

Panelists

Bob Lee, VP & Head of Engine & Electrified Propulsion Engineering, Chrysler Group LLC:

Bob Lee is Vice President and Head of Engine and Electrified Propulsion Engineering for Chrysler Group LLC. He also was named to the position of Powertrain Coordination on the Group Executive Council (GEC) for Fiat S.p.A. on September 1, 2011.

The GEC is the highest executive decision-making body within Fiat outside of its Board of Directors. It is responsible for reviewing the operating performance of the businesses, setting performance targets, making key strategic decisions and investments for the Group and sharing best practices, including the development and deployment of key human resources.

Lee was appointed Vice President and Head of Engine and Electrified Propulsion Engineering, Chrysler Group LLC in July 2011. In that capacity, he has responsibility for directing the design, development and release of all engines and electrified propulsion systems for Chrysler Group LLC products. He will retain these responsibilities.

Lee joined the company in 1978 as an engineer-in-training in the Chrysler Institute of Engineering program and has since held a variety of positions in different areas of Powertrain. Significant elements of his professional background include:

- 2011 - current, Powertrain Coordination, GEC, Fiat S.p.A.
- 2011 - current, Vice President and Head of Engine and Electrified Propulsion Engineering, Chrysler Group LLC
- 2009, Vice President – Engine and Electrified Propulsion and Advance Powertrain Engineering
- 2004, Vice President – Powertrain Product Engineering, Chrysler LLC, DaimlerChrysler
- 2003, Director – Powertrain Systems & Controls
- 1999, Director – Rear-Wheel Drive Engine Engineering
- 1997, Executive Engineer – Rear-Wheel Drive V-Engine Engineering, Chrysler Corporation
- 1993, Senior Manager – Jeep® and Truck Base Engine Engineering
- 1987, Supervisor – Advance Engine Systems Development
- 1984, Senior Engineer – Engine Performance Development
- 1978, Engineer-in-Training – Chrysler Institute of Engineering Program

Lee has been an active member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) since 1978; he is a founding member of the SAE North American International Powertrain Conference Leadership Team and served as the 2007 NAIPC Conference Chairman. Lee is known for leading many new engine programs including the rebirth of the iconic HEMI® V-8 engine in 2003 and the new Pentastar V-6 engine in 2010.

Lee holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Michigan State University (1993), a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan (1980) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Ohio State University (1978).

Lee was born in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Jeff Klei, President NAFTA, Continental Automotive:

Jeff Klei was appointed President, NAFTA Region, effective June 1, 2008. In this role, Klei is responsible for customer, governmental and other external relationships in the Region. He retains his role as Vice President of Sales, General Motors Worldwide, a position to which he was appointed in July, 2006. He was elected Corporate Vice President, Continental Teves, Inc. in January 2000, and serves as a legal representative for the company in conjunction with his ongoing responsibilities.

Prior to this, Mr. Klei was Vice President, Sales and Marketing for all Continental Automotive Systems business units in North America. Mr. Klei has held several positions of increasing responsibility within the Sales organization since beginning his career with ITT Automotive in 1989. Mr. Klei joined Continental Teves as head of Sales and Marketing North America as the result of the sale of ITT Automotive’s Brake and Chassis unit to Continental AG in 1998.

Mr. Klei demonstrated his mechanical engineering qualifications for General Motors Corporation and managerial skills for Raybestos Products Company prior to joining ITT Automotive.

Mr. Klei earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University and a master of business administration from Oakland University. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Crime Stoppers of Michigan and a member of the Board of Trustees for Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

Mr. Klei, his wife, Nancy, and their three children reside in Shelby Township, Michigan.

Michael Robinet, Managing Director, IHS Automotive Consulting:

Michael Robinet was promoted to Managing Director in the IHS Automotive Consulting practice in November 2011. From March 2010 until late 2011, Michael served as the Director of Global Vehicle Production Forecasts for IHS Automotive. Before the purchase of CSM Worldwide by IHS in 2010, Michael was Vice President, Global Vehicle Forecasts since 1996. In his new role as a Managing Director in the global consulting practice, Michael will build upon his experience as a leader and innovator in global production forecasting, tracking future product programs (FPPs), analyzing sourcing and production strategies to serve OEM, supplier and government entities throughout the global industry.

Michael has over two decades of experience in automotive forecasting, strategic analysis and manufacturing finance. Prior to joining CSM Worldwide, he worked at various research companies and was schooled in finance at a major Tier 1 supplier. He has been widely quoted by worldwide print, radio and TV media on a variety of industry topics. Michael regularly presents at global OEM and supplier conference/symposiums.

Michael holds an undergraduate degree in international and developmental economics and an MBA – both from the University of Windsor, Canada. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and a member of the Automotive Press Association (APA). Michael is a board member of the Society of Automotive Analysts (SAA) as well as a participant with the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council’s (CAPC) Trade and Infrastructure Committee.

Chris Middlemass, VP of Business Development, IAV Automotive Engineering:

Chris Middlemass has over 30 years of experience in the international automotive industry in technologies including turbochargers, turbo application, ignition systems and air systems. In his role as the Vice President he is responsible for leading the strategy and business development sector at IAV’s North American subsidiary, IAV Automotive Engineering in Northville, MI.

Prior to IAV, Middlemass held the position of Chief Engineer with Tom Walkinshaw Racing, responsible for the turbocharged engines utilized in the Jaguar Sports Car Racing team. He moved from here to Federal Mogul becoming the European Engineering Manager responsible for ignition system product development and customer approval. The move to Honeywell Turbo as Product Marketing Director resulted in a transfer to Michigan where Middlemass was successful in developing a market for turbochargers in light vehicles. Most recently Middlemass was a Business Development Director with AVL Powertrain developing strong relationships across the industry.

Middlemass holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Durham University in the UK and a Masters in Business Administration from Manchester Business School in the UK.

Moderator

Chris Theodore, President, Theodore & Associates, LLC:

Snapshot background: The “Father of the Ford GT,” the “engineer’s engineer,” a 35-plus-year industry veteran—including two stints in the specialty-vehicle industry—who has super high-test in his veins *and* arteries. Besides the GT, his name is closely associated with products like the new Ford Mustang, the new Ford 150 pickup, the Chrysler PT Cruiser, the original Dodge Viper, the second-generation Chrysler Corp. minivans, the original Jeep Grand Cherokee and the Fiat Spyder Turbo of the early 1980s. Having sold Saleen,

he now heads Theodore & Associates LLC, consulting on Product Development, M&A, Lean Product Creation, Safety, Emerging Technologies, Innovation and “all things automotive.”

Career details, in reverse chronological order: Currently President, Theodore & Associates LLC, Saleen and ASC Incorporated CEO, 2008 – 2009, primary responsibility Saleen performance vehicles, and ASC open air products, ASC Incorporated, Vice Chairman 2005 - 2008, Primary responsibility; all of ASC’s product-development activities; Ford Motor Co., 1999-2004, vice president of North American product development before retiring as VP of Advance Product Creation; DaimlerChrysler Corp., 1989-1999, rose from executive engineer to General Manager of the minivan and small car platform teams to senior VP of platform engineering for the corporation ; American Motors Corp., 1985-1987, director of engine engineering, chief advance engineer of the Jeep Grand Cherokee; Cars & Concepts Inc., Brighton, Mich., 1982-85, vice president of engineering, launched a Mustang convertible, a Dodge Daytona T-top and numerous other products; Legend Industries, Hauppauge, N.Y., 1980-1982, oversaw development of the Fiat Spyder Turbo and DeLorean Twin Turbo for firm that was first independent company to be recognized as a vehicle manufacturer by the EPA; Chrysler Corp., 1975-1980, senior chassis engineer on original Chrysler minivans and on Chrysler/Calspan Research Safety Vehicle; Detroit Diesel Division of General Motors Corp., 1974-1975, research engineer on four-stroke diesel program; Ford Motor Co., 1971-1974, product engineer; developed the “Easy Rider” pneumatic cab suspension for the Ford CL9000 truck.

First industry job: College intern and engineer in Ford’s heavy truck group; developed the instrumentation for Ford’s first turbine truck.

Quotable quote: “I have been a student of the automotive industry from a very early age. My first love is cars, followed by the process to create them, and the industry as a whole. It is now time to pass on the knowledge I’ve gained to others, so that this great industry can enjoy a renaissance.”

Second quotable quote about (from Dutch Mandel, editor of *AutoWeek* magazine): “[He] is an engineer’s engineer.... Some guys remember seeing their first *Playboy*—Theodore remembers ogling his first engine dynamometer.”

First car: 1956 Plymouth Belvedere.

Cars in his garage: A Ford GT, a turquoise 1973 MG Midget (with a matching Harley-Davidson Soft Tail done up as a Duo-Glide); a Dodge Viper RT, a Plymouth Prowler, a 1969 BMW 1600 Cabriolet, a 1972 BMW 3.0 CS, a 1959 Nash Metropolitan convertible, a Thunderbird, and a 1959 Ford Galaxie 500 Skyliner with retractable hardtop, currently working on a Cannonball Challenger with Brock Yates and a modern Cobra with Carroll Shelby

Relevant hobbies: “All things automotive.”

Community involvement: Board of trustees, Detroit Science Center; Vice President, St. George Parish Council; Honorary Chairperson, Judson Center; Sponsor/Participant, Detroit MS150; Chairman MS DaVinci Awards; Chairman 2008 Eyes on Design; Honorary judge at Meadowbrook, Eyes on Design and Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, Motor Trend Car of the Year Judge

Education: BSME from the University of Michigan in 1972, MSME from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1975, MBA from Michigan State University in 1989.