

Ford emphasizes commercial vans

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FORD

Over at Ford, it was all about trucks with heavy emphasis on commercial vans starting with the all-new Transit full-size van powered by a new 3.2-litre Power Stroke five-cylinder diesel. In Europe, the same engine produces 197 hp and 347 lb/ft of torque.

The new engine features state-of-the-art piezoelectric fuel injectors fed through a high-pressure common rail fuel system and advanced emissions technology with the expectation of fuel economy exceeding (US) 40 mpg.

And then Ford showed what they called "a little surprise" with the Atlas Concept pickup giving a very clear indication of what the next generation F-150 will look like.

The design was heavily influence by customer feed back with the inclusion of multiple tie-down points integrated within the cargo box walls and load floor. There are 110-volt electrical outlets in the cargo box to charge power tools. An integrated roof carrying system and hidden extendable ramps give the truck unique

functionality for a variety of jobs. Inside thin, lightweight leather seats allow extra leg-room for rear passengers.

The Atlas powertrain features Auto Stop-Start that shuts off the engine when stopped in traffic to save fuel.

Other fuel saving devices include Active Grille Shutters that close to improve aerodynamics when cruising on at steady speeds; Active Wheel Shutters that automatically close at highway speeds to improve aerodynamics and a drop-down front air dam that lowers at highway speeds to improve underbody airflow. The air dam is raised at low speeds to improve ground clearance.

JEEP

The diesel-powered Jeep Grand Cherokee is back with a 3.0-litre EcoDiesel with a range of close to 1,000 km.

Also available with the current 3.6-litre Pentastar V6 and 5.7-litre Hemi V8, it will also feature air suspension, a choice of four-wheel-drive systems and the ability to tow up to 7,400 lb.

And it will also be the safest Grand Cherokee ever with

more than 60 driver security features including Front Park Assist, Forward Collision Warning with Crash Mitigation, Adaptive Cruise Control, and Selec-Speed Control.

Also on the Jeep stand were the refreshed Patriot and Compass CUVs.

CADILLAC

GM Canada president Kevin Williams told Canadian autowriters the car he is most excited about this year is the Cadillac ELR.

It is not a hybrid but an Extended Range Electric Vehicle (EREV) much like the Chevrolet Volt.

A T-shaped lithium-ion battery rated at 16.5 kW provides primary motive power good for 35 miles of normal driving. When that is depleted a 1.4-litre gasoline engine/generator kicks in extending the range to 300 miles.

The battery/engine can be configured into four modes – sport, touring, mountain and hold. Hold allows the driver to use the engine as a generator to save battery power for things such as prolonged city driving.

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It's called the Atlas Concept Pickup but points very clearly at how the next generation Ford F-150 pickup will look.



Jeep will reintroduce a 3.0-litre turbo diesel in the 2014 Grand Cherokee along with the current 3.6-litre Pentastar V6 and the 5.7-litre Hemi V8.

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