



ALUMINUM NEWS

Auto Industry Struggles Won't Slow Lightweighting

Top engineers from GM, Ford, Chrysler, BMW and Honda agreed in a recent [Automotive News article](#) that the poor economy will not limit their technology development demanded by the government and consumers. GM will pursue technology that enhances [fuel economy](#) and decreases vehicle weight as they are both "paramount things that we're going to continue to go after."



Anatomy-inspired Aluminum

Long-time automotive journalist and analyst John McElroy, featured a [news piece](#) on the October 28 edition of his daily podcast, *Automotive Insight*, describing the new aluminum casting technique inspired by human bones to help [reduce vehicle weight](#). The stabilized aluminum foam (SAF) casting is hard on the outside and porous on the inside making it not only lighter but quieter due to its acoustic properties.



Join Us for the Automotive Aluminum Webinar

The ALTG is hosting a Webinar to present technical research highlighting the fuel economy, cost effectiveness, environment and safety [advantages of automotive aluminum](#). The Webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. (EST) and will feature the ALTG's technical experts. This technical presentation is open to all; please click [here](#) to register.

ALTG at the Automotive News Green Conference

The Aluminum Association's Auto & Light Truck Group (ALTG) sponsored and exhibited at this year's [Automotive News Green Conference](#), held on Thursday, November 13. The conference featured many speakers who discussed the challenges and opportunities of manufacturing more [environmentally-friendly](#) vehicles. Rick Winter, operations director, development, Alcoa, represented the aluminum industry on the panel titled, "The Rest of the Car."

Aluminum Enhances BMW 7 Series

The [2009 BMW 7 Series](#) is an impressive performance machine, making use of aluminum throughout various components of the vehicle including front fenders, hood, suspension and doors. What's new about this vehicle is its [aluminum roof panel](#) which saves 15.4 pounds and helps lower the vehicle's center of gravity. The aluminum doors also help save an additional 49 pounds and are the first to be built in volume by BMW.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Los Angeles Auto Show
November 19-30, 2008
Los Angeles, CA

Auto Aluminum Webinar
December 9, 2008
[Register Here](#)

North American International Auto Show
January 11-25, 2009
Detroit, MI

2009 Automotive News World Congress
January 19-22, 2009
Detroit, MI



FAST FACTS

Consumers Crave Better Fuel Economy

Automakers are looking at aluminum as a complementary solution to produce more fuel efficient vehicles for today's consumers. Automotive aluminum boosts fuel economy in gasoline-powered vehicles and provides even greater benefits to vehicles powered by advanced powertrains and alternative fuels.

- A 5 to 7 percent fuel savings can be realized for every 10 percent weight reduction by substituting high-strength, low-weight aluminum for heavier steel.
[Note: Assumes an optimized powertrain through secondary weight savings.]

- When considering primary and secondary weight savings, an aluminum-intensive vehicle can save up to 17.6 percent curb-weight at a cost premium of just \$103 which translates into more than a 15 percent increase in average mileage per gallon.

The Aluminum Association's Auto & Light Truck Group (ALTG) communicates the benefits of automotive aluminum to help accelerate its penetration through research programs and related outreach activities. Member companies include: [Alcoa Inc.](#), [Novelis Inc.](#), [Alcan Inc.](#), [Aleris International, Inc.](#), [Aluminum Precision Products](#), [Indalex Aluminum Solutions](#), [Kaiser Aluminum Corporation](#) and [Sapa Group](#).

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