

Ford bills the new F-150 as the toughest, smartest and most capable light duty pickup the company has ever built. There are four engines including a new 2.7-litre EcoBoost V6. It also features a 360-degree camera system.

Photos by Jim Robinson

Domestic car makers had plenty to offer at Detroit show

Continued from pg. 1

With a choice of rear- or all-wheel-drive, the ATS Coupe comes with either a 2.0-litre turbo four-cylinder or 3.6-litre V6.

With a 0-60 mph time of 5.6 seconds, Cadillac claims the 2.0-litre is faster then the similarly equipped BMW 428i.

An option is the driver-adjustable FE3 sport suspension that includes Magnetic Ride Control, mechanical limited-slip differential and 18-inch summer-performance tires. Magnetic Ride Control is a

real-time damping system that delivers more precise body motion control because it can "read" the road and can change damping every millisecond.

And closing out news from the GM was the reveal of the 2015 GMC Canyon mid-size pickup, which will come with two gasoline engine options, followed by a diesel in 2016.

At the Ford area, it was all about the 2015 F-150 light duty pickup that remains not only Ford's biggest selling vehicle but the top-selling pickup for four decades.

One of the busiest stands in Detroit was the 5,500 sq. ft. Mopar Custom Shop that offers Chrysler buyers thousands of parts and accessories.

The new F-150 boasts

11 new class-exclusive features that include 360-degree camera view, integrated loading ramps stowed in the pickup bed, 400-watt power outlets inside the cab, LED headlights and sideview mirror spotlights and remote tailgate release.

Among the four engines offered is a new 2.7-litre V6 EcoBoost with standard Auto Start/Stop that helps save fuel. The 2.7-litre and 3.5-litre EcoBoost V6 engine are fitted with active grille

shutters that are open when cooling is needed but close at higher speeds to reduce drag.

When it goes on sale later this year, there will five trim levels, XL, XLT, Lariat, Platinum and King Ranch. Chrome appearance packages are available with XL, XLT, Lariat and King Ranch. Monochromatic sport appearance packages will be available with XL, XLT and Lariat.

The Chrysler 200 mid-size sedan re-

vealed in Detroit will be offered with a nine-speed automatic transmission that, when mated to a 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, will get an expected 5.7L/100 km highway fuel consumption rating.

The MutliAir Tigershark four-cylinder produces 184 hp and 173 lb/ft of torque. Also available will be a 3.5-litre Pentastar V6 with 295 hp and 262 lb/ft of torque.

Based on an Alfa Romeo chassis platform, the 200 also has an optional all-wheel-drive system and available paddle shifters.

Starting price will be \$22,495 for the base model but there will also be the 200S version with significant trim enhancements.

Chrysler's Mopar division has its biggest ever display in Detroit called the Mopar Custom Shop that gives buyers the choice of customizing their Chrysler Group vehicle prior to delivery.

Mopar's catalogue of parts and accessories has been growing rapidly and is adding nearly 1,500 new items annually.



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