



## ALUMINUM NEWS

### Aluminum Industry Ready to Assist Automakers in Achieving New Fuel Standards

The ALTG applauds the Obama Administration's recent decision to [continue supporting size-based fuel standards for passenger cars](#).

These standards allow automakers to build [large vehicles that consumers demand with increased fuel efficiency and unsurpassed safety](#), thanks to

light weight materials. Automakers are expected to continue using more aluminum as they strive to reach new CAFE targets.



### Small versus Light: Making the Distinction

Too often automobile size and weight are positioned as one and the same. Yet high strength, low weight and crash absorbent materials like aluminum are proven to maintain or even increase vehicle size for safety and convenience, while reducing weight for improved fuel economy and reduced emissions. Experience holds that safe cars are possible today thanks to the currently available materials and smart design, making some of the safest cars in the world products of aluminum manufacturing. The ALTG remains committed to setting the record straight and recently submitted Letter to the Editors of [USA Today](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#) in response to questions raised regarding the safety record of light vehicles.

### ALTG Chair Presents Lightweighting Advantages at SAE World Congress



Randall Scheps, ALTG chairman, presented on a panel titled "Total Vehicular Energy Use Management" at SAE World Congress on April 22. Scheps detailed the [advantages of lightweighting for passenger vehicles](#), especially as OEMs and policymakers look to increase fuel economy, noting "the answer is much more than

alternative powertrains because they alone will not reach tougher fuel economy standards. Achieving the standards means maximizing a combination of technologies, including mass reduction."

### Aluminum Aids Efficiency of Alternative Powertrains

The May edition of Automotive Design & Production features an article titled "[Diesel Reaches Technology Crossroad](#)" which discusses higher-pressure fuel systems requiring the use of advanced materials, including aluminum, which is lighter and stronger than cast iron. There are also [advantages to using aluminum in the body of a diesel-powered vehicle](#) which can achieve a 13.1 percent improvement in fuel economy compared to its steel counterpart.

### Innovative Aluminum Use in 2010 Lincoln MKT Helps Ford Boost Fuel Economy

With continuous efforts to reduce mass and [boost fuel economy](#), Ford is fitting its 2010 Lincoln MKT with a [liftgate composed of aluminum](#) and other light weight materials, the first such combination to be utilized in North American vehicle production. Increased aluminum use is assisting in Ford's plan to subtract between 250 to 750 pounds of weight per vehicle over the next 10 years in order to meet more stringent fuel economy standards.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Automotive News Manufacturing Conference**  
*Automotive News*  
June 8-10, 2009  
Birmingham, AL

**2009 Management Briefing Seminars**  
*Center for Automotive Research*  
August 4-7, 2009  
Traverse City, MI



## FAST FACTS

### Aluminum a Key Contributor in World's Highest-Performing Autos

Many manufacturers turn to aluminum when looking to [increase the performance of their vehicles](#), here's why:

- Up to 50 percent lighter than steel, aluminum is proven to be structurally stiff and safe. Additionally, aluminum could have an extended life well beyond what we expect today, given its excellent corrosion resistance.
- Vehicles made lighter with aluminum combined with high structural stiffness accelerate more quickly, provide better stability and response and require shorter stopping distances than heavier vehicles.
- The design flexibility of aluminum is unparalleled, allowing designers to engineer optimum shape and performance for each specific application.