Pictured at the new engine announcement are (from the left) UAW 1219 Chairman Scott Hinkle, Ford Motor Company President of the Americas Joe Hinrichs, UAW 1219 President Dave Rabe, Vice President of North American Manufacturing Bruce Hettle, UAW Region 2B Director Ken Lortz, Lima Engine Plant Manager Mike Felix, UAW National Vice President Jimmy Settles and JobsOhio President John Minor.

A cause for celebration

Ford Motor Company and UAW unveil new 2.7-liter EcoBoost engine to be built at Lima Engine Plant

March 28, 2014
LEP celebrates new engine and new work

BY CINDY WOOD

LIMA, Ohio – The numbers are impressive to say the least.

More than 760,000 F-Series trucks sold in 2013, equaling one sale every 42 seconds. For 37 consecutive years, Ford Motor Company has laid claim to the best-selling truck in America.

It’s a record that Ford and UAW employees are proud of, as well as a responsibility they take very seriously. Later this year, employees of Lima Engine Plant will become a part of the F-Series’ storied history when they begin production of the 2.7L EcoBoost.

Ford’s President of the Americas Joe Hinrichs confirmed the announcement during a company event held March 28 at Lima Engine. “The F-Series is not only the best-selling truck in America 37 years running, but also the best-selling vehicle… for 32 years straight,” Hinrichs said.

And at the heart of it all is the engine. “It is my distinct pleasure to officially announce the all-new 2.7-liter EcoBoost V6 with Auto Start-Stop for the next generation Ford F-150 will be built right here at Lima Engine Plant,” Hinrichs said.

For the over 900 employees at Lima Engine, it’s an honor well-deserved, and one that comes after years of hard work and preparation. “It’s great news for Lima Engine,” said Ray Aguirre, a team leader in the new engine area. “Honestly, we deserve it. I really feel that way. We’re known for our quality here, and we take it extremely seriously.”

That sentiment was echoed by Eric Herschler, a team leader and one of a handful of employees who have been involved with the new engine program since the beginning. Herschler is grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the process. “We were here as this entire system was going in,” he said, adding “we’ve had an opportunity to work on robots, set up jobs, help out with the standards. It’s an honor as an hourly employee to have a hand in everything and being able to offer our input.”

The announcement of the 2.7L EcoBoost is the culmination of years of engineering work and design that includes the Auto Start-Stop feature, which shuts off the engine when the vehicle is stopped to save fuel. “This engine is one of the most technically advanced and efficient six-cylinders ever built,” Hinrichs told the crowd, adding “engines are at the core of Ford Motor Company and every single vehicle we produce. Having just built your three-millionth Duratec V6, everyone here should feel pride in knowing that your work helps produce quality engines that fuel our growth and satisfy our customers.”

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Customer satisfaction and continuous improvement are at the top of the list of priorities for Keith Bicknell, a team leader in the new engine area. “Everything we do here boils down to two main goals, and that is to safely assemble and build engines as perfectly as possible,” Bicknell said, adding “not only is building this engine a privilege and an honor, but it’s a welcome responsibility to be a part of the F-150 program. It’s that simple.”

Paul Seredynski, manager of global powertrain communications, is equally as thrilled that the 2.7L EcoBoost will be built at LEP. “The folks at Lima should know that Powertrain is thrilled that the 2.7 will be built there,” Seredynski said, adding “we know the quality that comes out of Lima and we’re over the moon and couldn’t be happier.”

Seredynski called the latest engine the most advanced EcoBoost ever, adding “it’s state-of-the-art and what is interesting is that this engine represents the best of not only EcoBoost, but some of our Power Stroke diesel technology as well. It draws from everything we’ve learned so far.”

And what engineers have learned is that truck customers want it all…power, torque and fuel efficiency…all in one package. “The great thing about this engine is that we’re still getting the horsepower and the torque the customer expects,” Herschler said, adding “and you throw in fuel mileage with that and it’s groundbreaking to say the least.”

With hundreds of employees looking on, LEP’s Plant Manager Mike Felix thanked those in attendance, and he spoke about the teamwork and dedication LEP workers have exhibited throughout the journey to Job 1. “It’s said that one is only as good as their team, and I am here to say that it is true,” Felix said, adding “what an honor to work with such a committed and hardworking team of people who sacrifice on so many levels to get the job done. Hats off to all of the Lima Engine workers for your dedication. This is only the beginning of the great things to come.”

UAW 1219 President Dave Rabe also spoke during the event and he told those gathered that the future of Lima Engine Plant looks promising. “Lima Engine Plant has a highly skilled and highly motivated workforce with a history of producing high quality and maintaining good safety records while exceeding customer demands,” Rabe said, while also thanking UAW National leadership, Ford Motor Company, the PV-6 team, and the 2011 negotiating team for bringing new work to Lima. “I remember what the dark side looked like and who would have ever thought we could have turned out something like this. It’s incredible.”

Also incredible is the fact that Lima Engine Plant’s history began with Page 1 in 1957, when workers assembled the engines for the 1958 Edsel. Over the last 50 years, engines and products have come and gone, leadership has changed, and processes and technology have evolved. Through it all, one thing has remained a constant….the need to learn, adapt and improve. “If you don’t continuously improve, you get passed. It really is as simple as that,” Bicknell said.

Friday’s announcement officially marked the beginning of a new chapter that will be ushered in by over 900 current LEP employees. It’s a proud moment, and one that Herschler is happy to be a part of. “If you care about what you do, it just makes you feel good knowing a customer saw something in our product and our vehicles that makes them want to buy it. I absolutely love being a part of that.”

Members of the UAW Local 1219 pose with UAW National Vice President Jimmy Settles.
Ford invests $500 million in LEP, Creates 300 jobs to build All-New 2.7-Liter EcoBoost for 2015 F-150

LIMA, Ohio, March 28, 2014 – Ford Motor Company will invest $500 million to upgrade its Lima Engine Plant and add 300 new jobs to support production of the all-new 2.7-liter EcoBoost® specifically engineered for the next-generation 2015 Ford F-150. The high-output, twin-turbo 2.7-liter V6 EcoBoost with standard Auto Start-Stop features an entirely new design that delivers power and performance in a stronger, smarter package. This new EcoBoost engine builds on recording-breaking customer demand for F-150 pickups equipped with V6 engines. In fact, 57 percent of new customers in 2014 have opted for either a 3.7-liter V6 or 3.5-liter V6 EcoBoost to power their new F-150. Since 2010, retail registrations of light-duty pickups with V6 engines have grown more than 600 percent, with Ford F-150 directly responsible for 91 percent of this growth, according to Ford analysis of Polk retail new vehicle registration data from IHS Automotive.

“Our truck customers have spoken, and we continue to meet their evolving needs by providing another V6 option in the all-new 2015 F-150,” said Joe Hinrichs, Ford president of The Americas. “The hardworking team at Lima Engine is thrilled to begin building one of the most technologically advanced engines ever designed for America’s No. 1 truck.”

Ford’s investment in Lima follows an announcement in early March that the company will shift production of Ford F-650/F-750 medium-duty trucks from Mexico to Ohio Assembly Plant in Avon Lake, in the Cleveland area, early next year.

Lima Engine Plant
Lima Engine Plant produces the 3.5-liter and 3.7-liter Duratec® V6 engines for multiple Ford vehicles including Edge and Explorer utilities, as well as the Lincoln MKX crossover, MKT utility and MKZ sedan. The $500 million investment will go to a new flexible engine assembly system and renovation of 700,000 square feet of the facility for machining and assembly functions.

“Lima Engine has kept Ford and Lincoln vehicles running for nearly 60 years,” said Bruce Hettle, Ford vice president, North America manufacturing. “Bringing production of the new 2.7-liter EcoBoost to Lima Engine Plant helps build a solid future both for Ford and the dedicated workers in Ohio.”

Lima Engine Plant, which opened in 1957, employs more than 900 people and is one of the largest employers in Allen County. On March 13, the 3-millionth Duratec V6 was built there, and later this year the 40-millionth engine produced at the plant will roll off the assembly line.

“The new jobs at Lima Engine Plant will be a major boost to the community, and continue F-150’s reputation as one of the most American-made vehicles,” said Jimmy Settles, UAW vice president, National Ford Department. “It’s especially exciting that these jobs will go to support a new technology like the 2.7-liter EcoBoost for the all-new F-150.”

All-new 2015 Ford F-150
The all-new 2015 Ford F-150 is tougher, smarter and more capable than ever. It’s completely redesigned – establishing a new standard for full-sized pickups by bringing together improved capability, fuel efficiency and cutting-edge smart vehicle technology. Using advanced materials – including more high-strength steel than ever in the frame and high-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloy throughout the body – improves durability while saving as much as 700 pounds, giving truck customers greater towing, payload and fuel efficiency performance.

When it goes on sale late this year, the all-new F-150 will have undergone more than 10 million miles of torture testing to ensure it meets or exceeds Built Ford Tough standards. Along with the all-new 2.7-liter EcoBoost, the new F-150 will feature a complete lineup of powertrains to let customers tailor the nation’s best-selling truck to their needs. The 3.5-liter EcoBoost engine returns, an all-new normally aspirated 3.5-liter V6 debuts and there is an improved 5.0-liter V8.

EcoBoost leadership
In the three years since Ford launched the 3.5-liter EcoBoost in F-150, the company has sold more than 2 million EcoBoost-powered vehicles; EcoBoost is now the most recognized fuel-efficient engine among consumers.

Ford sells approximately 100,000 EcoBoost vehicles monthly around the world, equating to roughly one out of five Ford vehicles sold.
A message from Plant Manager Mike Felix

I think we can sum up Friday’s event in one word – WOW! What a day it was as Lima Engine Plant rolled out the red carpet for executives from the Company and the UAW, as well as a number of local, regional and state dignitaries. It’s always kind of overwhelming organizing these types of “live” events as anything can go wrong at any particular time. Fortunately for us, everything went off without a hitch and I’ve heard lots of positive comments from our employees, our senior leadership, and our guests as well. I’d like to thank each and every one of you for helping to make our plant look great for the event! Everything looked nice and clean, and our leaders definitely took notice. I’d also like to thank all of you for representing Lima Engine Plant like you did. In some way, each and every one of us has a part in this new engine, whether you are actually the ones building it or not.

I’ve said it before many times and I said it at the event…we are all One Team at Lima Engine. We may disagree on occasions, but it’s through the spirit of cooperation and teamwork that we always seem to find common ground and work through our differences. Nowhere was this more evident than during our event Friday. We had extensive media coverage all over the state, with many of the news outlets carrying the message that LEP is known for building quality engines. Let’s take this much-needed momentum and build on it so we can have a seamless and successful launch of this important piece of the F-150.

I could certainly never thank everyone by name, as everyone was a part of this highly-successful event. But please know that your hard work is appreciated and valued, and I, along with our company and UAW leaders, am extremely proud of the LEP team! For those of you who couldn’t attend the event, we will be playing a video on the monitors once it is completed and sent to us. Thanks again everyone!

As Always, Be Safe

Mike Felix
Lima Engine Plant began operations in May of 1957 on the current site with 1,250,000 square feet of floor space. In 1958, the first full year of production, 161,980 V8 engines for the Edsel, Mercury and Lincoln models were assembled by a workforce of 1,039 people. Over the past 55 years, Lima Engine Plant has grown to be one of Ford’s largest manufacturing facilities, encompassing over 2.4 million square feet (equal to 48 football fields). The Lima Engine Plant is one of the largest employers in Allen County, Ohio.

Lima Engine Plant donates over $120,000 annually to local charity drives and employees volunteer many hours to local service organizations.
Lima Engine Plant is well known for its best-in-class products and people. Every employee is committed to producing the highest quality engine in the industry.

Lima Engine Plant Timeline

1955 – November Groundbreaking for LEP plant
1957 – A 1,084,000 square foot building was erected for the production of 8-cylinder 383/410 and 430 CID engines. The first engine, a 383 CID Mercury engine, was produced in May of 1957.
1958 – The first full year of production. A total of 162,980 were produced with approximately 1,000 employees.
1959 – The first 144 CID 6-cylinder compact engine was built on June 3, 1959.
1961 – 3,500-square feet building addition erected for 430 CID hot test facility.
1963 – Production of the 200 CID engine began.
1967 – 195,000 square foot building addition was erected and facilities installed for 8-cylinder 460 CID engine production.
1973 – 585,000 square feet were added and facilities installed to produce the 2.3 liter 4-cylinder engine, America’s first mass-produced metric system automotive engine.
1974 – 42,000 square feet were added for the 610 engine program.
1975 – 4,000 square-foot employee facilities building added at north end.
1976 – 107,000 square feet added to facilitate the 6-cylinder 200/250 CID engine program.
1979 – A multi-million dollar expansion (86,000 square feet) to provide 15 percent more production capacity for the 3.3 liter 6-cylinder engine was completed.
1979 – The first truck engine was built at Lima Engine Plant.
1982 – The Ranger truck program was launched in early 1982. The engine was installed in the new, downsized 2.3 liter Ranger pickup truck.
1983 – HSC engine program launched. This engine was used in a new series of front wheel drive vehicles introduced in April, 1983. A new block line was installed and conversions made to incorporate the new engine production into existing 6-cylinder head, piston, machining and assembly operations.
1984 – Construction began in early July, 1983 on a 208,000 square foot building addition to accommodate the V6 program.
1995 – Grand opening of a 36,000 square-foot multi-faceted, state-of-the-art $4.3 million training facility to improve the skills of plant employees to make them competitive into the next century.
1996 – February, Stopped Production of 7.5L V-8 engine:
5,766,851 engines produced
1999 – July, 2.9L-4V V-8 D/EW program launched
2001 – March, Stopped production of 2.3L I-4 engine: 6,280,268 engines produced
2006 – March, Stopped production of 3.9L-4V V-8 D/EW engine: 242,616 engines produced
2007 – June, Stopped production of 3.0L V-6 Vulcan: 10,821,639 engines produced
2008 – May, 3.7L-4V V-6 Duratec Production started
2009 – December, 3.5L/3.7L-4V V-6 Duratec: 1,000,000 engines produced
2011 – LEP produced 498,216 engines
2011 – LEP launched a third production crew
2012 – July, we built our 39,000,000th engine
2014 — Launch of all-new PV6 EcoBoost engine
Clockwise from top left: Suzanne Warnement poses with Ford President of the Americas Joe Hinrichs; a live satellite newscast was held in the Team 10 area; Hinrichs with LEP Plant Manager Mike Felix; Hinrichs and Lima Mayor Dave Berger greet each other; a welcome reception was held in the Rotunda for company, UAW and political dignitaries; Hinrichs speaks to a fellow University of Dayton alum and LEP employee Lynne Miller.
Clockwise from top left: UAW 1219 Chairman Scott Hinkle (far left) and President Dave Rabe (second from left) pose with UAW National Vice President Jimmy Settles and UAW dignitaries; LEP Benefits Rep Kevin Bourk poses with Settles; LEP employee John Spicer shares a moment with Settles; Ford President of the Americas Joe Hinrichs and Settles pose in front of the new PV6 engine; UAW 1219 workers watch the ceremony.