



News

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GM, Politecnico di Torino Establish New Automotive Research Institute

- GM, Politecnico join global automotive research and education network
- New diesel hybrid research center planned in Torino

Torino. General Motors today, together with Politecnico di Torino, announced the formation of the GM-Politecnico Institute of Automotive Research and Education.

Formally announced today at the Inauguration of the GM Engineering Center in Torino, within Cittadella Politecnica, the Institute will be located in the new GM facility and take advantage of the combined resources of both organizations.

The aim of the Institute is to develop and deliver world-class automotive research and education, with a clear focus on alternative powertrains which have the potential to reinvent the automobile for the 21st century.

The Institute builds on a highly successful three-year partnership between GM and Politecnico, which includes GM sponsored Masters and PhD programs, supplementary GM powertrain technology lectures and seminars and more than 20 significant joint research projects.

Joining GM's sister Institutes of Automotive Research and Education within Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China and the University of Michigan in the United States, the Italian Institute creates a truly global advanced R&D and education network.

Mike Arcamone, Vice President GM Powertrain Europe, joined Professor Francesco Profumo, Dean of Politecnico di Torino, to announce the Institute and one of its first initiatives today.

"The creation of our new Engineering Centre in Cittadella Politecnica makes GM the first car company to be physically located in the grounds of a university and it reflects the importance of our partnership with Politecnico," Mr Arcamone said.

"Our successful collaboration in education, research and development demonstrate what can be achieved for both sides when academia and industry work together," Mr Arcamone said.

“Nearly 60 per cent of GM’s engineering workforce in Torino are graduates of Politecnico, and through the new Institute we are strengthening our commitment to excellence and global leadership in advanced diesel engineering R&D.”

The Dean, Professor Francesco Profumo, underlines: “In such an international market, this sort of research plays a key role in helping the industry come out of this economic crisis.

“Therefore we are convinced that the academic and industrial world are complementary and they need to support each other more than ever. In the Cittadella Politecnica access to the research, technology exchange, shared services and facilities of external companies ensures they are familiar with the industry environment, creating a new generation of engineers. This is reflected in our relationship with GM with whom we share not only spaces but also strategies and projects,” he said.

“Today this partnership is strengthened thanks to the creation of the Institute of Automotive Research and Education, which links us even more closely with prestigious international universities with whom we already work, such as Shanghai Jiao Tong and the University of Michigan.”

The Institute will bring together existing GM-Politecnico research and education programs as well as establish new initiatives. One new initiative is the planned Diesel Hybridization Center of Excellence in Torino (DECET) which will focus on developing cost-effective hybrid technology for diesel passenger cars.

“Until now hybrid has been developed exclusively for gasoline engines. In Europe, where diesels account for 50 per cent of the market, diesel hybrid vehicles have the potential to become a key element of GM’s electrification strategy,” Mr Arcamone said.

“Diesel and hybrid technologies together could deliver the 'best of both worlds' by combining start-stop features in heavy traffic conditions with the ability to recover energy during braking and to improve fuel efficiency in highway driving conditions,” he said.

The advanced engineering team of the DECET will focus on reducing NO_x and CO₂ emissions, developing more intelligent controls, optimizing performance and simplifying the combined diesel-hybrid system.

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