



## **U.S. Army Bringing Detroit Military Muscle, Efficiency to 2012 Chicago Auto Show**

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([PRWEB](#)) February 02, 2012 -- The U.S. Army is sending two concept hybrid vehicles from its research, development and engineering center outside Detroit to the 2012 Chicago Auto Show to showcase some of the military's latest energy-efficiency efforts that can save money, address environmental concerns and – most importantly – save Soldiers' lives.

The U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) will display two Clandestine Extended Range Vehicles (CERVs) from its Detroit Arsenal-based headquarters to the Auto Show's sizable Chicago Army Recruiting Battalion display.

CERVs are lightweight, diesel-electric hybrid prototypes with a top speed of 80 mph. Designed for reconnaissance, targeting and rescue missions, CERVs have silent run capabilities of eight miles. Each CERV can ascend a 60 percent grade, and each has a torque rating of 5,000 lbs.

The CERVs, which feature a 25 percent decrease in fuel consumption compared to conventional vehicles, were developed by TARDEC in cooperation with California-based Quantum Technologies.

“TARDEC's mission remains unchanged: bring the newest innovations and technology that support our troops against an ever-evolving and changing enemy threat,” explains TARDEC Associate Director of Communications Derhun Sanders. “Undoubtedly, these are some of the Army's ‘greenest’ vehicles and the kind of technology that can meet our Nation's energy security demands.”

In terms of Soldier safety, Sanders points to a recent Army Energy Security Task Force report stating a one percent improvement in fuel economy results in 6,444 fewer Soldier trips on fuel convoys. A significant number of American casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have been incurred guarding fuel convoys.

CERV vehicles are currently in testing phases around the country while the finishing touches are being put on the Army's newest lab. On April 11, 2012, the DOD will open the new, 30,000-square-foot Ground Systems Power and Energy Lab (GSPEL) at the U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal. GSPEL (rendered right) is an eight-labs-in-one, state-of-the-art research and development facility. GSPEL will serve as the cornerstone for the Army's next generation of power and energy initiatives providing the Army with the cutting-edge laboratory space and equipment necessary to conduct research, development, modeling, simulation and testing on military and commercial ground vehicle of all sizes and purposes from subsystem components to entire systems-of-systems.

First staged in 1901, the Chicago Auto Show is the largest auto show in North America and has been held more times than any other auto exposition on the continent. This year marks the 104th edition of the Chicago Auto Show. The Chicago Auto Show is open to the public from Feb. 10 - 19. More information is available at [www.ChicagoAutoShow.com](http://www.ChicagoAutoShow.com).



## ABOUT TARDEC

Headquartered at the U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Mich., TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology and serves as the Ground Systems Integrator for all Department of Defense (DOD) manned and unmanned ground vehicle systems. With roots dating back to the World War II era, TARDEC is a full life-cycle, systems engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons, equipment and vehicle systems. TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provides superior capabilities for Future Force integration. TARDEC's technical, scientific and engineering staff lead cutting-edge research and development in Ground Systems Survivability; Power and Mobility; Ground Vehicle Robotics; Force Projection; and Vehicle Electronics and Architecture. TARDEC is a major research, development and engineering center for Research, Development and Engineering Command and an enterprise partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. <http://tardec.army.mil>

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