



ALUMINUM NEWS

Automotive Aluminum in High-Volume Vehicles Continues to Grow

Contributing to this month's [Automotive Engineering International](#), ALTG Chairman, Randall Scheps, highlights the success of aluminum's automotive applications including its 40 years of continued growth and downward-trending cost ratio. Averaging 7.8 percent of curb weight internationally, Scheps notes, "Aluminum's successes are in components such as heat exchangers, pistons, transmission cases and cylinder heads." The article continues to outline that there are [144 vehicles with more than 400 pounds of aluminum](#); the majority of which are high-volume models. [Automotive aluminum is projected to grow to 300 pounds per vehicle](#) worldwide by 2020.



Automakers Recognize Advantages to Automotive Aluminum

Consumers want cars that perform well, are safe and get good gas mileage – all benefits aluminum offers, Kevin Lowery, ALTG communications chairman, recently pointed out in an article on [ModernMetals.com](#). Automakers understand the value proposition behind aluminum which is why its use has continued to grow every year since 1970. With all of its advantages, [aluminum builds a better car](#).

Aluminum Shines in the 2010 Jaguar XJ

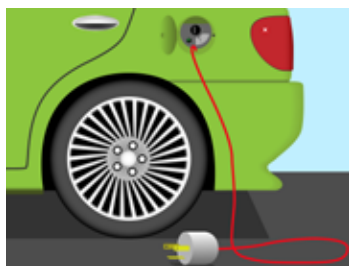
Extensive use of aluminum showcased in the 2010 Jaguar XJ allows the vehicle to embody some of the most significant advantages the metal offers – [enhanced performance, lower CO2 emissions and increased safety](#). The aluminum



chassis, suspension and brake calipers allow the XJ to weigh at least 300 pounds less than its competitors. Additionally, [50 percent of the aluminum used in the XJ is previously-recycled](#) helping the vehicle to achieve 85 percent total material recyclability. In a recent review with [USA Today](#), Charles Belbin, ALTG communications committee member, adds the average [North American] vehicle's aluminum content is growing and now sits at 8.6 percent of curb weight. Video featuring Jaguar executives discussing the advantages of aluminum is available by clicking the image above associated with this article.

The IDEA Sports Aluminum with its Plug-In Hybrid Capabilities

Several automakers are exploring ways to advance their fleets by integrating alternative powertrain vehicles. Recently, [The Christian Science Monitor](#) reported on Bright Automotive's main project, a plug-in hybrid prototype, the IDEA, is exactly that. Anticipated to achieve 100 miles per gallon of fuel (city), the IDEA combines plug-in hybrid technology with extensive use of aluminum among other engineering and design applications. Research shows [adding aluminum components to alternative powertrains further increases fuel economy](#) and pays consumers back faster at the pump – something all car and light truck-buyers can look forward to.



Supplier Works with Ford to Develop Low-Cost Aluminum Joining Technique

In an effort to diversify its supply base, [Ford has developed a program to assist suppliers](#) in developing innovative products and technical expertise. One of the six initial suppliers [recognizes the advantages of aluminum](#) and is working with ultrasonic welding for aluminum body construction. The program titled the Joint Technology Framework (JTF) will provide designated suppliers special access to Ford's intellectual property assets so they can develop products for future commercial use.

JULY 23, 2009



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FAST FACTS

Planet Aluminum – Putting the Environment at the Top of the List

As the most commonly recycled, post-consumer material in the world, aluminum leads the way to a greener future by [reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions](#), working to create an ever-growing sustainable environment.

Consider:

- Nearly all of the 27 million vehicles worldwide that reach the end of their lifecycle are recovered for recycling.
- Aluminum's weight-reducing capabilities allow vehicles to consume less fuel and in turn emit fewer greenhouse gases.
- For every 10 percent weight reduction by substituting aluminum for other materials, a 5 to 7 percent fuel savings is possible.