



March 3, 2009

GM Europe President Carl-Peter Forster Speech in Geneva

Please check against delivery. The spoken word is valid

Good morning and thank you for joining us today.

Two weeks ago, General Motors presented its viability plan to the public. And just a couple of days ago, we have seen the financial results for business year 2008.

As a consequence, we at GM Europe are working hard to adapt our European business according to the plan and in view of the unfavorable economic environment.

This is the worst economic crisis since the 1930s, and its impact is affecting everybody, especially the entire automotive industry. We've seen a dramatic drop in car sales across all manufacturers, a trend that is beginning to show its effect through the value-added chain in our industry. In view of these negative circumstances, we welcome the introduction of government initiatives around Europe to spur car demand and consumer confidence even more.

For example, in Germany, one of our core markets, governmental action has led to additional sales, a fact which is helping to ease the burden of short work in some of our manufacturing plants.

And while Opel saw the highest February order intake in five years in Germany, forecasts show that extremely low market levels are likely to continue in the medium term and certainly well into next year.

Some experts even expect it to take another five or six years until we see last year's sales levels again - with additional pressure expected to come from a general shift to

smaller and less profitable cars.

Although we hope, of course, that consumer confidence and the overall economic climate improve more rapidly than predicted, as a company we need to prepare ourselves for all kinds of scenarios.

Given the situation, the Opel supervisory board approved a plan for viability to submit to governments outlining its need for 3.3 billion euros in liquidity support to bridge this intense economic period.

This includes the potential third party equity source to align with the Opel business in Europe making Opel a more independent part of the GM global product system.

GM has detailed more than 3 billion Euros in commitment to the brand some of which we'll preview here today. We will be in discussions with government representatives as part of our plan and will update you as appropriate.

While concentrating on measures to right-size our business, we remain focused on high quality, attractive, strong brands and leading technology especially in the field of environmental compatibility - and this is why we are here today.

This year at the Geneva Motor Show we deliver to all of the aforementioned expectations across all of our brands.

On the luxury end of the portfolio, Cadillac is represented with two highlights. The European premiere of the **Cadillac SRX** crossover featuring improved efficiency, maximum safety and a design that is dynamic and expresses power.

With the **Cadillac Escalade Hybrid**, we've developed the world's first hybrid luxury SUV - it's powered by GM's innovative 2-Mode Hybrid system, developed in collaboration with other premium manufacturers, led by GM. It delivers over 40% better fuel economy in City driving, with no sacrifices to performance.

Both Cadillacs will hit European showrooms in the course of 2009.

Continuing with premium brands, Saab is known for addressing fuel economy concerns as one of its core product pillars. We've cumulated this approach under one umbrella, **Saab EcoPower Technology** a broad solution-based approach that includes elements such as: Rightsizing, to generate more power from smaller engines and help minimize waste, improving aerodynamics, reducing weight and revolutionizing turbo engine efficiency.

Also we have Saab BioPower models that run on E85 alternative fuel, such as the new Saab 9-3x we are introducing here in Geneva.

Moving to Chevrolet - the brand with great momentum in Europe. Chevrolet is a leading manufacturer of cars powered by **Liquefied Petroleum Gas** - a fuel source that offers a cost-effective, cleaner alternative to petrol or diesel.

At around .60 Euro cents per litre, LPG is approximately half the cost of gasoline - with no impact to performance - and a 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions over a petrol engine. Chevrolet now offers LPG as a fuel option across the entire range.

And Chevrolet's fuel economy story in Europe is getting stronger with the arrival of this next car, the **Chevrolet Spark**. The Spark features a new 1.2 liter, 4-cylinder gasoline engine, with below 5 liter consumption and less than 120g of CO₂ emission.

Production of the Spark will start in October of this year, with the first cars on European roads in early 2010.

A brand with a wide range of environmentally friendly offers is Opel. Over the course of the 110 years, Opel has been on the forefront of developing automotive innovations and making them available to a wide audience.

Under the ecoFLEX roof, we house a range of low emission, fun-to-drive cars, such as the Opel Corsa 1.3 CDTI with 75 horsepower and 109 grams per kilometer CO₂ and the Opel Astra 1.7 CDTI with 119 grams per kilometer of CO₂, - offering ten percent lower consumption and 22 percent higher output in comparison with earlier models.

Among our newest members of the ecoFLEX range is the **Zafira CNG Turbo** - with 150 horsepower a top speed of 200 kilometers and emissions of 144 grams per kilometer of CO₂.

Finally, the **Opel Insignia ecoFLEX**. It features a 2.0-liter CDTI turbo diesel engine that produces 160 horsepower and 350 Nm of torque and the Insignia ecoFLEX is among the leaders in the mid-size sedans with emissions of less than 140 grams per kilometer of CO₂.

While optimizing our existing portfolio of low emission vehicles, we continue to advance in developing and testing future propulsion solutions. With a fleet of 10 HydroGen4 vehicles, we are putting our latest Fuel Cell technology in the hands of business partners such as Coca Cola or Hilton Hotels for real world testing in Berlin.

These cars are part of an ongoing global market test with more than 100 fuel cell vehicles in the U.S., Korea, Japan and China, providing us with valuable consumer insight when it comes to ownership and driving experience.

Today, we are delivering another proof point of how we are challenging ourselves everyday to re-think mobility in its conventional form.

It is my pleasure to present the next step in automotive innovation, the production intent of the all-new **Opel Ampera**, extended range electric vehicle.