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**MANUFACTURING ISSUES HIGHLIGHT OF FOCUSED SESSIONS AT
MANAGEMENT BRIEFING SEMINARS**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., July 30, 2007 – Success in the fiercely competitive automotive manufacturing environment by companies globalizing their firms will be only one of several key topics during the manufacturing sessions Aug. 6-7, at the 2007 Management Briefing Seminars.

The manufacturing sessions will feature presentations and panel discussions on international strategies; game-changing production technologies; lean product and process development; and policy issues.

“The international impact on domestic manufacturing is still one of the most critical and controversial issues today,” said Jay Baron, CAR president and chair of the Manufacturing sessions. “The sessions will present case examples of companies managing successfully under the current discontinuous changing nature of the industry.”

The Management Briefing Seminars are the industry’s week-long traditional summer event, and are sponsored by the Center for Automotive Research. They take place Aug. 6-10, 2007 near Traverse City, Mich. More than 1,000 attendees are expected to participate in targeted sessions, senior-level executive panels and highly valued networking opportunities.

Jeff Liker, professor of industrial and operations engineering at the University of Michigan and co-author of the book “The Toyota Product Development System,” will co-chair a session on lean product and process development.

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Vehicle manufacturer representatives across the three manufacturing sessions include: **Joseph R. Hinrichs**, Vice President, North America Manufacturing, Ford Motor Co.; **Joe Chao**, Vice President, Advance Manufacturing Engineering, Chrysler; and **Bob Sump**, Vice President, Component Engineering, Nissan North America.

They will be joined by a number of supplier firm representatives, including: **Steve Dickerson**, Vice President Quality and Advanced Manufacturing, Metaldyne; **Patrick Garcia**, Director, Acoustics and Advanced Emissions Control Engineering, Tenneco; **Bruce Grey**, Managing Director, Bishop Technology Group Ltd.; and **Michael Vitek**, Director, North America Consulting, Mercedes-Benz Technology.

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

An up-to-date listing of speakers and sessions is available on CAR's Web site: www.cargroup.org. Media editorial representatives may attend at no charge. To register for media credentials, visit the Web site.

In addition to the manufacturing sessions, 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.

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

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