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### NEWS

#### Belarus

##### ***BELGEE finishes preparation for serial assembly***

**SZAO BELGEE**, a Belarus-Chinese joint venture, has finished preparations for the launch of Geely SC7 sedan volume assembly. The plant, which is located on the premises of local supplier **OAO BATE** in Borisov, has already been equipped with the necessary equipment for SKD assembly. Last year the first 12 pilot cars were assembled. The official inauguration of the plant is expected to take place in late January. Plans call for the assembly of 10,000 units in 2013. The company would like to export its cars to Russia and Kazakhstan, which are also part of the Customs Union - but no dates or figures have been set. BELGEE may add assembly of the Geely GX7 crossover before the end of this year, but the final decision about the second model has not been made yet. Also in late 2013 BELGEE will begin construction work on a new CKD plant.

#### Czech Republic

##### ***Hyundai produces more than 300,000 cars for the first time***

Last year **Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech s.r.o.** manufactured 303,035 cars, which is 21 percent more compared to 2011 results, and it is also a new production record. There were more than 127,000 units of the **Hyundai ix35** produced, followed by the second-generation i30 which amounted for 120,000 units in three different body styles, the ix20 with more than 45,000 units and the first-generation i30 cw wagon with almost 11,100 units produced up to May. Last year the biggest export markets for the Czech factory were Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain. Exports were launched to Australia and South Africa. In 2013 the company plans to produce about 300,000 cars again.

### **Leadership change at TPCA**

**Kenta Koide** (53) has been appointed as the new President of **Toyota Peugeot Citroën Automobile Czech s.r.o. (TPCA)**. He succeeds **Satoshi Tachihara**, who has returned to the Japanese headquarters. Since 2002 Kenta Koide has been member of the team which worked on the preparations of the joint venture between **Toyota Motor Corp.** and **PSA Peugeot Citroën**. Between 2005 and 2007 he worked as TPCA's Director of the administrative area. In 2007 Koide returned to Japan, where he worked in the production engineering department and also as manager of the Honsha plant.

### **Škoda reports record sales in 2012**

**Škoda Auto a.s.** sold about 939,200 cars last year, up 6.8 percent from 2011, and reached a record high again. Škoda's sales in China, its biggest market, rose 7.1 percent to 235,700 units. Sales in Germany, its second-largest market, increased 3.6 percent to 132,600 cars. In Russia, the company's third largest market, sales grew 17.6 percent to 99,100 units. The best-selling model in 2012 was the **Škoda Octavia** with 409,600 units, followed by the Fabia (240,500), the Superb (109,100), the Yeti (87,400), the Roomster (38,000), the Rapid (24,700) and the Citigo (30,000).

### **Škoda halts automobile production in Vrchlabí**

**Škoda Auto a.s.** halted automobile production at its Vrchlabí plant, where the old **Škoda Octavia** and Roomster were assembled. The Škoda Roomster, originally built at Kvasiny and later transferred to Vrchlabí, has returned to Kvasiny. The Vrchlabí plant is now focusing on the production of DQ200 transmissions. The facility was originally established by **Petera a synové** in 1864. The Petera coachbuilding company completed its first automobile coachwork in 1908. Between 1946 and 1954 and from 1958 the plant belonged to Škoda (formerly **AZNP Mladá Boleslav**). During recent years, the site was only an assembly facility without its own press and paint shop.

## **Hungary**

### **Magyar Suzuki returns to two shifts**

**Magyar Suzuki Zrt.** is now back to two shifts. The company worked just one shift in November and December. According to a company spokeswoman, the company produced about 155,000 **Suzuki, Fiat** and **Opel** cars last year, which is about 9.7 percent less than in 2011. This year, the company plans to produce about 180,000 cars. In the second half of 2013, production of the successor to the SX4 will get underway.

### **Racemark sets up shop in Komárom**

**Racemark International LLC**, a U.S.-based global supplier which is producing car mats for **BMW, Volkswagen** and **Bentley** in Europe has relocated its sole European plant from Couvet, Switzerland to Komárom, Hungary. Production is scheduled to start in Q1 2013. By the end of the year, 51 new jobs are to be created with an investment of about EUR 1.8 million.

### ***Delphi Hungary receives another government subsidy***

On top of a HUF 499 million subsidy received in 2008 and a HUF 400 million subsidy received in 2009, Szombathely-based **Delphi Hungary Kft** received another HUF 480 million government subsidy, though it only asked for HUF 450 million. Today the company employs about 1,500 people, but plans to add 150 more jobs in the near future.

### ***Government promotes Western-Pannonian Automotive and Mechatronics Centre***

The Hungarian government is supporting the **Western-Pannonian Automotive and Mechatronics Centre**, which was set up between the cities of Szombathely, Szentgotthárd and Zalaegerszeg said **Csaba Hende**, Minister for National Defense, at a recent press conference. He added that the government envisions a capital investment of EUR 1 billion and the creation of 25,000 new jobs during the next ten years. Currently this region employs about 20,000 people in this sector.

## **Poland**

### ***Polish government is in talks with an Asian investor on automobile production***

The Polish government is discussing plans with a major Asian investor on setting up a local production base. There are no details available on the company, which is claimed to be interested in manufacturing 300,000 to 500,000 cars a year. On the 25<sup>th</sup> January, **Janusz Piechociński**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, will meet the representatives of the Asian company. "We try to attract a significant global player, who's also interested in other Central and East European markets" said the Minister at a meeting of his Party in Kalisz. "This company openly stated that they want to start work quickly in an existing facility even if it is not operating for some time". Piechociński will try to steer the company to the premises of former Warsaw-based car maker **Fabryka Samochodów Osobowych S.A. (FSO)**. According to the Minister, other possibilities include the former Lublin factory, but there's the possibility of a greenfield plant as well.

### ***Fiat Auto Poland reports significantly reduced production***

Last year **Fiat Auto Poland S.A.** manufactured 348,503 cars, which is 25,5 percent lower compared to its 2011 output. There were 144,089 **Fiat** 500 cars produced, followed by the Fiat Panda Classic (94,002), **Ford** Ka (54,613), **Lancia** Ypsilon (48,524) and **Abarth** 500 (7,275). Altogether 293,890 Fiat, Abarth and Lancia cars left the factory, of which 98.2 percent were exported. Last year Italy was the biggest export market with 139,308 units, followed by United Kingdom (38,253), Germany (27,030), France (22,920) and Spain (9,487). Exports to Italy were down by 78,261 units compared to 2011. Fiat Auto Poland will lay off 1,450 workers during the Q1 2013. Once restructuring is completed, the company will employ about 3,400 people.

### ***Rhodia to construct new plant in Włocławek***

**Rhodia S.A.** will invest PLN 309 million in a new plant for silicon dioxide in Włocławek. The material will be mainly used as raw material for tire production. The plant will be built on a site, which has been part of the **Pomerian Special Economic Zone (Pomorska Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna)** since January 1. The new factory, which will employ 50 people, is expected to start production in late 2015. Rhodia already operates the **Rhodia Polyamide Polska Sp. z o.o.** plant in Gorzów Wielkopolski.

### **GKN Driveline expands in Oleśnica**

**GKN Driveline Polska Sp. z o.o.** will expand its production site in Oleśnica. According to a press release by **WSSE INVEST-PARK** GKN Driveline will invest about PLN 100 million to create 100 new jobs. The development will be completed before the end of 2015.

### **Daewon Kang Up finalizes merger of its subsidiaries**

**Daewon Kang Up Co. Ltd.**, a South Korean supplier, put the finishing touches on the merger of its two Polish subsidiaries, **Daewon Europe Sp. z o.o.** and **D&D Resory Polska Sp. z o.o.** From now on, the new entity will be called Daewon Europe.

### **Shinchang changes its name**

**Shinchang Poland Sp. z o.o.**, a Gliwice-based supplier of ignition systems components, door locks, electronic accessories for door panels, dashboard switches as well as wiper and light switches, has renamed itself to **Daedong Poland Sp. z o.o.** **Daedong** mainly serves the Czech and Slovakian plants of **Hyundai** and **Kia**.

## **Russia**

### **Russia sees almost 11 percent sales increase**

Russian passenger car and light commercial vehicle sales increased 10.6 percent to 2,935,111 units in 2012. This result marks a new sales record for Russia, exceeding the previous peak level of 2.918 million units established in 2008. Market leader **GAO AvtoVAZ** sold 537,625 **Lada** cars, down 7 percent from 2011. **Chevrolet**, the most popular foreign brand, experienced a 18.2 percent increase, with 205,042 units leaving dealerships last year. Chevrolet is followed by Renault (189,852; +22.7 percent), **Kia** (187,330; +22.6 percent) and **VW** (180,863; +38.8 percent). "The outlook for the market in 2013 holds little promise for a quick return to growth at the double-digit rates enjoyed in recent years," says **Joerg Schreiber**, Chairman of the **AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee** and President and Managing Director of **GAO Mazda Motor Rus**. An AMC member poll of industry expectations for the current year resulted in a scope of +/- 5 percent around a median of 2.95 million sales of passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in Russia in 2013. "This suggests the market will consolidate at or close to its current level - an assumption supported by the actual performance in the last couple of months," Schreiber says.

### **AvtoVAZ is considering small car production**

**GAO AvtoVAZ** is considering production of a small car, which is smaller than any of its current models. This was confirmed by AvtoVAZ President **Igor Komarov**, who answered questions of the AvtoVAZ TV-station audience. The minicar project will not be implemented during the next three to four years though. According to Komarov, one of the possibilities is to cooperate with the **Renault-Nissan Alliance**. "The Alliance is planning a similar automobile with a SOP in 2017", says Komarov. "We also think about this project; but until now neither necessary volumes nor return on investment have been defined". A possible SOP for Russian production has not been set yet. "Maybe we will unite our efforts to produce such a car close to 2020" said Komarov. For more excerpts from the AvtoVAZ President's answers, please check the next issue of Ceauto Newsletter.

### ***Lada Samara Sedan waves goodbye***

Recently **OAO AvtoVAZ** halted production of the **Lada** Samara sedan, which is also known as 2115. Production of the three-door hatchback (2113) and the five-door-hatchback (2114) will continue until the end of 2013. During the first 11 months of 2012 there were 84,858 units of the Samara produced in Togliatti, including 23,183 sedans. Serial production of the first-generation Samara sedan (21099) was launched in 1990. The second-generation model called 2115 arrived in 1997, though it was built in small numbers at first.

### ***AvtoVAZ announces Lada Granta recall***

**OAO AvtoVAZ** recalled all **Lada** Granta cars, which were produced between the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2012 due to an airbag-controller defect. The recall affects 45,348 cars.

### ***GM-AvtoVAZ to keep 2013 production at last year's level***

**ZAO GM-AvtoVAZ** plans to produce about 62,500 units of the Chevrolet Niva this year. During last year, the company produced 62,981 vehicles, which is 9 percent more than in 2011 and a new production record. Sales amounted to 63,023 units: there were 60,279 vehicles sold in Russia and 2,744 in other CIS countries. Since production was launched in 2002, more than 469,000 Chevrolet Niva vehicles were sold.

### ***New Chevrolet Niva to be unveiled in 2014***

**ZAO GM-AvtoVAZ** plans to unveil the second generation of the Chevrolet Niva at the 2014 Moscow Autosalon which will be held in August, 2014. The announcement was made by **Jim Bovenzi**, President and Managing Director of **General Motors Russia and CIS** and also by **Jeffrey Glover**, Managing Director of GM-AvtoVAZ. Market launch will commence in 2015. „We plan to equip the car with a 1.8-liter petrol engine, capable of about 125 hp“ said Glover, who was quoted by avtosreda.ru. Right now, the car is equipped with a 80-hp 1.7-litre petrol engine. According to Glover, there are no plans for a version with a diesel engine, but if the need arises, it will be possible to install such a powertrain. GM-AvtoVAZ just launched work on expanding its production facilities. Among other things, a new press shop and a paint shop will be erected in the Togliatti Special Economic Zone. The capacity of the company will be increased to 120,000 cars a year by 2015.

### ***IzhAvto plans to produce 60,000 cars this year***

**IzhAvto** plans to produce about 60,000 units of the **Lada** Granta this year. This was announced by Alexei Alexeyev, Managing Director of **OOO OAG**, an **OAO AvtoVAZ** subsidiary which is responsible for managing IzhAvto. Plans call for the production of 41,850 units of Granta ‚Standard‘ and 18,150 units of Granta ‚Norma‘ versions. Last year, there were about 48,500 cars produced in Izhevsk, including 24,000 units of Granta.

### ***IzhAvto: Renault-Nissan Alliance cars will arrive from 2014***

**IzhAvto** will launch production of cars by the **Renault-Nissan Alliance** in 2014. This was announced by **Alexandr Volkov**, President of Udmurtia, during a visit to the factory. He did not elaborate further. According to Volkov the company will do a lot of preparation work this year. „Already in 2014 we will witness a significant increase in production numbers“ said Volkov,“ and by 2016 production capacity will be increased to 300,000 cars a year“.

### ***Chevrolet will launch Cruze wagon next month***

**Chevrolet** will begin sales of the wagon version of the Cruze in February. Unlike the sedan and the hatchback, which are both being assembled by **OOO GM Avto** in St. Petersburg, the wagon is being put together at **ZAO Avtotor Holding**.

### ***TPV Rus: Uncertainty on construction of a new plant***

Confusion surrounds a new plant by **OOO TPV Rus**, which would be set up in the **Togliatti Special Economic Zone**. TPV Rus, a joint venture, between Slovenian **TPV d.d.** and Russian **GK Krista**, is the seat supplier for the **Lada Granta**. Today seats are being put together in Togliatti and in Syzran, while in the future all activities were to be transferred to a new site located in SEZ Togliatti. **Maxim Simonov**, Managing Director of TPV Rus, claimed that in 2013 TPV Rus will deliver about 235,000 seat sets for the Lada Granta in an interview with the local paper *Volzhskaya kommuna*. The break-even point for the new plant would be at 350,000-400,000 sets a year. TPV Rus hoped that it would be nominated as the seat supplier for upgraded Kalina, but that business ended up with **Lear Corp.** „So far we have invested in the seat production project, about €7.5 million and we need another €10 million for the new plant“, says Simonov. „We have to be very careful on this issue,“ he adds. „We are looking for potential partners, including those who have been nominated by AvtoVAZ for the production of seats“. According to Simonov, this issue should be solved with assistance by AvtoVAZ.

### ***New suppliers for the Togliatti special economic zone***

The expert panel that deals with special economic zones at the Russian Economic Development Ministry has approved the projects of three suppliers that plan to set up operations in the **Togliatti special economic zone**. **OOO Nobel Automotive Russia**, a subsidiary of Turkish company **Orhan Holding A.Ş.**, will transfer its existing production of fuel lines from rented premises to the special economic zone. It plans to invest about RUB 470 million and to create more than 400 jobs. **OOO Atsumitec Toyota Tsusho Rus**, a joint venture of Japanese companies **Atsumitec Co. Ltd.** and **Toyota Tsusho Corp.**, plans to invest RUB 725 million in the production of shift mechanisms for automatic transmissions. The project will create 46 new jobs. **OOO Hi-Lex Rus**, a subsidiary of Japan's **Hi-Lex Corp.**, will construct a plant to produce control cables. The company plans to invest more than RUB 1.35 billion and to employ about 200 persons.

### ***FinnvedenBulten and GAZ sign final agreement***

The Automotive Components division of **Gruppa GAZ** and the Swedish company **FinnvedenBulten AB** have signed a final agreement to form a company for manufacturing fasteners at the **GAZ** plant in Nizhny Novgorod. This will be the first production facility of FinnvedenBulten in Russia. FinnvedenBulten's division **Bulten AB** will become the majority shareholder in the company, through investments of approximately €7 million. The operations to be included in the company currently have a turnover of about €11 million annually and are expected to have significant growth potential both short-term and long-term. The company will be a consolidated subsidiary within the FinnvedenBulten Group. The joint venture will develop and produce fasteners for the automotive industry in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The company will also supply fasteners to Bulten's global customer base with existing production facilities in Russia. Production is planned to start by the end of 2013. GAZ, which manufactures fasteners for Russian customers, will provide the infrastructure for production while Bulten will be responsible for developing new products, new technology and distribution.

### Slovakia

#### ***Slovakia is still world's leading per-capita car manufacturer***

Last year, the three Slovak car manufacturers achieved a new production record. According to preliminary data by local industry body **ZAP (Zväz automobilového priemyslu)** last year there were more than 900,000 cars manufactured. „We have set a new production record“ says **Jaroslav Holeček**, President of ZAP. „There were 166 cars produced per 1000 inhabitants, while in 2011 there were 118 cars made“. It means that Slovakia is again world's leading per-capita car maker. The Slovak statistics also include **Porsche** Cayenne bodies, which are manufactured by **Volkswagen Slovakia a.s.** and shipped for final assembly to Germany. However even without the Cayenne bodies, Slovakia would still be keeping its per-capita position.

#### ***Kia posts record production in 2012***

**Kia Motors Slovakia s.r.o.** produced more than 292,000 cars in 2012, a 15 percent year-on-year increase. In 2012, the plant manufactured around 136,500 units of the **Kia Sportage**, more than 120,600 cee'd models of both generations and over 34,900 Vengas. The company's largest export market was Russia with more than 22 percent of the total production, followed by the United Kingdom (12 percent), Germany (11 percent), France (six percent) and Italy (five percent). In addition, Kia Motors Slovakia manufactured over 464,000 engines, up 29 percent from 2011, which also represents a record output. Diesel engines represented 45 percent of overall production, and gasoline units 55 percent. The most popular engine was the 1.6-litre diesel, with 99,000 examples accounting for 21 percent of total 2012 engine production. Slovak-made engines are also shipped to the **Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech s.r.o.** plant. The company expects to produce 290,000 vehicles and 490,000 engines this year.

### Slovenia

#### ***LTH Ulitki receives loan for engine parts***

**LTH Ulitki d.o.o.** has been granted an eight-year loan worth €3.9 million by the state-owned **SID export and development bank (Slovenska izvozna in razvojna banka)**. The loan will be used for development of engine parts. 158 new jobs are expected to be created at LTH Ulitki.

#### ***Iskra Avtoelektrika completes name change process to Letrika***

**Iskra Avtoelektrika d.d.**, a local supplier holding finalized its name changing process, which includes both the mother company and all of its subsidiaries. Effective from the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, Iskra Avtoelektrika d.d. has been renamed to **Letrika d.d.** Other new company names include **Letrika Bovec d.o.o.** (previously **Iskra Avtoelektrika Avto deli d.o.o.**), **Letrika Lab d.o.o. (IskraLAB d.o.o.)**, **Letrika Asing d.o.o. (Iskra Asing d.o.o.)** and **Letrika Komen d.o.o. (Iskra Avtoelektrika Livarna Komen d.o.o.)**. Most of the company's foreign subsidiaries were renamed last year. In the process of renaming the companies and applying a new trademark, the group also changed the name of **Business Unit Automotive** to **Business Unit Engine Rotating Electrics**.

### ***New production company in the Letrika Group***

**Letrika d.d.** and Ljubljana-based company **Cosylab d.d.** set up a 50/50 joint venture. Called **Letrika Sol d.o.o.**, it will develop, manufacture and market solar micro inverters and connect them to smart power grids. The production will be carried out by **Letrika**, products will be sold under its trademark.

## **Turkey**

### ***Oyak Renault announces 2012 results***

**Oyak Renault Otomobil Fabrikaları A.Ş.** announced its 2012 results and outlined its vision for 2013 at a recent press conference. According to **Tarık Tunalıoğlu**, General Director of the company, Oyak Renault produced 310,602 cars last year. Exports amounted to 227,104 units. Oyak Renault's current product portfolio includes the recently introduced Clio IV and Symbol, the Fluence sedan and the Mégane. In 2013 the company plans to invest €55 million to utilize 92 percent of its 360,000 capacity. The aim is to ramp up production of the Clio hatchback and the new wagon version and to find new export markets outside Europe.

### ***Tofaş returns to two shifts***

Tofaş Türk Otomobil Fabrikası A.Ş. announced that it cut production to two shifts at its Bursa plant following reduced demand in France, Italy and Greece. It means that out of 1,100 temporary workers, who were hired in 2011 in order to start the third shift due to soaring demand, 800 need to be laid off.

### ***Iran Khodro subsidiary to export dies to Turkey***

**Iran Khodro Company** announced that its **Iran Khodro Industrial Dies Co.** subsidiary signed an agreement with the Turkish **Coşkunöz Holding**. The deal, which is valued at €900,000, comes after an earlier, similar cooperation, which was valued at €2.1 million.

### ***Hema Endüstri to produce steering systems for Mercedes-Benz***

**Hema Endüstri A.Ş.**, a steering systems specialist, and a member of **Hattat Holding A.Ş.**, announced that it has reached a deal with **ThyssenKrupp Automotive AG** on acquiring manufacturing rights for **Mercedes-Benz** hydraulic steering systems. Hema Endüstri will relocate the Düsseldorf facility of ThyssenKrupp Automotive to its plant in Çerkezköy which will be upgraded with an investment of €70 million. According to Hema Endüstri chairman, **İbrahim Hattat**, the company will be able to increase its production of hydraulic steering systems from 30,000 to 150,000 units by 2018.

## **Uzbekistan/Russia**

### ***Uzbek protests against Russian scrapping fees***

In addition to the Ukrainian government, which has been negotiating with its Russian counterpart on the abolition of the scrapping fee for Ukrainian cars since its introduction in September 2012, now the Uzbeks have also issued critical words. **Rustam Azimov**, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, has raised the issue

during Russian-Uzbek talks, where Azimov asked its Russian partners to take appropriate action. He warned, that the Uzbek government would be able to introduce measures to limit Russian exports to its country. The Russian scrapping fee hurts **General Motors Uzbekistan YoAJ**. The company produces Chevrolet and Daewoo models and Russia is its biggest export market. **Sergio Rocha**, President and CEO of **General Motors Korea**, who is also responsible for the Uzbek company, said that due to the scrapping fee Russian sales volume of the new **Chevrolet** Cobalt will be about ten percent lower than originally expected.

### From the historical files



As we report in this issue, the Polish government is trying to find an investor again for Warsaw-based car plant Fabryka Samochodów Osobowych (FSO). FSO started production in November 1951 with the Warszawa M-20, a licence-built version of Russia's GAZ Pobeda. The company phased out production in February 2011. Its last model was the previous-generation Chevrolet Aveo. Our picture shows the production line of the FSO Polonez, a car manufactured between 1978 and 2002.

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