Meng Jiang, a GM researcher in Warren, Michigan prepares to look at lithium ion battery components through a microscope that is housed in an argon gas filled "glove box". The lithium ion battery components are sensitive to oxygen and humidity.

# GM remains top automotive innovator

General Motors remains the No. 1 innovator for the fourth-consecutive quarter among 183 companies ranked by The Patent Board in its quarterly automotive and transportation industry scorecard.

GM was granted 1,123 U.S. patents in 2011 applied to global product engineering, global powertrain engineering, global research and development and OnStar organizations.

The Patent Board is the leading independent provider of best practices research tools and metrics for patent analysis and intellectual property investment.

Among recent technology patents are:

Quiet Brakes— A friction-damped disc brake design that uses a thin metal ring embedded in the brake rotor to absorb vibrations and mute the squeal. The quieter brake is expected to be available on some cars and trucks within two to three years.

OnStar Voice Recognition— OnStar's speech recognition method can identify the location of the speaker within the vehicle and adjusts its microphone pick-up pattern or magnitude to respond to location-specific commands.

eAssist Thermal Management— Vehicles with engine shut-off capability, such as Buick LaCrosse with eAssist, use an innovative thermal management system that maintains occupant comfort during engine-shut off, and prevents engine shut-off if comfort will be lost, such as during extremely cold or hot weather conditions.

-Carguide Magazine/Metroland Media



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