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Volvo's new CEO to succeed Samuelsson is former Dyson executive Jim Rowan

Volvo Cars has hired former Dyson Group executive Jim Rowan as its new CEO to succeed Hakan Samuelsson. Rowan was Dyson's CEO between 2017 and 2020 when the British tech company was developing an electric car, an idea it later dropped. Before working at Dyson, Rowan was COO at BlackBerry maker Research In Motion. The 56-year-old Scottish executive will succeed Samuelsson, 70, on March 21, Volvo said in a statement on Tuesday. Rowan is currently CEO at U.S.-based consumer electronics brand Ember Technologies, a job he has held for less than a year. He is taking over just months after Volvo wrapped up its IPO, the biggest in Europe last year. Rowan will face the task of steering the Swedish automaker, which is majority owned by China's Geely Holding, toward its goal of getting half of its global sales from full-electric cars by mid-decade and be an electric-only brand by 2030. Volvo said Rowan's global experience in digitalization, disruption, innovation, engineering and supply chains will be valuable for the automaker to realize its strategic ambitions. Samuelsson will remain as chairman of electric vehicle maker Polestar. Samuelsson joined Volvo's board in 2010 and has been CEO at the automaker for almost 10 years, with his contract coming to an end this year. Polestar, in which Volvo owns 49 percent, aims to go public through a reverse merger with special-purpose acquisition company (SPAC) Gores Guggenheim. The deal is expected to close in the first half of 2022. Rowan was Dyson CEO from 2017 to 2020 and chief operating officer from 2012 to 2017. During his time at Dyson, Rowan delivered record growth and financial results for Dyson, according to Volvo's release. Rowan worked for Research In Motion as COO from 2008-2012. During the period the company boosted revenue to \$20 billion from \$5 billion. From 1998 to 2005 he was vice president of operations at Flextronics, a \$25 billion global manufacturing company with more than 200,000 employees at more than 100 factories worldwide. Rowan was born in Glasgow. He studied mechanical and production engineering and electrical and electronic engineering at Glasgow Caledonian University and Glasgow School of Technology. He holds a master's degree in business with supply chain management and logistics from Northumbria University, northern England. *Source: Automotive News, Reuters*

VW names Andrew Savvas head of U.S. sales and marketing

Volkswagen of America has appointed a new head of sales and marketing to replace Duncan Movassaghi, who left the company and returned to his native U.K. Andrew Savvas, 44, a native of Australia who previously was director of Volkswagen UK, takes over this month as chief sales and marketing officer and executive vice president of sales and marketing for VW of America, the German automaker said Friday in a call with journalists about its 2021 sales results. Savvas, who joined VW in Australia in 2012, had previously worked for Toyota Motor Corp. in his home country. While with VW Group, he was managing director for Audi in VW's Middle East region before spending the last two years in the U.K. Movassaghi, 47, came to the U.S. in 2018 as VW's head of sales, and inherited the marketing role in 2020. *Source: Automotive News*

Marelli, aiming for top five ranking, names Harman exec as CEO

Marelli has named David Slump, 54, an executive at Harman International, as its new CEO, with a target of growing the Japan-based company into one of the world's five largest automotive suppliers. Slump is replacing Beda Bolzenius, 65, who is retiring, Marelli said. Bolzenius has led the supplier since it was formed in 2019 after Fiat Chrysler Automobiles sold its Magneti Marelli parts unit to Japan's Calsonic Kansei in a \$6.5 billion deal. The two companies were merged to create Marelli, which is fully owned by the U.S. private equity giant KKR. Marelli is a leading supplier in automotive lighting and sensing technologies (lidar, radar and cameras), and wants to quickly expand its share in electrification, interiors, electronics and software. "David is tenacious, collaborative and fast and he is the right person to take Marelli to the next level," Dinesh Paliwal, partner at KKR and executive chairman at Marelli, told Automotive News Europe in a video interview. Slump was most recently president of global markets, strategy and services at Harman, a wholly owned subsidiary of Samsung Electronics that designs and engineers connected products and solutions for automakers, consumers and businesses, including connected car systems, and audio and visual products. A graduate of Iowa State University and the University of Chicago, Slump has held senior roles in the automotive and energy sectors, including management positions at General Electric and ABB. He joined Harman in 2009. Paliwal, 64, who has worked with Slump in their previous tenures at ABB and Harman, said the new CEO has deep experience in the auto industry and the regions where Marelli operates. "David's ability to think strategically, rapid decision-making and focus on execution is the right combination that Marelli needs today to reach its next goal: to become one of the world's five largest auto suppliers within five years," Paliwal said. Marelli, which has 170 facilities and R&D centers across Asia, the Americas, Europe and Africa, ranks No. 18 on the Automotive News Europe list of top 100 global suppliers, with sales to automakers of \$11.57 billion in 2020. It is just behind Chinese interior supplier Yanfeng at \$12.18 billion and ahead of ADAS supplier Aptiv at \$11.48 billion. To reach component maker Aisin at No. 5 (\$31.94 billion) Marelli would need to more than double its sales. In September, Marelli said it would eliminate about 1,500 office workers this year in a cost-cutting move, according to Bloomberg. Paliwal, who oversees KKR's investments in the auto sector, says Slump will target growth in electrification and software for electric and electrified products. At the same time, he said, Marelli will continue to invest in engine management systems for internal combustion engines, which will remain relevant globally relevant until at least 2035, he said. "I believe strongly in the strategy already in place to make the company more cost competitive, more streamlined, more targeted towards the future of mobility and electrification," Slump said in a statement. Bolzenius has had a long career in the automotive industry. He was named CEO of Calsonic Kansei in 2018 ahead of the acquisition of Magneti Marelli. Before that, he spent 10 years at Johnson Controls after two decades at Robert Bosch, which he joined in 1986 after receiving a doctorate in physics. *Source: Automotive News*





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Former AutoNation CEO Cheryl Miller lands new CFO job

Former AutoNation Inc. CEO Cheryl Miller — who left the auto retail giant in 2020 after a year in the job and later was JM Family Enterprises' CFO before leaving after a few months — has landed a new executive job. Miller, 49, was named CFO of West Marine Inc., the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., boating and fishing supply retailer said Tuesday. "Cheryl brings a wealth of financial leadership, operational excellence and digital transformation experience that will help us build upon our leadership position," Eric Kufel, CEO of West Marine, said in a statement. "Her proven track record of performance, along with her passion for boating, makes her an ideal addition to the executive team during this exciting period of growth for the company." West Marine has nearly 240 locations in 38 states and Puerto Rico, plus two e-commerce platforms, and sells gear for boating, fishing and sailing. Miller, a longtime AutoNation executive and CFO for several years, was named chief executive of the nation's largest new-vehicle retailer in July 2019, following the abrupt departure of auto industry outsider Carl Liebert. He had been hired as AutoNation CEO just months earlier to replace longtime chief Mike Jackson. Miller in April 2020 requested and was granted a medical leave of absence from AutoNation. She did not return to the company, resigning as CEO and from the board of directors that July. In January 2021, she joined JM Family, a diversified, automotive-focused conglomerate in Deerfield Beach, Fla. Just three months later, however, she resigned from JM Family, saying she was doing so to "spend more time with family and on other future endeavors" but would remain a consultant through the end of 2021. Miller, who had worked for JM Family earlier in her career before joining AutoNation, has served on the board of Tyson Foods Inc. since 2016. Last August, she joined the board of beverage maker Celsius Holdings Inc. *Source: Automotive News*

Ferrari names new leadership team to tackle electrification, digitalization challenges

Ferrari unveiled a new management team to lead the automaker as it faces the challenges of embracing electrification and digitalization. The company said Ernesto Lasalandra will be its chief research and development officer. Lasalandra has been hired from Franco-Italian chipmaker STMicroelectronics. Angelo Pesci also joins Ferrari from STMicroelectronics. Pesci will be the automaker's chief purchasing and quality officer. The leadership shake-up is one of the first major moves of CEO Benedetto Vigna, who took on the role at the beginning of September, moving to Ferrari from STMicroelectronics. Hiring two executives from his former employer suggests Vigna is turning to trusted allies to aid his turnaround of the automaker that has been slow to embrace new era of cleaner, silent and interconnected mobility. "The new organizational structure will further foster innovation, optimize processes and increase collaboration both internally and with partners," Ferrari said in a statement on Monday. In other changes, Ferrari promoted internal candidates to new roles. Silvia Gabrielli has been promoted to chief digital and data officer. Gabrielli, who joined Ferrari in 2019 from Microsoft, will boost "the digital transformation process throughout the company, ensuring more data driven and digitally focused processes," Ferrari said. Gianmaria Fulgenzi has been appointed chief product development officer. Fulgenzi has worked for Ferrari since 2002, holding various senior roles in product development and manufacturing. Andrea Antichi becomes chief manufacturing officer. Antichi was previously head of vehicle development and has worked for Ferrari since 2006. Ferrari last month said three top executives were leaving the company, including Chief Technology Officer Michael Leiters. The other two executives who stepped down were chief manufacturing officer Vincenzo Regazzoni and chief brand diversification Officer Nicola Boari. Several divisions including product development, digital and data and compliance will now report directly to Vigna. Investors are eager to hear about Vigna's strategy for the era of battery technology and digital services. Ferrari plans to share more details on its plans during a capital markets day in June. It will also start sales of its first SUV, the Purosangue, this year. *Source: Automotive News, Reuters, Bloomberg*

LIQUI MOLY's Ken Dowler Appointed to CAWA Advisory Council

California Automotive Wholesalers' Association (CAWA) announced that Ken Dowler of LIQUI MOLY USA has been appointed to its Manufacturers' Advisory Council. "We are pleased to have Ken re-join our leadership team and contribute to our discussions of current and future industry issues," said Michael Rukov, chair of the Board of Directors. "We look forward, once again, to his participation which will assist the Association in achieving its goals as an effective automotive aftermarket industry organization." Dowler is the key account manager at LIQUI MOLY USA focusing on growing its aftermarket business in bulk oil distributors and key warehouse distributors nationally. Dowler graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara and has been in the automotive industry for 15 years, starting with Shell Oil selling branded lubricants such as Pennzoil, Quaker State and Rotella into the Southern California market, says CAWA. He spent several years at a multi-branded bulk distributor in Southern California as a territory sales manager and five years at Idemitsu Lubricants America as the deputy division manager of its aftermarket division. His focus there had been on key national and regional distributor partners throughout North America and is where he first got involved with CAWA. *Source: Aftermarket News*

AASA Announces Multiple Promotions

Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA) President and CEO Paul McCarthy, recently announced multiple promotions within the association in recognition of hard work, professional development and dedication to the automotive aftermarket industry. Ben Brucato, a 20-year industry veteran, has been promoted to vice president of engagement. Brucato has led multiple teams including marketing, sponsorships and membership during his time with AASA. He is lead over the Overseas Automotive Council (OAC), Modern Industry eXpertise (MiX) Council, Marketing Executives Council (MEC) and specializes in member acquisition, engagement and retention. Megan Gardner, with more than two decades of marketing and automotive industry experience, has been promoted to senior director of sales and marketing. Gardner oversees the AASA marketing team, is lead over the OE Service Council (OESC), owns sponsorship and marketing responsibilities, and supports government





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advocacy efforts. Elizabeth Goad, with more than 10 years of tenure with AASA, has been promoted to senior director of events and meetings. Goad executes more than 90 events annually including conferences, webinars, council meetings and leads AASA and MEMA's activities as co-owner of AAPEX, which is one of the world's largest aftermarket gatherings. "We are honored to announce these promotions to kickoff 2022," said McCarthy. "These three team members continuously exude qualities of strong leaders that contribute to a healthy and successful organization. Ben, Megan, and Liz have worked diligently to connect members to what matters and have helped make AASA and the automotive aftermarket a better place for all of our members." *Source: Aftermarket News*

REE Automotive Appoints David Goldberg as CFO

REE Automotive has announced the appointment of automotive industry finance executive David Goldberg as the company's chief financial officer (CFO), effective Feb 2022. Goldberg joins REE from Magna International, one of the world's largest automotive suppliers, where he is currently senior vice president of corporate development, following a role as vice president of finance and corporate development at the company. Goldberg brings to REE 20 years of experience in corporate finance, mergers & acquisitions and management consulting with progressively senior roles at Morgan Stanley, Bain & Co., Greenhill & Co. and Magna International. In his new role as REE's CFO, Goldberg will lead all aspects of REE's financial functions, strategic industry partnerships and investor relations. Based in North America, Goldberg succeeds Hai Aviv, who has been REE's CFO since 2018 and who led the company's growth from stealth mode through to its successful listing on Nasdaq. Goldberg joins REE at a momentous time in the company's life as it has signed new strategic partnerships with global leaders such as Hitachi, Magna, JB Poindexter and Toyota's Hino Motors and as the company ramps up its production plans for REEcorners and EV platforms, with REE on schedule to release prototypes by end of 2022. Daniel Barel, REE co-founder and CEO, "David is an outstanding addition to the REE team, and we are excited to have him join us. His proven financial track record and his expertise in the automotive industry are a tremendous asset to REE as we embark on the next stage in our upward trajectory, remaining laser-focused on executing our business plan. Since we started REE almost a decade ago, having the best team to execute our strategy has always been paramount to our success and part of our steadfast commitment to deliver value to the market, our customers, partners and investors. And as such, I want to thank Hai for his long-term close partnership and contributions to our success. I am grateful for his years of leadership at REE, including taking us through our public listing. "REE has developed groundbreaking technology set to revolutionize the EV market space which is seeing a massive shift towards vehicle electrification," said Goldberg. "REE is uniquely positioned to capitalize on the significant EV market opportunity and serve as the underpinning for zero-emission electric and autonomous vehicles. I am excited to join REE at such a pivotal stage and help steer the company through this next phase of growth." *Source: Aftermarket News*

VP Racing Promotes Ben Dolan to Vice President of Marketing

VP Racing Fuels has announced the promotion of Ben Dolan to vice president of marketing. "The VP team takes pride in having star players in every division and at every level," said Alan Cerwick, VP's president and CEO. "Since joining the VP team as director of Marketing in September of 2020, Ben has proven his star power, bringing unique and creative marketing ideas and leadership qualities that are being applied across all business units. Ben is a VP team player who has earned this promotion with his skills and strong work ethic." Prior to joining VP, Dolan was director of Sales and Marketing at holding company UGGM LLC, where he was responsible for the marketing and sales of the company's five largest divisions, ranging from signage fabrication to diesel mechanics. He has more than 20 years of marketing and sales experience across a broad range of industries. Dolan earned his BS in Marketing and MBA with a digital marketing concentration from the University of Dayton. "My first short 16 months at VP have been exciting, challenging and fun," added Dolan. "I am humbled by the timing of this recognition and pledge to continue doing my part to bring the very best products to our end-users, and the strongest sales and marketing tools to our distributor and retailer colleagues." *Source: Aftermarket News*

Total Specialties' Rod Umphreys Appointed to CAWA Council

CAWA's Manufacturers Advisory Council announced the appointment of Rod Umphreys of Total Specialties, USA, to its Manufacturers' Advisory Council. "We are pleased to have Rod as a part of our leadership team to participate and contribute to our discussions of current and future industry issues," said Michael Rukov, chairman of the Board of Directors. "We look forward to his participation which will assist the Association in achieving its goals as an effective automotive aftermarket industry organization," continued Rukov. Umphreys started his lubricants career in 2001 working at McCollister and Company, a small independent lubricants manufacturer in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He worked in multiple facets of the lubricants business during his time there from sales, technical, to national accounts. In 2011, he joined Total as a territory manager in the upper Midwest and has since held various roles, including, industry lubricants manager and his current role as the west region sales director. In his 20 years in the business working for the global company Total, he has developed a unique perspective on business, not only on the west coast but all over the continental United States, noted CAWA. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Hankook Tire Strengthens North America Team

Underscoring its commitment to accelerating growth and innovation, leading global tire maker Hankook Tire has announced executive promotions at its North America headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. Curtis Brison has been named president of Hankook Tire North America (formerly Hankook Tire America). He succeeds Sooil Lee, who remains CEO of Hankook Tire & Technology. Additionally, Robert Williams has been promoted to senior vice president of Truck, Bus and Radial (TBR) sales. Jong Jin (JJ) Park has been promoted to vice president of marketing. "The North American market





is critical to our global business strategy, and Curtis, JJ and Rob have been instrumental to accelerating our growth," said Sooil Lee, president and CEO, Hankook Tire & Technology. "Curtis has proven his strength as a sales leader with a strong commitment to customer success. Rob has demonstrated success throughout the TBR sector. JJ has driven marketing strategies that have had a positive impact throughout the region. All are integral members of the team, who will be essential to navigating the years ahead for Hankook throughout North America." Brison assumes the role of president of Hankook Tire North America, overseeing the U.S. and Canada regions. He will lead four departments and direct teams including the Tennessee plant. He also will continue to oversee the U.S. Passenger Car and Light Truck (PCLT) department, where he has served as vice president since joining Hankook in 2020. With 15 years of experience in the tire and automotive sectors, Brison has been instrumental in driving new product introductions and segment expansions in the U.S., including the All-Weather Kinergy 4S2 and Dynapro XT and Dynapro AT2 Xtreme. "Hankook continues to bring the right combination of performance, innovation and quality to the development of our passenger and commercial tire portfolios," said Brison. "I am honored to work with our teams across North America to further drive innovation and success for Hankook and our customers throughout the tire industry." Williams oversees all TBR tire sales at Hankook, including replacement and OE sales, and will continue to lead the TBR sales team and regional offices as senior vice president. He joined Hankook as senior director of TBR sales in 2019, bringing with him more than three decades of tire industry experience. Williams has a proven track record of success in sales and operations leadership, strategic planning and optimizing profitability. Park will oversee five teams as vice president of marketing: marketing strategy team, TBR marketing team, technical service team, America Regional Distribution Centers (RDC), operation team, and Canada sales subsidiary. He has served as the marketing director and U.S. sales innovation director for Hankook Tire America and will continue to serve as marketing director in his new role. Park joined Hankook Tire in 2005 and has experience across the American and United Kingdom regions. Bartek Choi, who has been working for Hankook in Nashville, Tenn. for two years, will assume Park's former role as U.S. sales innovation director. In addition, Yong Sup (Peter) Jung who served as COO for Hankook Tire America for the past two years, has relocated to Hankook's Asia-Pacific division with a focus on expanding brand recognition and market growth. He will be based in Jakarta, Indonesia. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Automotive tech supplier Aptiv agrees to buy Wind River in \$4.3 billion deal

Automotive technology supplier Aptiv said Tuesday it has agreed to buy software firm Wind River from private equity firm TPG Capital for \$4.3 billion in cash as it seeks to capitalize on a surge in spending by automakers to digitalize their cars. The all-cash deal will expand Aptiv's footprint in an area that is fast becoming the next battleground for automakers, which are spending billions of dollars to enable over-the-air updates and add smartphone-like features. Once owned by Intel Corp., Wind River develops software and cloud systems for several industries such as automotive, aerospace, defense, industrial, medical and telecommunications. Last year it generated revenue of about \$400 million. Aptiv said it would finance the deal through a combination of cash and debt. Shares in Aptiv fell 2.3 percent to \$160.94 in early trading. "The automotive industry is undergoing its largest transformation in over a century, as connected, software-defined vehicles increasingly become critical elements of the broader intelligent ecosystem," Aptiv CEO Kevin Clark said in a statement. "Fully capitalizing on this opportunity requires comprehensive solutions that enable software to be developed faster, deployed seamlessly and optimized throughout the vehicle lifecycle by leveraging data-driven insights." Aptiv, whose customers include Chrysler parent Stellantis, Volkswagen Group and General Motors, battled supply chain problems for much of 2021, but has seen rising demand for its automated driving systems. Wind River will operate as a stand-alone business within Aptiv. Aptiv ranks No. 19 on the Automotive News list of the top 100 global suppliers with worldwide sales to automakers of \$11.5 billion in 2020. *Source: Automotive News*

Magna hires 120 engineers, acquires self-driving tech, from Boston AV firm

Magna said the former Optimus engineers will remain in the Boston area, establishing an "engineering center and presence for Magna in a community rich in engineering talent, leading academic institutions and robotics." Canadian supplier Magna International Inc. struck a deal with Optimus Ride to hire more than 120 of the Boston self-driving shuttle company's engineers and acquire its autonomous-vehicle technology and intellectual property. Terms were not disclosed in a statement released Tuesday. While Magna is not outright acquiring Optimus, the supplier has hired a majority of its engineers as part of the transaction. A spokesperson for Magna said the company sent offers of employment to more than 140 "engineering-related employees," with more than 120 accepting. The transaction means Optimus Ride has discontinued its commercial activities, which were not part of the deal. The company had deployed autonomous shuttles in urban, geofenced environments in Boston, New York, Virginia, California and Washington, D.C. "Optimus Ride is not continuing those commercial activities, and they were not part of the transition with Magna," Optimus CEO Sean Harrington said in an interview. "But the engineering team and the underlying technology that we've developed — I'm excited to see that get deployed in the context of Level 2 and Level 3 autonomy" at Magna. Harrington said there were no "go-forward" plans for Optimus Ride after the transaction. The former Verizon executive said he would not be joining Magna and would take time to determine the next steps in his career. The former Optimus engineers will remain in the Boston area, establishing an "engineering center and presence for Magna in a community rich in engineering talent, leading academic institutions and robotics," Magna said in a news release. The hires were effective Jan. 1, according to the supplier. The hires come as the industry and suppliers such as Magna continue to invest heavily in advanced driver-assist systems and autonomous-driving technology. Magna Electronics President John O'Hara said the addition of Optimus Ride's engineers to its team will help to "accelerate [its] path forward in a rapidly growing ADAS market." "As advancements in autonomy continue, we saw an opportunity to bring in additional expertise to support current programs as well as future customer needs," he said in a news release. Harrington said Optimus Ride had previously developed a "very good relationship" with Magna, one that resulted in fruitful talks between the companies in the latter half of 2021. "Through those conversations, it became clear that this was the best path forward for all stakeholders in the company," he said. Magna, based near





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Toronto, ranks No. 4 on the Automotive News list of the top 100 global suppliers, with worldwide sales to automakers of \$32.6 billion in 2020.

Source: *Automotive News*

Tesla's top HR executive steps down

Tesla Inc.'s head of human resources and one of its highest-ranking Black leaders, Valerie Capers Workman, is departing for a new job, leaving the company without a key defender after multiple racism controversies in recent years. Workman is joining career-network firm Handshake next week as chief legal officer, she confirmed in an email. Her LinkedIn profile shows that her role as Tesla's vice president of people concludes this month. Workman has been a prominent voice from within the company on issues of race and has also played a key role leading Tesla's response to Covid-19 hazards. The departure is among the most significant changes at the top in recent months. Tesla struggled with a raft of executive departures in 2018, but the turnover has largely settled down as the company's stock has soared. Tesla's shares climbed 50 percent last year, adding to a 743 percent surge in 2020. The company, which tends not to disclose much about its executive moves, didn't respond to request for additional details. "I am proud of all that I was able to accomplish at Tesla with the support of truly excellent colleagues, especially the People and Legal teams," Workman said in an email. Citing her high school experience in track and field where she needed to "pass off the baton in a better place than when I received it," Workman wrote that she was "confident that I have done this at Tesla with the implementation of so many important programs for employees worldwide." Workman, an attorney who started in Tesla's legal department in 2018, was elevated to the vice president of people position in July 2020 and reported directly to CEO Elon Musk. During her tenure, Tesla battled discrimination lawsuits, navigated pandemic surges, released its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion report, and told employees that they could use one of their paid time off days to celebrate Juneteenth. Workman is featured in the company DEI report as an example of someone who rose swiftly through the ranks, moving from associate general counsel to the head of human resources for several regions and ultimately her most-recent executive role. "My promotions are illustrative of one of the things I love most about Tesla; here you are never typecast into doing just one thing," Workman said in the December 2020 report. Black and African-American employees represent 10 percent of Tesla's U.S. workforce, but just 4 percent of managers at the level of director and above, according to the report. In recent years, Tesla has faced a number of high-profile lawsuits over its treatment of Black employees and subcontracted workers at the company's auto plant in Fremont, Calif. In October, a former contract worker at the factory was awarded \$137 million in damages after a jury found that Tesla ignored racial taunts and offensive graffiti. Tesla is appealing. In an internal email that Tesla published as a blog post the night of the verdict, Workman wrote that she "heard the testimony of every witness" and attended every day of the trial, sitting at the defense table for Tesla. "The Tesla of 2015 and 2016 (when Mr. Diaz worked in the Fremont factory) is not the same as the Tesla of today," wrote Workman in the post. Workman drew on her experience as a Black woman in the U.S. when reflecting on the May 2020 murder of George Floyd. "When I was coming into work during Shelter In Place, I clipped my work badge to my seatbelt so I would not have to reach for it in case I was pulled over and had to explain why I was on the road," she wrote in a message to employees at the time. "Fearing for the lives of my husband and sons is a constant nagging undercurrent that I suppress so that I can go about my day." Workman's message described steps she had taken including asking the company's benefits team to provide an overview of mental health resources and reminding its security head "to ensure that security teams are mindful of their role to assist employees and understand the stresses they are dealing with." She added, "This is one of the reasons why diversity matters." Tesla's 2020 DEI report also noted that Workman led the teams that developed Tesla's "employee-focused programs" responding to Covid-19. A couple months after Musk defied a local health order by keeping the Fremont factory open, Workman defended the company's handling of the pandemic at a meeting of the city council in Austin, Texas, where Tesla has since moved its headquarters and is constructing its next factory. She told the council members that she was there to "really tell you the real story about Tesla as opposed to the things that you hear in the media," according to a transcript posted on the city's website. "We have been way ahead of the curve, and it's kind of unfortunate that the media has not captured that." Tesla has always been opaque about its executive organizational chart, preferring the focus to be on the company's products rather than people. Tesla has just three named executive officers in its regulatory filings: Musk, CFO Zachary Kirkhorn and Drew Baglino, the senior vice president of powertrain and energy engineering. Source: *Automotive News*

Kia America names longtime Honda exec Steven Center as COO

Kia America has named Steven Center, a longtime American Honda sales executive, as COO and executive vice president. Center, Kia said in a news release, will oversee "strategy and execution for Kia's sales, service and marketing operations" in the U.S. He will join the company Monday and report to Sean Yoon, CEO of Kia North America. Center was chosen, in part, to advance the Korean automaker's focus on sustainable mobility and alternative fuel vehicles, Yoon said in the release. Kia also cited Center's deep knowledge of the U.S. market. "Having served in various roles at Honda since 1993, Center brings a wealth of experience to his new role at Kia," the automaker said. Center's responsibilities at American Honda over the years have included production planning, certified pre-owned sales, dealer communication, and export sales and distribution. He most recently was vice president of automotive sales. "This is a time of tremendous change in the auto industry and I look forward to working closely with the executive management team and retailers to deliver on Kia's ambitious sustainable mobility plans," Center said in the release. Kia America posted record U.S. sales last year, breaking through 700,000 vehicles for the first time, and is rapidly rolling out additional hybrid, plug-in hybrid and battery-electric vehicles. But the brand has experienced some turnover at the operations post in the U.S. In December 2020, Kia America named sales executive Bill Peffer to the COO job effective Jan. 1, 2021. Peffer resigned after a week and took a job with Maserati as CEO for North America. Before Peffer, the No. 2 slot at Kia America had been held by Michael Cole, who left in June 2020 and moved to Hyundai Europe as CEO. Cole had been in the Kia





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operations job for just over two years when he left for Hyundai. Kia and Hyundai share the same parent company, Hyundai Motor Group. *Source: Automotive News*

Rivian COO stepped down in December; stock slide continues

Rivian Automotive Inc.'s COO stepped down last month while the EV maker was in the midst of its inaugural production ramp-up. Rod Copes left the company after he had held the title since March 2020, according to his LinkedIn profile. The company said in a statement that Copes "began a phased retirement from Rivian several months ago, affording the team continuity as we moved toward production ramp." His duties have been distributed across the leadership team, the company said Monday. The fast-growing truckmaker, which in November completed the year's biggest initial public offering, has hit a rough stretch recently, saying in December that it would fall "a few hundred vehicles short" of its goal to build 1,200 units for the year. Last week, the shares fell after Amazon.com Inc., a major investor and customer, said it would buy some electric delivery vans from Stellantis NV. Rivian said in a regulatory filing Monday that it produced 1,015 vehicles last year and delivered 920. The stock fell 0.2 percent to \$81.74 in early trading on Tuesday. Through Monday's close, Rivian's shares had already fallen 21 percent this year. The Wall Street Journal earlier reported the Copes departure. *Source: Automotive News*

SsangYong sold for \$255M to Korean consortium

A consortium led by South Korean electric carmaker Edison Motors has agreed to acquire debt-ridden SsangYong Motor for 305 billion won (\$254.65 million), SsangYong Motor said on Monday. SsangYong is burdened with high debt and its vehicle sales last year fell to 84,496, down about 21 percent from a year earlier, a regulatory filing from the automaker showed. The automaker reported a January-September 2021 operating loss of 238 billion won from revenue of 1.8 trillion won. SsangYong has been under court receivership since April in an attempt to rehabilitate the carmaker after majority owner Mahindra and Mahindra failed to secure a buyer. Indian automaker Mahindra, which owned about 75 percent of SsangYong as at the end of September, has been looking for a buyer for all or most of its stake, which it bought when the South Korean automaker was near-bankruptcy in 2010. *Source: Automotive News*

Advantage Parts Solutions Names Paul Gange President, N.A.

Advantage Parts Solutions, a global provider of strategic automotive parts solutions, says it is pleased to welcome Paul Gange as president of North America, adding to its global team of executive leadership. Gange joins the organization to accelerate the brand's global sales and marketing strategy and vision throughout North American markets. "Without question, Paul is regarded as one of the industry's top leaders. His 25-year career in the industry allows him to bring a wealth of experience to Advantage, and that's why we're excited to have him lead the North American team," said Advantage Parts Solutions' Co-Founder and CEO Bob Kirstiuk. "I look forward to working directly with Paul to grow and renew our North American relationships and advance our vision of optimizing the OEM parts supply chain. On behalf of the entire Advantage Family, we welcome Paul to the team!" Gange, a seasoned industry executive, joins as Advantage's President of North America. In his role, he is responsible for the company's operations throughout Canada and the United States. Over his 25-year career, Gange held various executive roles, most notably as president and CEO of Fix Auto USA, where he conceptualized and led the brand's franchise system growing the number of locations to nearly 175 prior to its acquisition in 2020 by Driven Brands. He also held executive roles with Mitchell International, an Enlyte Company, Audatex, a Solera Company; is an accomplished keynote speaker at many U.S. and international events; and has held several advisory board roles with information providers, insurers, and various industry organizations. "It's a pleasure to join Advantage as we look forward to optimizing the OE parts supply chain to increase value to collision and auto mechanical repairers, vehicle manufacturers, automotive dealers, insurers, and vehicle owners," said Gange. "Advantage is uniquely positioned to drive value to all industry participants and uncover opportunities that ultimately result in reduced costs, improved efficiencies, and enhanced vehicle owner satisfaction." *Source: Aftermarket News*

Dana Adds to Board, Reaches Agreement with Icahn Capital

Dana Inc. has entered into an agreement with Icahn Capital, whereby Brett Icahn and Gary Hu, both of whom are portfolio managers at Icahn Capital, will join the Dana board of directors, effective immediately, and will stand for election at the company's 2022 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. "Dana has made significant advancements as a forward-thinking mobility company, and we appreciate Icahn Capital's support and constructive engagement as we continue to execute our strategic plan," said James Kamsickas, Dana chairman and CEO. "Our ongoing board refreshment reflects a commitment to best-in-class corporate governance, and this agreement brings a direct shareholder perspective to the boardroom to support our long-term goal of sustainable value creation. We look forward to working with Brett and Gary to advance our efforts." Carl Icahn added, "Since our initial investment in Dana over a year ago, we have had productive conversations with Jim and recognize the progress the company has made, even in the face of the current operating challenges. We believe Dana's management has positioned the company to capture significant market opportunities ahead, especially with respect to electrification in mobility." With these appointments and the previously announced addition of Ernesto M. Hernández, the board will temporarily expand to 12 directors. Following the retirement of Raymond E. Mabus, Jr., at the 2022 Annual Meeting, consistent with the company's director retirement policy, the board will be composed of 11 directors, 10 of whom are independent. In connection with this announcement, Icahn Capital and its affiliates, which collectively own approximately 9.9 percent of Dana's outstanding stock, have agreed to support the company's slate of director nominees, which will include Hu and Icahn, at Dana's 2022 Annual Meeting of Shareholder.





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Icahn Capital has also agreed to other customary standstill provisions. Hu is a Portfolio Manager for Icahn Capital LP, a subsidiary of Icahn Enterprises L.P., a diversified holding company engaged in a variety of businesses. Prior to joining Icahn Capital LP, he held investment management roles at Silver Point Capital LP, a credit-focused investment firm, and Stockbridge Investors, the public securities affiliate of Berkshire Partners LLC. Hu also serves on the board of Occidental Petroleum Corporation and was previously on the board of Cloudera Inc. Hu graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. Econ in Finance and Accounting from The Wharton School and a B.A.S. in Computer Science from the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Icahn is a Portfolio Manager for Icahn Capital LP, a subsidiary of Icahn Enterprises L.P., a diversified holding company engaged in a variety of businesses. Icahn has held a variety of investment advisory roles at Icahn Enterprises L.P. since 2002 and has served on its board since October 2020. He is also currently a director of Newell Brands Inc. and Bausch Health Companies Inc. and was previously a director of Nuance Communications, Inc., American Railcar Industries, Inc., Take-Two Interactive Software Inc., The Hain Celestial Group, Inc., Cadus Corporation and Voltari Corporation. Hernández is a veteran mobility-industry executive with extensive knowledge of product engineering, manufacturing, planning, program management, sales, marketing, and the aftermarket. He recently retired from General Motors after a 40-year career culminating in the role of president and managing director of General Motors, Mexico. Hernández also serves on the boards of BRP Inc., the recreational products business previously owned by Bombardier Inc.; and Constellation Brands, Inc., a producer of beers, wines, and distilled spirits. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Porsche Cars North America promotes two women to key posts

Porsche Cars North America has elevated two women to key leadership roles. Ayesha Coker has been named vice president of marketing, the sports car maker said. Coker, 45, succeeds Pedro Mota, who, according to a dealer source, has left to join a Silicon Valley venture capital firm. Previously, Coker led experiential brand marketing, strategic partnerships, sports marketing, motorsports and the Porsche Club of America in the U.S. She also oversaw the Porsche Experience Centers in Atlanta and Los Angeles. Before joining Porsche, Coker held various marketing roles for automotive companies including Merkle and Partners and GMR Marketing. Margareta Mahlstedt, who previously led marketing for Porsche Cars Great Britain, joined the German marque's North America business in October to lead customer experience. Mahlstedt, 43, is responsible for customer relationship management practices, customer satisfaction, market research and vehicle initial quality as well as overseeing Porsche Contact Center operations. With the two appointments, a third of Porsche's North American leadership team is now female. The leadership changes come at a good time for the brand. Porsche Cars North America had its best year ever in 2021, powered by robust demand for the battery-powered Taycan. The brand delivered 70,025 vehicles last year, up 22 percent from 2020 and 14 percent from the record set in 2019. *Source: Automotive News*

Advance Auto Parts Names William Pellicciotti Chief Accounting Officer

Advance Auto Parts, a leading automotive aftermarket parts retailer, announced that William Pellicciotti has been appointed senior vice president, controller and chief accounting officer, effective Jan. 24, 2022. In this role, Pellicciotti will be responsible for enterprise-wide accounting operations, tax, external financial reporting and all related compliance. Pellicciotti brings more than 20 years of accounting and finance experience to Advance. Most recently, he served as vice president, controller – North America, for The Kraft Heinz Co. since 2020. Prior to Kraft Heinz, Pellicciotti served in a variety of roles with increasing responsibility at the Colgate-Palmolive Co., including finance director – SEC Reporting, accounting policy & sox compliance, from 2019-2020; division finance director – Asia Pacific Division, based in Hong Kong, from 2018-2019; center lead and finance director – Colgate Business Services, based in Warsaw, Poland, from 2013-2017; and associate director – Corporate Audit, from 2009-2013. His experience also includes finance positions at PricewaterhouseCoopers and the accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen. “I’m excited to have Bill join the Advance family,” said Jeff Shepherd, executive vice president and CFO. “Bill’s experience and track record of building and driving high-performing global teams will complement our already strong Finance organization. I look forward to working closely with him as we continue to drive our transformation.” Pellicciotti earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania, and is a Certified Public Accountant. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Adient Names New VP of Global Sustainability

Adient, a global leader in automotive seating, has announced that Tammi Dukes has joined the company as vice president of global sustainability. “Adient has firmly integrated sustainability into the core of the company,” said Douglas Del Grosso, Adient president and CEO. “We are pleased to welcome Tammi to help further our commitment to positive environmental, social and governance-related business practices.” Dukes, who will be based in Plymouth, Michigan, joins Adient with more than 20 years of experience in the areas of audit and compliance. Most recently, she led the corporate internal audit function at UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust. Prior to that, she led the internal audit functions at Henniges Automotive and International Automotive Components Group. Dukes earned a bachelor’s degree in business management with an accounting concentration from Kentucky State University. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Local Motors To Discontinue Operations

Local Motors produced the Olli shuttle, which is accessible for people with disabilities. Local Motors produced the Olli shuttle, which is accessible for people with disabilities. Self-driving shuttle manufacturer Local Motors will shutter operations on Friday, according to multiple executives. Though no formal announcement was made, several employees with the company, which produced the Olli shuttle — accessible for people with disabilities — among other vehicles, detailed the company's demise on social media Thursday. Two Local Motors employees later confirmed the reports. Founded





in July 2007, Local Motors was helmed by founder and CEO John Rogers, who caught attention initially by showcasing 3D-printed vehicles. Rogers departed in August, and the CEO role was filled by Cummins executive Vikrant Aggarwal in September. In recent years, Local Motors focused on building and deploying low-speed autonomous shuttles, which were used in pilot projects around the world. As the pandemic spread and riders fled public-transit options, many public-transit departments stopped funding mobility projects in favor of shoring up their finances and core operations. Local Motors was not the only AV shuttle company to face such headwinds. This week, Optimus Ride discontinued its commercial activities, while striking a deal to send 120 of its Boston-based engineers to Magna International Inc., along with intellectual property. In December, Local Motors suffered another setback when one of its Olli shuttles crashed into a tree in the Toronto suburb of Whitby. An attendant on board was critically injured, according to news reports, and the collision remains under investigation. *Source: Automotive News*

Ana Dutra Joins CarParts.com Board

CarParts.com, a leading e-commerce auto parts company dedicated to getting drivers back on the road, has appointed Ana Dutra to its board of directors. Dutra previously served as CEO of Korn/Ferry Consulting from 2007 until 2013, when she founded Mandala Global Advisors Inc., where she currently serves as CEO. Mandala is a provider of advisory services to boards and management to accelerate business growth through innovation, globalization, M&A and turnaround strategies. On Jan. 10, the directors of CarParts.com appointed Dutra as a new independent member to the board of directors to serve until the 2022 annual meeting of shareholders. Dutra has served as a member of the board of directors of First Internet Bancorp since May 2020; CME Group Inc. since January 2015; and Health, Harvest & Recreation Inc. since 2014 until its acquisition in September 2021. Dutra also previously served as CEO of The Executives' Club of Chicago, a world-class senior executives organization focused on the development, innovation and networking of current and future business and community leaders, from 2014 until September 2018. "Ana brings with her a lot of experience in the board room dealing with complex issues facing CEOs today. I am especially excited to work with her on issues of ESG and human capital where she has extensive experience. We look forward to continued growth in 2022 and believe that Ana will be a key part of that by adding her extensive business experience to CarParts.com," said Lev Peker, CEO. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Lightning eMotors Names New Chief Manufacturing Officer

Lightning eMotors, a leading provider of medium-duty and specialty commercial zero emission vehicles for fleets, has promoted Brian Barron to chief manufacturing officer. Barron will lead the manufacturing, vehicle assembly and procurement functions as Lightning eMotors scales to meet its growth targets. Barron has been the vice president of global manufacturing at Lightning eMotors since June 2021. Prior to joining Lightning, Barron was the director of global manufacturing at Lucid, an electric passenger vehicle manufacturing company. Barron also spent more than 19 years in a variety of key manufacturing roles at BMW Manufacturing Co. "Interest in zero-emission commercial electric vehicles is growing quickly given the focus from regulatory agencies and corporations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and we are scaling up our production at lightning speed to meet this demand," said Tim Reeser, CEO and co-founder of Lightning eMotors. "Brian has a proven track record of building and growing an efficient manufacturing team including the automation tools and systems that we need to accelerate production while lowering costs. In the past six months at Lightning, Brian has demonstrated the skills, experience, and leadership we need to drive Lightning into the future." Barron will serve as a member of Lightning eMotors' executive team reporting to Reeser and will lead the teams responsible for manufacturing Lightning's all-electric powertrain, vehicle assembly across five different platform classes, procurement and supply chain, and facilities expansion and automation. "We have increased our ability to deliver commercial electric vehicles significantly over the past year, but there is a lot of room for us to improve efficiency, scalability, and quality," said Barron. "By expanding the use of automation tools we have put in place, such as collaborative robots and augmented reality systems for process control, we can deploy higher volumes of vehicles at improved margins without compromising our high-quality standards. I'm excited about the opportunity to help lead this growth." Barron holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Clemson University and served in the United States Navy as a sonar technician for six years. He is based in Loveland, Colorado. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Aptiv Names New Chief Product Officer

Aptiv PLC, a global "future of mobility" technology company, announced Sophia Velastegui will join the company as its Chief Product Officer. In this role, Velastegui will leverage her expertise in artificial intelligence (AI), software architecture, and product development with technology leaders such as Microsoft, Google, and Apple to accelerate growth opportunities for Aptiv with an industry first, complex automotive software system that minimizes cost and maximizes flexibility, the company says. "The early moves Aptiv made to align our portfolio to the safe, green, connected megatrends taking place today has put us in a position of strength," said Kevin Clark, president and CEO. "Aptiv will continue to drive industry trends, and solve our customers' toughest challenges, with innovation led by trailblazers such as Sophia. With her expertise and the talented team of engineers she leads, Aptiv will continue to accelerate the industry and society's transition to a software-defined future." A widely recognized technology industry leader and AI expert, Sophia brings more than 20 years of experience at Microsoft, Google, Apple, and Applied Materials. She joins Aptiv from Microsoft, where she served as the Chief Technology Officer of Artificial Intelligence and Product Head of Power Apps Edge within their Business Application Group and General Manager, responsible for the development of Microsoft's AI and Search products. "The next wave of growth for automotive will come from the software-defined vehicle," said Sophia Velastegui, chief product officer at Aptiv. "I am excited to join Aptiv at this pivotal moment. I truly believe Aptiv is uniquely positioned to deliver the turnkey, trusted software platform and AI-driven solutions OEMs need to rapidly scale innovation and deliver the safe, reliable, and intelligently-connected user experience consumers want." Before joining Microsoft,





Sophia headed Google/Nest's Silicon and Architecture Roadmap team where she scaled the organization from start-up to growth business unit following the Google acquisition. She also led Apple's Platform Architecture "Think Tank" Program, leveraging AI and machine learning across all of Apple's advanced technology platforms. In addition, Sophia has held various technology and product development roles at Doppler Labs, ETM and Applied Materials. Sophia holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. She currently serves on Blackline's Board of Directors, on Georgia Tech's College of Engineering board, and is Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council. *Source: Aftermarket News*

NASCAR Announces 2 Key Competition Personnel Promotions

NASCAR has announced that Brad Moran has been promoted to NASCAR Cup Series Managing Director, and Seth Kramlich will transition to NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Managing Director. Most recently, Moran held the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Managing Director position. Kramlich moves to his new role after three years as NASCAR Xfinity Series Assistant Director. Moran, Kramlich, and NASCAR Xfinity Series Managing Director Wayne Auton will continue to be headquartered at the NASCAR Research & Development Center in Concord, North Carolina, and report to Scott Miller, Senior Vice President of Competition. "Brad and Seth both share a racer's mentality, and will bring knowledge, passion and strong relationships to these important roles," Miller said. "We look forward to their leadership as they continue to help bring the best racing to our fans at both the NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series levels." *Source: Aftermarket News*

Christine Bowser Appointed President Of Pinnacle Media

Christine M. Bowser has been appointed president of Pinnacle Media, a full-service marketing communications agency serving clients in the global automotive, commercial vehicle, industrial and financial services sectors. The agency's founder, Drew Shippy, will remain with the firm as chairman and CEO. Bowser joined Pinnacle in 2002 as a public relations account executive. She most recently served as vice president and director of account service, overseeing the company's relationships with clients throughout North America. She is a graduate of the Kent State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication. "I can't overstate how important Chrissy has been to our success, and I'm very pleased to turn over the reins to her as we begin our 26th year in business," said Shippy. "Anyone who has worked with Chrissy, including virtually all of our clients, is well-aware of her unique ability to lead the development and execution of highly effective marketing and public relations campaigns. On top of that, she's just a really good person, who is fun to work with." In turning over daily operation of the company to Bowser, Shippy will focus on assisting Pinnacle clients, both in North America and Europe, with marketing strategy and content development. Pinnacle is the marketing and public relations agency of record for more than a dozen global businesses, including manufacturers, software providers and professional services firms. The company is based in Stow, Ohio. Learn more by visiting www.pinmedia.com. *Source: Aftermarket News*

TUGA Innovations Appoints New Chief Marketing Officer

TUGA Innovations, Inc., which provides solutions to urban mobility challenges with the TUGA, a new type of Electric Vehicle ("EV") announced the appointment of veteran marketer Mr. Ross Plummer as Chief Marketing Officer. The Company has conceived an electric three-wheeled vehicle designed with an innovative expandable rear axel as a standard chassis utilizing interchangeable bodies to meet a wide range of challenges faced when driving in, between, and around urban centres and metropolitan areas. With the TUGA, the Company plans to combine transportation and digital connectivity into an advanced urban vehicle mobility solution: an efficient urban commuter vehicle built on a flexible, modular platform that can be configured for the commuter, ride-share delivery, taxi, rental, and leisure markets. Mr. Plummer joins TUGA's growing team at a critical juncture as the firm commences the execution of its strategic plan to achieve a sector-leading role within the electric vehicle market. Company VP and Co-Founder César Barbosa states, "We're thrilled to have Ross on board. The stars just aligned. He is a truly integrated marketer with so much energy to bring to our company. He's been around the ad industry a long time and we feel his excitement to help develop and activate a breakout brand." Ross Plummer has worked across the industry's most awarded agencies, serving ten years at Wieden and Kennedy in Amsterdam and Portland, where he ran global football for Nike, with stints at Droga 5 New York, as well as heading up integrated production for digital shop R/GA in London. He is also a movie producer, most recently developing and producing the movie KIPCHOGE, The Last Milestone for UK giant INEOS, at Ridley Scott Creative Group, Amsterdam which he set up and ran for three years as Managing Director. "When the team at TUGA showed me what they were up to I was stunned," Plummer notes. "To be offered the prospect to build the brand and take it to the world was an honour and didn't take much consideration. It's an extraordinary opportunity and we've already made a lot of headway. This is a special team. The expertise in the room is huge and there's very few obstacles to getting where we want to go." Mr. John Hagie, CEO of TUGA Innovations adds, "Target milestones are being achieved daily, and the optimism is infectious. With the recent IPO on both the Canadian and German Stock Exchanges successfully completed, we are gaining increased interest and traction as we grow market awareness. Our intention is to be a serious challenger to the electric vehicle market, and we aim to leverage this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as major economies gear up for the shift to electric battery powered vehicles. With that ever-present changing reality in mind, we welcome Ross to the team as we feel he will prove instrumental in achieving the goals we have set for ourselves and for the benefit of our shareholders." In related news, the Company announces the departure of co-founder Mr. Edmundo Norbre from its board of directors. TUGA's CEO, Mr. John Hagie has been appointed to fill the vacant board director's seat to streamline and expedite reporting and governance. TUGA thanks Mr. Norbre for his assistance on the board and continued support as a valued and committed advisory board member. The TUGA team encourages engagement, questions, and interest, so please stay in touch, and invite anyone who might be interested in our story to





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visit us at www.tugainnovations.com and sign up to receive the latest information with updates on our activities, events and progress. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Automobili Pininfarina Expands Presence in North America

Italian luxury electric carmaker Automobili Pininfarina has expanded its U.S. presence with the appointment of two new retail partners in key locations. Newport Beach Automotive Group in Orange County, California, and Lake Forest Sportscars in Chicago, Illinois, will be responsible for the sale of the award-winning new Battista pure-electric hyper GT, which enters production in Italy from spring 2022. Automobili Pininfarina has now secured nine retail partners in North America, with the latest appointments made following a highly successful previous year in the U.S. for the brand. In summer 2021, the ultra-exclusive Battista Anniversario made its physical world premiere appearance during the famous Monterey Car Week. All five examples of the pinnacle model in the Battista portfolio were sold during the event, according to the company. North America is one of the most important markets in Automobili Pininfarina's retailer network strategy, the carmaker says. The nine world-class retail partners in the U.S. and Canada complement the company's 16 other retail partners worldwide, with 10 based in Europe and another six across the Middle East and Asia Pacific. All Automobili Pininfarina retail partners have extensive track records in managing the sales and service of the most exclusive and luxurious vehicles in the world, with Automobili Pininfarina's dedicated brand representatives at each site providing exceptional personal service and attention to detail for the Italian marque's discerning clientele. Per Svantesson, CEO, Automobili Pininfarina, said, "I am delighted to announce the expansion of our retail partner network in North America, with the appointment of two new partners in strategically important locations. California is home to many of our existing and future clients, with many already pioneering the adoption of pure-electric, zero emission cars of all kinds. Battista now sets a new benchmark for the desirability and performance offered by an electric car. With our new partner location in Chicago, we have established an important brand presence between the U.S. East and West Coasts. We are excited for clients to experience our brand across our network as we prepare to begin deliveries of the incredible Battista hyper-GT this year." Automobili Pininfarina Newport Beach will expand the brand's presence in the important market of California. Operated by Newport Beach Automotive Group, the location joins existing Californian retailers, O'Gara Coach in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, and Luxury Cars Los Gatos in San Francisco. The Orange County retail space will offer luxury convenience to new clients in the region, with a total of three retail partners now on the west coast of the US alone, perfectly situated to provide support for Automobili Pininfarina clients. The new retail point at Automobili Pininfarina Chicago in Lake Bluff, Illinois – just north of Chicago – provides an important physical touchpoint for clients in the region. The space is operated by Lake Forest Sportscars, a family-run business since 1923 that shares its values and ethos with Automobili Pininfarina, with a passion for exquisite automobiles. The pure-electric Battista hyper GT – the most powerful Italian car ever made – is in the final stages of its development with the first client deliveries set to commence in first half of 2022. With a total of 128 million interior combinations alone, the new hyper GT promises new levels on bespoke tailoring and the new retail partners will assist clients as they personalize the Battista to suit their individual taste. More on the Battista personalization program and the first Battista to be commissioned as a bespoke model in North America may be found here: Battista New York. Battista clients are not only supported by its growing global retailer network, but also by the pure-electric hyper GT's advanced connected infotainment systems, which includes Over-The-Air software updates anywhere in the world. In addition, Automobili Pininfarina's very own "flying doctor" is on-hand worldwide to provide in-person technical support and knowledge – should it be required – delivering the personal service and effortless luxury, clients expect. Automobili Pininfarina also established its legal entity – Automobili Pininfarina Americas (APA) – as the foundation to develop its brand and business in the U.S. market. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Dieter Zetsche Tapped for New Automotive SPAC

Kensington Capital, whose blank-check companies have already taken public QuantumScape and Wallbox has tapped former Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche as vice chairman for a fourth automotive-focused special purpose acquisition company. Its latest SPAC, Kensington Capital Acquisition Corp. IV, filed Thursday to raise \$200 million in an initial public offering. The company said it will focus on acquiring a business "operating in the global automotive and automotive-related sector." SPACs offer early-stage companies an easier route for going public than a traditional IPOs. As is typical with other SPACs, Kensington Capital IV will have two years to find a merger target and complete a deal, or face the prospect of refunding its investors. Zetsche, who left Daimler in 2019, brings more than 45 years of automotive experience to the SPAC, including his role in the 2007 split of Daimler and Chrysler, according to the filing. Zetsche also serves on the board of Luminar Technologies, a company that was backed by tech billionaire Peter Thiel and went public in a SPAC deal in 2020. Daimler and Luminar on Thursday announced an agreement for Luminar to supply Mercedes-Benz with lidar technology. Kensington's first SPAC reached a deal in 2020 to acquire solid-state battery startup QuantumScape. The combined company's shares listed in November that year and have fallen about 26 percent from its price at the time. Kensington's second SPAC took Barcelona-based electric vehicle charging company Wallbox public last in October. Wallbox shares have jumped 49 percent since then. *Source: Automotive News, Bloomberg*

Former GM, NASCAR Exec Joins ElectraMeccanica

ElectraMeccanica Vehicles Corp., a designer and manufacturer of electric vehicles, has announced the appointment of Kim Brink as chief revenue officer, effective Jan. 24. Brink brings more than two decades of global agency and C-suite expertise to ElectraMeccanica. Most recently, she was the global chief operating officer and executive committee chair at GTB, a global leading marketing agency dedicated to Ford Motor Co. and its retail dealers. Previously, Brink held senior marketing roles at NASCAR and General Motors. At General Motors, she was the lead Chevrolet marketing





executive responsible for 20 vehicle launches, including the Chevy Volt. In addition to her C-Suite experience, Brink has held public board seats as an independent board director and member of the Nominating and Governance Committees for Arctic Cat and as an independent board director of Vista Equity's DealerSocket. Brink earned her Masters in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science from Wayne State University and is a graduate of the Kellogg Executive Development Program at Northwestern University. Kevin Pavlov, CEO of ElectraMeccanica, commented, "We are excited to have Kim join our executive team in the newly created role of chief revenue officer. As we rapidly scale the production of our vehicles resulting in accelerated commercial deliveries of our iconic SOLO EV nationwide, the addition of a Chief Revenue Officer is part of our natural growth trajectory. Kim is an industry leader with experience in aggressive sales growth in niche markets, joining us during a pivotal time to make a recognizable contribution as we drive brand awareness. I look forward to continued execution alongside Kim in the months ahead as we deliver sustainable, long-term value for our shareholders." Brink added, "I am thrilled to join ElectraMeccanica as the company revolutionizes the urban driving experience. I look forward to leveraging my expertise in the automotive industry to contribute to the Company's vision and success as it becomes a household name." *Source: Aftermarket News*

US Motor Works Promotes Jason Mirth

US Motor Works has announced the promotion of Jason Mirth to senior product manager. US Motor Works is a manufacturer and distributor of cooling system components, fuel system components, heat transfer products and high-performance cooling for the automotive and heavy-duty markets. Mirth has been a team member of US Motor Works since 1998 and has carried many different roles throughout his tenure with the company. He currently manages the cooling solution product lines including the water pump, fan clutch and timing kits for the retail, traditional and heavy-duty markets. Mirth's extensive knowledge of the products and markets have allowed him to step into this senior position. He also will now be tasked with supporting all other USMW product managers including fuel, heat transfer, heavy duty and performance. Along with the complexity of actively managing a product line and the continual proliferation of the brands, this is not an easy task. There is no doubt, Mirth is well-equipped and positioned perfectly for this challenge. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Transtar Industries Names New EVP, Business Development

Transtar Industries, a leading distributor of automotive aftermarket parts and cutting-edge software solutions, has promoted Kevin Rozsa from vice president, marketing to executive vice president, business development. This strategic evolution of Transtar's executive leadership team reflects the organization's appetite to pursue meaningful growth opportunities through partnerships and acquisitions in 2022 and beyond, the company says. CEO Neil Sethi commented, "Kevin has been on Transtar's leadership team in various roles for more than two decades. He's a true aftermarket industry expert of nearly 40 years, and in his new role, he will help to identify partnerships we should establish to continue serving customers." Rozsa added, "Vehicles are becoming increasingly complex, our customers' needs are changing, and Transtar is evolving alongside the market. We are exploring new product offerings and relationships that will best support the repair shop of the future." *Source: Aftermarket News*

Transtar Industries Names New Vice President, Marketing

Transtar Industries, a leading distributor of automotive aftermarket parts and modern software solutions, announced that Chris Osos has joined the growing organization as vice president, marketing. Osos succeeds former VP, Marketing Kevin Rozsa, who was recently promoted to executive vice president, business development. "I am excited to welcome Chris to the Transtar team," said Tom DeMille, executive vice president, sales and marketing. "He is a high-level marketing professional with cutting-edge digital marketing experience and the leadership acumen necessary to guide our growth as we face the market with new products." Osos brings more than a decade of marketing skills and a proven track record in helping organizations drive expansion and innovation. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Quadrtec Appoints Director of Content

Quadrtec Inc., the world's largest independent retailer of Jeep parts and accessories, has announced the promotion of Eric Ammerman as the company's director of creative content, effective immediately. Ammerman will oversee Quadrtec's print catalog, as well as its digital product pages, highly successful YouTube channel and Torque editorial section. "Today's announcement underscores Quadrtec's commitment as the Jeep experts to bringing on a talented, experienced authority with the passion to lead our company in a new age," said Quadrtec CMO Ralph Mondeaux. "Eric's significant knowledge on how today's audience consumes content is invaluable as we launch our content division, and we are excited to see the continued evolution of content under his leadership." Ammerman recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary at Quadrtec and formerly helmed the company's video department and YouTube channel. Additionally, he headed Quadrtec's YJL project vehicle build that was a "Battle of the Builders" nominee at the 2021 SEMA show. Throughout his career, Ammerman's leadership and creative vision has provided an engaging, world-class video experience across multiple company channels, resulting in millions of page and video views while largely shaping how customers engage with the automotive industry's largest brands, according to Quadrtec. He will be responsible for designing, framing and driving Quadrtec's creative efforts to ensure a consistent end-to-end brand experience on the company's digital and print platforms. "I am thrilled to be part of a company that has content at its heart to better engage with our customers, educate them about their vehicles and improve their buying experience with us," Ammerman said. *Source: Aftermarket News*





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Service King Names Peter Hunt as New CFO

Service King announced the hiring of Peter Hunt as its new chief financial officer (CFO). Hunt will be responsible for managing all aspects of financial leadership including accounting, tax, financial planning and analysis, and capital structure. He will assume his responsibilities on Feb. 4. "Having worked closely alongside Peter for seven years at Virgin America, I'm confident that his extensive experience will drive Service King's success and give our organization some new tools in its toolbox," said Service King CEO David Cush. "He brings a proven track record of high level critical thinking and strategy development, significant skills and experience in the traditional CFO responsibilities and direct operating experience in the highly complex airline industry. I'm personally excited to be working with Peter again and I know all of you will enjoy working with him." "I'm excited to be joining this industry-leading brand and look forward to working with the over 5,000 teammates at Service King," said Hunt. Hunt joins Service King with decades of experience at the C-Suite executive level, the company says. His background includes developing strategic direction, leading operations and managing financial organizations for publicly traded commercial airlines such as Virgin America and Pinnacle Airlines, where he served as CFO, Alaska Air Group, where he was President and COO of the Virgin America subsidiary, all after getting his start in the Finance organization at Continental Airlines. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Genuine Parts Company Announces Executive Officer Changes

Genuine Parts Co. (GPC) announced today that Carol Yancey, executive vice president and chief financial officer (CFO), has informed the board of directors of her plan to retire at the end of May 2022, after a distinguished 30-year career with the company. The company also announced that Bert Nappier will join as executive vice president and chief financial officer-elect, effective Feb. 28. Nappier will assume the role of CFO on May 2, and Yancey will serve in an advisory role until her retirement to assist in an orderly and seamless transition. Nappier will have responsibility for GPC's global financial operations and will play a key role in advancing the company's strategic initiatives. He will report to Paul Donahue, chairman and CEO. "We are very pleased to welcome Bert Nappier as our next CFO. Bert is a strategic financial executive with broad expertise in key areas such as global finance, operations and business strategy. We are confident his diverse background, extensive experience and leadership skills will make him a valuable addition to our executive management team. We look forward to his contributions to the next phase of growth at GPC," said Donahue. Nappier joins GPC with a diverse background spanning nearly 25 years, including the past 16 years with FedEx Corp. Since June 2020, he served as executive vice president, finance and treasurer, where he led teams responsible for corporate finance, cash management, global tax planning and strategy, risk management and corporate development. Nappier also held executive roles in Europe, serving as president of FedEx Express Europe and CEO of TNT Express, the largest ever FedEx acquisition, from June 2018 to May 2020 and senior vice president finance and international CFO of FedEx Express for the two years before that. Prior to Europe, Nappier served FedEx as corporate controller and staff director, financial reporting. Before joining FedEx in 2005, he was director of SEC Reporting and Accounting for Wright Medical Technology Inc. and an audit manager at Ernst & Young LLP, with six years in public accounting. "On behalf of the entire organization, we want to thank Carol for her 30 years of dedicated service to GPC, including the last nine years as CFO," continued Donahue. "Carol's leadership and numerous contributions have been instrumental to the significant growth and strong financial performance of the Company. She has also been a mentor to many, and her positive influence will have a lasting impact on generations of professionals across the GPC organization. Carol will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her retirement." *Source: Aftermarket News*

AutoNation President Jim Bender set to retire in March

AutoNation Inc.'s president and COO Jim Bender will retire effective March 4, the auto retail giant said late Wednesday in a regulatory filing. Bender notified the company on Tuesday that he plans to retire from the auto retailer, according to the filing, and CEO Mike Manley will take over Bender's responsibilities until a successor is named. Those responsibilities include overseeing new- and used-vehicle sales, finance and insurance, service, manufacturer relations and corporate development, which Bender added in September 2020, according to his executive profile. Manley, hired to fill the CEO job long held by Mike Jackson, joined AutoNation on Nov. 1 after a long executive career with Stellantis and predecessor Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Rick Nelson, an analyst from Stephens Inc., in a note to investors Wednesday, said Bender is 66 and had been with AutoNation since 2000. "We are not surprised to see changes in the executive ranks following the new CEO appointment in November 2021 and given Bender's retirement age," Nelson wrote. "We do not believe this move signals any major changes to the company's strategy." AutoNation Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., ranks No. 1 on Automotive News' most recent list of the top 150 dealership groups based in the U.S., retailing 249,654 new vehicles in 2020. *Source: Automotive News*

Reynolds and Reynolds promotes president, COO

Reynolds and Reynolds Co. said Thursday it has promoted two executives to the roles of president and COO. The privately held dealership management system provider said Chris Walsh, previously the company's executive vice president of sales and marketing, is taking over as president. Willie Daughters, 54, formerly Reynolds' executive vice president of operations, is COO. Both moves took effect immediately. Reynolds CEO Tommy Barras was named president and COO in June 2020, and the company said when Barras was promoted to CEO in November 2020 that he also would retain those titles. Barras succeeded then-CEO Bob Brockman, who stepped down following indictment on federal tax evasion charges. "Chris and Willie are two of our most accomplished and respected leaders," Barras said in a statement. "Both have broad experience leading all facets of large, complex functions at Reynolds, and they lead with great clarity and a focus on customers." Walsh's career with Reynolds includes





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positions in business development, operations, quality control, sales, marketing and support spanning more than 35 years, the company said. Daughters' tenure with Reynolds covers more than 30 years and includes working with automakers, leading support organizations in Canada and Europe and managing product quality assurance and the company's technical assistance teams. "Moving forward, we will be more focused than ever on expanding our footprint in retail automotive, making it easier to do business with us and helping our customers achieve new levels of profitability," Walsh said in a statement. Walsh and Daughters join a C-suite that includes Sheri Robinson as CFO and Eric Edwards as chief technology officer. Reynolds, of Dayton, Ohio, is in the process of reviewing its business to improve its reputation with dealers and reverse its image as inflexible and challenging to work with. The company said it is simplifying its DMS contracts and providing more flexibility to auto retailers. "Over the last 12 months, we have made several definitive changes to how we operate in order to make it easier to do business with us. These key promotions are one more step that helps position us to fully live up to our own aspirations," Barras said in a statement. *Source: Automotive News*

French auto supplier Valeo appoints new CEO

French auto supplier Valeo said on Wednesday it had appointed deputy CEO Christophe Périllat as its new chief executive, confirming previously announced plans, as the company posted preliminary 2021 results including disappointing cashflow numbers. Valeo said outgoing CEO Jacques Aschenbroich, who became CEO in 2009, will continue to act as chairman of the board. The company has been aggressively expanding its automotive driving assistance technology offerings along with its traditional powertrain and thermal products businesses. Valeo showcased several new technologies at CES earlier this month in Las Vegas. Périllat accepted the appointment, touting the company's technological abilities in a video message, posted on YouTube. Meanwhile, the group on Wednesday said its preliminarily full-year sales rose to 17.3 billion euros (\$19.52 billion), slightly above its guidance range of 16.9 billion-17.2 billion euros. Free cashflow, however, came in lower than expected, the company said, blaming the worldwide shortage in semiconductor supplies that forced it to shore up its stocks. Valeo reported a full-year free cash flow of 290 million euros versus its guidance range of 330 million-550 million euros. Périllat said in statement that "the inventory increase implemented to protect our customers will be gradually reversed in 2022, as supply conditions improve." Full-year figures are due on Feb. 25, the company said. Valeo ranks No.10 on the Automotive News list of top 100 global suppliers, with automotive sales of \$16.94 billion in 2020. It is the fifth-largest Europe-based supplier. *Source: Automotive News*

Multimatic Names Director of Performance Engineering

Multimatic announced the appointment of Pascal Zurlinden to the position of Director of Performance Engineering at Multimatic Special Vehicle Operations (MSVO). Zurlinden joins Multimatic from Porsche where he led the marque to many motorsport successes in recent years, the company says. Zurlinden's knowledge, expertise and experience will be an important asset to the organization, Multimatic says, as the Special Vehicle Operations group, specializing in high-performance vehicle development and runs Multimatic's motorsport programs, continues to grow. Zurlinden will report to MSVO Executive Vice-President, Larry Holt. "We have worked with, and competed against, Pascal over the years and he has proven to be an outstanding technical partner as well as a tough adversary when we ran the Ford GT head to head against the Porsche 911 RSR. He is a highly skilled motorsport engineer with an extremely strong intuitive feel for race craft and a great approach to leading a team when subjected to the high pressure of competition," said Holt. "We are extremely fortunate to be able to have him join the MSVO team. As partners with Porsche on a number of motorsports programs it can only enhance both companies to keep Pascal in the fold." Zurlinden was instrumental in the birth of Porsche's and Audi's development process of their LMDh race cars, for which Multimatic is the chosen "spine" (chassis) constructor partner. All of his knowledge in that area will therefore still be exclusively available to Porsche and Audi and so there should be no loss of momentum with the programs. "I am really looking forward to my new job and want to thank Larry and Multimatic for the trust they have placed in me. Of course, I've been following Multimatic in Motorsport and outside this field for many years as competitor and/or partner, and it's something special for me to play a leading role in continuing the company's success story on and off the race tracks," said Zurlinden. *Source: Aftermarket News*

Andy Mayfield Named President of International Brake

International Brake Industries (IBI) announced that Andy Mayfield has been named president, effective Jan. 3. Mayfield has served as IBI's chief commercial officer since early last year, and before that was the company's vice president of sales since 2018. Over the past several years, he led the expansion of IBI's product portfolio, introducing electric wear sensors and ABS sensors and growing coverage for pistons and brake lines. Mayfield also has focused on ensuring that every customer remains competitive and positioned for growth. "As IBI continues to expand its global footprint, Andy will ensure our growing customer-base receives unrivaled support from our facilities in China, Mexico and the USA," said Gary Cohen, CEO of Qualitor Automotive. "I welcome him into this leadership role as we continue to provide our customers the best quality and coverage in the industry." Mayfield joined IBI after 20 years of leadership in the automotive aftermarket. Before joining IBI, he served as vice president of domestic aftermarket sales at Gearbox Holdings. Prior to this role, he held sales management positions at Illinois Tool Works and Robert Bosch LLC. IBI has been the market leader in brake hardware kits for more than 50 years, offering the most up-to-date, comprehensive brake hardware coverage in the industry. *Source: Aftermarket News*





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AWE Hires New Human Resources Director

AWE, the precision engineering and manufacturing firm outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has placed Belinda Tschorn as their new head of Human Resources to support the growth of the organization. As Human Resources Director, Tschorn will oversee all areas of Organizational Development, Training, Employee Relations, Benefits, Recruiting, and HRIS, as well as building out the HR department at AWE to support future growth. "AWE's handcrafted, made-in-the-USA product line is reliant upon a best-in-class team, and Belinda has proven that she knows how to build and sustain our current roster of almost 100 all-stars, and also how to support our continued rapid scale," stated AWE president, CEO, and founder, Todd Sager. Prior to joining AWE, Belinda has held executive and management positions at Piramal Pharma Solutions, Omni Cable, and Scala. She graduated from Villanova University with a BA in Economics and a certificate in Human Resources Management and Services and also participated in Strategic Human Resources Leadership at Cornell University. Belinda is also credentialed in SHRM-CP and PHR. "I'm thrilled to be a part of the AWE team at an exciting time as the company prepares to take major steps forward in realizing its vision to put an AWE product on every enthusiast vehicle on the planet," said Belinda. "I'm passionate about helping people realize their potential through creating career paths that are supported with development and technology resources to unlock performance. I'm especially excited to have joined a company with such an amazing culture and values that mirror my own," stated Belinda. *Source: Aftermarket News*

