boleslav

Škoda Auto a.s. has laid the cornerstone for the building of a new Emissions Centre at the company's development centre site. In partnership with the **Volkswagen AG**, Škoda will be investing more than €11 million in the "Emission Centre South". €6.4 million will go into constructing the new building, while the remaining almost €5 million will be spent on the equipment. The company has also announced that new jobs will be created. Škoda will be able to measure the emissions of vehicles with petrol and diesel engines, as well as vehicles with alternative fuel systems in the new facility. Two completely new measuring stations will feature so-called biaxial brake testers, including rollers and analysing systems. Each test stand will initially be able to carry out up to 15 emission measurements daily, subsequently increasing to as many as 25 measurements every day. The range of test operating temperatures spans from -40°C to +65°C. The new centre is expected to be opened in July 2016.

Czech government approves locations of favoured economic zones

Czech government approved the proposal of the Minister of Trade and Industry, who introduced specific locations of favoured industrial zones. The selected areas will receive greater support under the amendment to the Act on Investment Incentives. Favoured industrial zones are, in the Czech Republic, a novelty based on an amendment to the Act on Investment Incentives with effect from May this year. In recent weeks, three pilot areas that will be the first to receive statute of favoured industrial zones were selected. They include Strategic Industrial Zone Ostrava - Mošnov, Strategic Industrial Zone Holešov and Strategic Industrial Zone Most - Joseph. All three sites are existing industrial zones which were supported by the state under the Programme to Support Business Properties and Infrastructure. All the proposed areas have a ready infrastructure, an area larger than 150 hectares and more than 40 percent of vacant space. In preferential zones, investors will be able to have a broader spectrum of investment incentives. Compared with other regions a higher support per new created job, up to CZK 300,000, will be available. With the consent of the municipal council in which the industrial zone is located, it will be possible to exempt the land and buildings on the territory of these zones from real property for up to 5 years. The Ministry of Trade and Industry will additionally site for favoured industrial zones after the pilot project will be finished and evaluated.

JTEKT to further invest in Plzeň

JTEKT Automotive Czech Plzeň s.r.o., the manufacturer of steering systems, has plans to invest about CZK 700 million at its plant in Plzeň in the next three years, the *Hospodářské noviny* business daily reports. The purpose of the investment is the launch of production of some parts which are currently sourced from other suppliers. "The reason for the new investments is the pressure to make the production more effective, so we start to produce some parts ourselves," the company's COO **Jan Jiřík** is quoted as saying. According to the report, the company, which started with 20 Czech-based suppliers, added another 10 local supplier. JTEKT Automotive Czech Plzeň had a turnover of about CZK 10.6 billion in 2014 and expects to achieve CZK 11.6 billion this year. Last year's profit was almost CZK 500 million. It sold 3.08 million steering systems in 2014 and expects to increase the figure to 3.47 million in 2015, writes JTEKT Automotive Czech Plzeň. As a result of planned investments, the total number of employees is to be increased from about 730 workers to 800.

Rubena to make additional investment in Mexico

Czech supplier **Rubena a.s.** is expected to make an additional investment in Mexico next year, the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade said without providing details. Rubena manufactures rubber diaphragms for brake systems at its plant **CGS Automotive de Mexico S. de R.L. de C.V.**, which is located in the Parque Industrial Las Colinas in Silao (Guanajuato state). The company launched production in Mexico in 2006 and currently employs about 100 workers. In April this year, the production has been extended.

Hungary

Audi elects new managing director

Peter Kössler (56) has been appointed managing director of **Audi Hungaria Motor Kft** in Győr as of the 1st of October. He will move from **Audi AG**'s main site in Ingolstadt, where he has been plant director for more than eight years. He will replace **Thomas Faustmann** (52), who, after eleven years as managing director in Győr, will move as new plant director to Neckarsulm. Peter Kössler graduated in precision engineering and was also trained as an expert in energy-device electronics. He started his career at Audi in Ingolstadt in 1986. After various positions as team leader and project manager in production and manufacturing planning, he was responsible for manufacturing planning for fitted parts and for structural planning from 1997 onwards. In 2002, he was promoted to head of the press shop in Ingolstadt. With the concentration of all Audi press shops worldwide, he was appointed head of the press shop division two years later and director of the Ingolstadt plant in 2007. In addition, he has been a member of Audi's Supervisory Board since 2009.

NNG opens development centre in Szeged

NNG Kft, the Budapest-based provider of navigation solutions for the automotive industry, has inaugurated its development centre in Szeged. Currently about 30 people are employed in the new office, but the headcount will be increased to 50 by the end of the year, said **Péter Szombathelyi**, elected managing director, at a press conference. The centre in Szeged is expected to have 200 employees on the long run. NNG currently employs over 800 people around the world and expects further fast growth. The company also opened offices in Detroit and Tokyo in the first half of 2015.

Csaba Metál receives supplier award from Continental

Hungarian supplier **Csaba Metál Zrt.** is among 15 suppliers which were honoured by the **Continental AG** with its "Supplier of the Year 2014" awards. Csaba Metál was one of two companies honoured in the Mechanics & Raw Material category.

Hungary/Russia

Lada returns to Hungary

As a nod to the Soviet-era the return of **ОАО АвтоВАЗ** to Hungary will begin on the 7th of November, the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. That's when **Lada Hungary Disztribúciós Kft**, a subsidiary of Budapest-

based car dealer **Duna Autó Zrt.**, will open its first dealership. Duna Autó has been around since the early 1990s and today it distributes 10 different brands in Hungary. AvtoVAZ is preparing an export push from next year with the new **Lada** Vesta and XRAY in order to compensate for a shrinking market in Russia. The company prepares to sell the car in Western European markets including Germany and Turkey. As a stopgap measure Lada Hungary will sell the Granta, the Kalina and the 4x4 in Hungary until the new models arrive.

Poland

Bulten expands Polish plant

Swedish supplier **Bulten AB** continues capacity expansion at its Polish plant **Bulten Polska S.A.** in Bielsko-Biała. A new heat treatment line was taken into operation during the second quarter of 2015 and the construction of a new logistics centre is proceeding according to plan and the centre is expected to be taken into operation in the third quarter.

Solvay launches production of highly dispersible silica for energy saving tyres in Włocławek

Solvay S.A. has celebrated the production launch of Highly Dispersible Silica (HDS) at its new plant in Włocławek, Poland, to address strong and growing regional demand for energy saving tyres. With 85,000 tons of annual capacity dedicated to Solvay's latest HDS technologies it will create more than 100 jobs. The site will produce the most advanced grades of HDS, a reinforcing agent in the tyre rubber that reduces a vehicle's fuel consumption by as much as 7 percent. Solvay's HDS brands include Zeosil® PREMIUM and Effidium®, another Solvay Silica invention, which helps tyre makers to raise productivity levels for both car and truck tyre compounds. With Włocławek, Solvay's Silica has a strong global footprint with 9 sites across Europe, South America, North America and in Asia. In South Korea, Solvay is building a plant which will also produce Effidium® and, once on stream, raise Solvay's annual silica capacity by close to 50 percent between 2014 and 2016.

Inergy Automotives Systems changes name

The supplier **Inergy Automotive Systems Sp. z o.o.** which is located in Lublin has recently changed its company name to **Plastic Omnium Auto Inergy Poland Sp. z o.o.**

Poland/Czech Republic

Tesla signs cooperation agreement with PKN Orlen

Tesla Motors Inc. and the Polish oil company **PKN Orlen S.A.** have signed an agreement regarding the installation of Tesla's charging stations for electric cars at Orlen's filling stations. The first superchargers are to be launched at two filling stations in Germany (**star** brand) in August. In addition, superchargers are expected to be installed at Orlen's filling stations in Poland (Orlen brand) and Czech Republic (**Benzina** brand) before the end of this year.

Poland/Romania

Rosti Group acquires Bianor Poland and Romania

The **Rosti Group** have announced signing of an agreement regarding the acquisition of 100 percent of the shares in the Dutch holding company **Boog B.V.**, and indirectly the **Bianor** group of companies, from the Dutch-German based private equity company, **Nimbus Investments**. Bianor is an injection moulder and assembly-solutions provider. Bianor was founded in 1997 as a Polish-Dutch joint venture in Bialystok, north east of Warsaw, Poland. Bianor has since developed a factory in Bialystok (2012) and a second facility in Ploiesti, Romania, 60 km outside Bucharest (2013). Combined, the two facilities offer 20,000 square metres footprint of manufacturing capacity, plus an additional 12,000 square metres of warehousing space. Bianor has in excess of 80 injection moulding machines ranging from 50 to 1,200 ton clamping force. Bianor will be incorporated into the European division of the Rosti Group. The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2015, subject to necessary approval by the Polish Office for Competition and Consumer Protection.

Romania

Ford reports lower turnover

Ford Romania S.A., which operates the car and engine plant in Craiova, had a turnover of €912 million in 2014, down 17 percent from 2013. The net profit was €6 million, down by almost 70 percent compared to 2014. Ford Romania had 3,140 employees in 2014, 300 less than the year before.

Russia

Russian government may include export shipment of parts to local content calculation

The Russian Ministry of Economy has confirmed that it is considering to change the way how the local content is calculated in conjunction with the so called industrial assembly agreements. The change would mean that exports of parts also count for the calculation of the localisation.

AvtoVAZagregat interrupts production

Togliatti-based supplier **OAo AvtoVAZagregat** has interrupted production for the time between the 8th of July and 26th of July, Russian media report. As AvtoVAZagregat is an important supplier of **OAo AvtoVAZ**, it is not clear what will be the consequences for the production at the car plant. AvtoVAZ has told media that it has redistributed some orders to other suppliers. According to Izvestia, there were some interruptions of the production of the **Lada** 4x4 in 3-door and 5-door versions in last days. It is not clear whether this problem was connected to the situation at AvtoVAZagregat.

Faurecia decided not to launch production in new premises in Tatarstan

Faurecia S.A. has decided not to launch parts production in newly erected premises in Tatarstan because of the current crisis, Kommersant reports. Instead, the company installed the production of components on the territory of the **OOO Ford Sollers Holding** plant in Naberezhnye Chelny, the report said.

AvtoVAZ: First Lada XRAY pilot body on B0 assembly line

ОАО AvtoVAZ has put the first **Lada XRAY** pilot body on the assembly line for cars based on the B0 platform. Volume production of the XRAY is scheduled to be launched in five months.

Ford Sollers expects market to stabilise

Ted Cannis, CEO of **ООО Ford Sollers Holding**, expects the Russian car market to stabilise in the second half of this year. "I believe July and August will be weaker than June, but there is hope that the situation will improve in the autumn as inflation slows," Cannis said in an interview with the Vedomosti business daily. "The market will stabilise, but it will be a very fragile stabilisation."

Ford Sollers could repurchase preferred shares in the future

Whilst **Ford Motor Co.** took control of **ООО Ford Soller Holding** in April, Ford Sollers could repurchase its preferred shares when the market stabilised, the company's CEO **Ted Cannis** told the Vedomosti business newspaper. "Yes, that was precisely the point of deal," Cannis is quoted as saying. "The deal became necessary because of the crisis. Our debt was in rubles but a lot of our equipment is imported," Cannis explained the move in April. "Because of the devaluation of the ruble we needed extra financing."

Hyundai on Russia

Hyundai and **Kia** brands have been suffering sales declines in markets such as China, Russia and Brazil in the first half of this year. In Russia, Hyundai's sales dropped 11 percent to 79,444 vehicles while Kia sold 76,215, down 19 percent. The situation has been much the same for Brazil, the declines in China were higher. "We have been struggling in China, but things will improve after we introduce new models, such as the all-new Tucson SUV and the all-new K5 sedan, in the second half," a **Hyundai Motor Group** spokesman said according to Korea Times. "The falling value of the Russian ruble and Brazilian real has made it impossible for us to make money in these two markets. But we continue to maintain our market shares because we will greatly benefit from a larger presence in Russia and Brazil when their economies recover."

ARaymond opens plant in Dzerzhinsk

French supplier **ARaymond** has opened a plant for the production of fasteners in the Dzerzhinsk-Vostochny industrial park in Dzerzhinsk in the Nizhny Novgorod Region. The company **ООО A. Raymond Rus** currently employs about 40 people, it plans to increase the number of employees to 70 in the first stage when at full capacity. The investment was RUB 300 million, the capacity is 10 million fasteners per year.

Avtosvet launches production of lighting products for Lada Vesta

The official launch of production of lights for the **Lada Vesta** was celebrated at the **ООО Avtosvet** plant which is located on the territory of the **АО DAAZ** industrial park in Dimitrovgrad. The ceremony was attended by **Bo Andersson**, President and CEO of **ОАО AvtoVAZ**, **Sergey Morozov**, Governor of the Ulyanovsk Region and **Vasily Lapotko**, Managing Director of **ОАО Obyedinyonnye Avtomobilnye Tekhnologiy (OAT)**, the parent holding of Avtosvet. Earlier this year, five units of the new TPA production equipment, 15 press moulds and

three assembly lines were installed at Avtosvet. The factory will produce headlights as well as rear lights for the Vesta. "It is planned that the company Avtosvet will combine all stages of the production of lighting - from engineering, manufacturing of all components to the assembly of the final product," said **Mikhail Sychev**, the Deputy Governor of the Ulyanovsk Region. "The support for production activities located on the sites of the DAAZ industrial park which comes from AvtoVAZ and Bo Andersson directly is a confirmation of good prospects for the development of the industrial site".

Automotive Lighting expanded plant in Ryazan

OOO Automotive Lighting has expanded its plant in Ryazan. The target of the stage II of the plant is to be able to cover the whole technological cycle of making lights. The construction of a 4,400 square metre production hall, an annexe to the existing building, was completed in March. The company started trial operations in the new premises.

Locally made Ford Fiesta reaches dealerships

Ford Fiesta sedans and hatchbacks which are manufactured at **OOO Ford Solers Holding's** plant in Nabarezhnye Chelny have reached dealerships. Presentations of the Russian-made Fiesta was organised at Ford dealerships in 65 cities last weekend.

Russia/Hungary

Suzuki to launch sales of Vitara soon

OOO Suzuki Motor Rus, the Russian **Suzuki** importer, will start sales of the Hungarian-made Suzuki Vitara crossover on the 3rd of August. The car starts at RUB 899,000.

Serbia

ContiTech expands hose assembly plant in Subotica

ContiTech Fluid Serbia d.o.o. is planning to expand the hose assembly plant in Subotica to include another production building. A declaration of intent was signed with the Serbian government. The expansion will include a second production building which will more than double the shop floor area in Subotica. Currently the shop floor area is 7,200 square metres. The company will invest double-digit millions of euros, will more than double the shop floor area. ContiTech, which employs about 650 people at the site, will create several hundred new jobs with the project. Construction of the new building is planned to start before the end of this year and completion is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2016. In Subotica ContiTech assembles hose lines for the power train destined for European carmakers. The plant also manufactures products for trucks, agricultural vehicles and industrial vehicles.

US supplier considers investment in Novi Sad

An unnamed US supplier is considering the establishment of a plant in Novi Sad, the city's mayor **Miloš Vučević** told Tanjug. According to Vučević, the city administration of Novi Sad received a letter of intent from the company.

Hutchinson signs document on transfer of property for plant in Ruma

Olivier Chateu, one of the leading managers of French supplier **Hutchinson S.A.**, and **Sladjan Mančić**, President of the Ruma municipality, have signed the contract on transfer of property over the construction land in the industrial zone Zapad. Ruma provides to Hutchinson 7.8 hectares of land where the investor will build a production space of nearly 6,000 square metres. The land is provided free of charge. The construction of the plant is already in process and completion of construction works is planned for September while production would start in January 2016. The investment is about €7.3 million. The plant will produce rubber pipes for cooling devices which will be destined for **Mercedes-Benz**, **Fiat**, **Suzuki** and **Renault** cars. "We will export to Hungary, Germany, Italy, Russia, supply Fiat in Serbia" said Chateu. Recruitment of first employees is to start at the end of this month. The people will be trained at Hutchinson's plants in Poland. Initial plans call for the employment of 200 people but Chateu spoke about 329 people in the second phase during the contract signing.

Slovakia

Slovak government approves strategic industrial park in Nitra

The Slovak government has approved the proposal for the establishment of a strategic industrial park in Nitra and authorised Economy Minister **Vazil Hudák** to issue the certificate by the 22nd of July, enabling the construction of this investment. With the quick approval the government is trying to attract **Jaguar Land Rover Automotive plc** which is now considering a plant in Eastern Europe. The strategic park will be built by **MH Invest s.r.o.**, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Economy, on the territory of Dražovce, Mlynárce and Zobor, which are parts of Nitra, as well as the villages Čakajovce, Lužianky and Zbehy near Nitra. The area of the strategic park will be almost 733 hectares. According to documents published by the government, construction of the park should start in the second half of 2015 and be completed at the end of 2019. The project of building a strategic industrial park has received the status of an important investment, thanks to the governmental certificate. Based on it, MH Invest will be able to more quickly - in the public interest - arrange and expropriate the plots necessary for the strategic park.

Kia to make 320,000 to 330,000 cars this year

Kia Motors Slovakia s.r.o. is targeting production of 320,000 to 330,000 cars in 2015, compared to 323,720 units manufactured last year. The company produced more than 169,000 vehicles in the first half of this year. The largest market for Slovak-made **Kia** cars was Russia with about 14 percent of the total production, followed by the UK (14 percent), Spain (10 percent), Germany (8 percent) and Italy (7 percent).

Uzbekistan

GM appoints Villarreal an new President and Managing Director of GM Uzbekistan

Hector Villarreal, **GM Korea Co.**'s Vice President of Product Planning and Program Management, has been appointed as President and Managing Director of **GM Uzbekistan YoAJ** effective as of the 1st of August. He will succeed **Kazem Kaher** who has been appointed to the new position of COO at **GM India**. Hector

Villarreal joined **GM de Mexico** in 1990, holding positions in manufacturing and planning. In 2005, he was named Director of Product Program Management at GM's Mexican unit and later was appointed Director of Strategic Planning and Director of Planning Program Management. He has been overseeing the development and execution of GM Korea's product portfolio since 2012.

NEWS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Algeria

Renault: Dacia Sandero Stepway may be second model assembled in Algeria

After the **Renault** Symbol sedan, which is assembled at **Renault S.A.**'s joint venture plant in Oued Tlalat, the **Dacia** Sandero Stepway may be the second model assembled at the factory, Autoalgerie.com reports. The assembly may start in early 2016.

Iran

PSA expects progress in negotiations with Iran Khodro following deal to lift sanctions

PSA Peugeot Citroën, which is in advanced negotiations over a venture with its traditional partner **Iran Khodro Co.**, expects the deal between Iran and western powers "should clear the way for significant progress in our discussions," **Jean-Christophe Quémard**, PSA's Executive Vice-President, Africa & Middle East, told Reuters. In contrast to the past, when Iran Khodro mainly used to manufacture older Peugeot models, the new venture would include full manufacturing of cars using the PSA's latest vehicle architectures and engines, Quémard explained. "This project will deliver a generational leap" Quémard is quoted as saying by Reuters. Plans also call for export shipments. The lifting of financial sanctions "will reopen the normal parts supply chain," Quémard said on Tuesday. A PSA spokesman told Reuters that discussions are in progress with other potential Iranian partners as well, but talks are "most advanced with Iran Khodro". In the past PSA also used to cooperate with **Saipa Auto Group**.

Be Design International establishes joint venture with Tisser

The Italian company **Be Design International S.R.L. (BDI)** and Iranian supplier **Tisser** signed a contract to form a design joint venture. The two companies also signed a trilateral agreement with **Iran Khodro Co. (IKCO)**. "The new company is established based on strategic plans of IKCO to fulfil the country's Development Plan, to implement the development policies of our car industry by Iranian calendar year of 1404 and to accomplish the project of car designing in Iran," IKCO said in a statement about the joint venture. "The joint company is set to provide an appropriate ground for designers, industrialists and academics of Iran to expand cooperation with global designers. The cooperation will enable them to not only receive practical training but also play a key role in new international car designing inside Iran." For more information about the project please check the interview in this issue.

Saipa's daily production to reach about 2,000 cars

Daily production at **Saipa Auto Group** is reaching about 2,000 vehicles, the company's new CEO **Mahdi Jamali** said. "According to plans, from the beginning of Mordad (editor's remark: 23rd of July to 22nd of August) this year daily production of Saipa would become about 2,000 units and by the end of this (Iranian) year it could reach 2,500 units per day," Jamali is quoted as saying.

Nigeria

Tata prepares assembly in Nigeria

Indian vehicle manufacturer **Tata Motors Ltd.** is preparing vehicle assembly in Nigeria, Tata's regional manager **Kshitij Verma** confirmed during a media briefing following a meeting with **Engr. Aminu Jalal**, Director General of the **National Automotive Council (NAC)**. According to Verma, the company has invested over \$8 million as part of its preparations to roll-out its first batch of Nigerian assembled vehicles. Details like the model to be assembled or the time schedule of the projects were not announced. Verma explained that the company has employed over 240 Nigerians many of whom are currently undergoing training in India. The factory will be located at Ijebu Ode in the Ogun State. "The target of the company is not just to start assembling of automobiles in Nigeria but also to establish a sub-regional centre here where vehicles will be manufactured for exportation" Verma is quoted as saying.

National vehicle finance scheme to be launched in August

The **National Automotive Council (NAC)** has confirmed that the much awaited single-digit interest rate, made-in-Nigeria vehicle finance scheme will commence soon. "The National Automotive Council, in partnership with **WesBank** of South Africa, will launch the vehicle finance scheme that is expected to drive volume consumption in the country by the second week of August" **Engr. Aminu Jalal**, Director General of NAC, told local media.

INTERVIEW

with **Stefano Cappuccio**, owner and CEO of **Be Design International S.R.L. (BDI)**

“When nobody went to Iran, we went there”

Be Design International (BDI), an Italian company based in Grugliasco, and the Iranian supplier Tisser have signed a joint venture agreement. In addition, a trilateral agreement which also involves Iran Khodro Co. underlines the support from Iran’s largest vehicle manufacturer.



Mr. Cappuccio, your company has signed agreements on a joint venture in Iran. What do the agreements mean?

We have signed a joint venture agreement with the company Tisser, an Iranian supplier which is producing ABS and ESP systems, interior trim and other parts and has, for example, good contacts with Bosch. At the same time a trilateral agreement between Iran Khodro, Tisser and our company was signed. That shows Iran Khodro’s commitment to give support and projects to the joint venture. We plan to finalise the terms of responsibilities of the new joint venture during a visit of an Iran Kodro delegation to Turin which is scheduled for the end of July.

You negotiated the joint venture during the sanctions against Iran. Now the nuclear talks between France, Germany, UK, China, Russia and Iran in Vienna ended with a deal. What does it mean for your project?

When nobody went to Iran, we went there. During the sanctions we decided to go to Iran, to talk to the companies, and this is now an advantage for our company. Tomorrow many other foreign companies will knock on the door of Iranian manufacturers.

Where will the staff for your joint venture in Iran come from?

Initially there will be 30 to 35 engineers from Europe but the objective is to reduce the number of European engineers to 10 and replace the other with Iranian engineers in 2 years. One of the targets of the joint venture is to give appropriate support to train local engineers.

How do you plan to recruit European engineers for the work in Iran?

Due to the actual situation in the Turin area it is not difficult to find good people.

What will be the competence of the joint venture? Will it be able to design a complete car?

Yes. But we will not only work on passenger cars but also on other means of transport.

How do you see the future of the Iranian automotive industry?

Iran has very ambitious plans. They want to achieve annual production of more than 3 million cars in 2025, which means a lot of investments. They don't want only to have licences, to produce old models, they want to build a new identity, to produce new models.

Interview conducted by Peter Homola

UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **August, 24-27:** MOSCOW, RUSSIA: MIMS AUTOMECHANIKA
<http://www.mims.ru>
- » **August, 25:** MOSCOW, RUSSIA: VI INTERNATIONAL MOSCOW AUTOMOTIVE FORUM (IMAF)
<http://www.mims.ru/en-GB/events/VI-moskovskii-mezhdunarodny-forum-avtomobilestroen.aspx>
- » **October, 1-11:** BUCHAREST, ROMANIA: BUCHAREST AUTO SHOW
<http://www.sab.ro>
- » **October, 13-14:** PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC: CENTRAL & EAST EUROPEAN AUTOMOTIVE FORUM
<http://www.ceeautomotive.com/>
- » **October, 28-30:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY: AUTOMOTIVE HUNGARY
<http://automotiveexpo.hu>
- » **November 24-25:** ISTANBUL, TURKEY: 2ND WORLD AUTOMOTIVE CONFERENCE.
<http://worldwidepartnerships.co.uk/conference/world-automotive-conference-in-turkey/>

IMPRINT

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CeAuto Newsletter is published on every Wednesday.

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

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