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Special 2007 MBS session focuses on labor, policy and finance challenges

ANN ARBOR, Mich., June 12, 2007 – The international automotive industry is facing unprecedented change on several fronts. To address the impact of discontinuous change in the transformation areas of labor, policy and finance, this year's Management Briefing Seminars will offer a session with speakers John Casesa of Casesa Shapiro, Dave McCurdy of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, and Sean McAlinden, chief economist of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), host of the event.

The overall conference theme: "The Road Ahead: Discontinuous Change" will be addressed by leaders from manufacturers, suppliers and other key stakeholders at the annual industry event Aug. 6-10 near Traverse City, Mich. The seminars attract more than 1,000 attendees who participate in targeted sessions, senior-level executive panels and highly valued networking opportunities.

Casesa, managing partner of Casesa Shapiro Group, and a former managing director and global coordinator of automotive research for Merrill Lynch, will provide a perspective on the changes underway in the industry. McAlinden, noted labor economist and vice president of research at CAR, will highlight the critical labor issues facing the industry, including the current negotiating pattern between the Big 3 and the United Auto

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Workers. McCurdy, the new president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, will focus on government regulatory challenges, including proposed CAFE changes.

In addition to the Wednesday special session, the general automotive sessions on Wednesday and Thursday (Aug. 8-9) will focus on critical global strategies, followed by a session highlighting the commercialization of innovation on Thursday afternoon.

Speakers in the Aug. 6-7 sessions will address the globalization of manufacturing; the explosion of innovation and how it needs to be put into products and processes; and the continued---and growing---impact of the connected vehicle. The Aug. 10 Advanced Powertrain Forum provides an update on developments, including the advances in biofuels and the electrification of the vehicle. Several automotive analysts will also provide their perspectives on the week's critical issues in a session on supplier strategies and tactics. An up-to-date listing of speakers and sessions is available on CAR's Web site:

www.cargroup.org.

CAR's mission is to conduct research on significant issues related to the future direction of the global automotive industry, as well as organize and conduct forums of value to the automotive community.

Early registration for the 2007 Management Briefing Seminars is available by visiting www.cargroup.org. For more information regarding MBS registration, contact the Center for Automotive Research at (734) 662-1287.

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