

# **PRESS RELEASE**



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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **U.S. Army's National Automotive Center in Detroit Refocusing on Collaboration, Energy Security**

U.S. ARMY DETROIT ARSENAL - WARREN, Mich. – The Army TARDEC's National Automotive Center (NAC) based in Detroit is building on a 20 year history of partnerships with the domestic auto industry and energy community and refocusing on its role as the focal point for public/private technology development.

The NAC is part of the Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) based at the Army's Detroit Arsenal.

Part of the refocusing effort is the naming of the new director. David J. Thomas, the former associate director of TARDEC's Intelligent Ground Systems group, brings nearly 30 years of Army experience to the role. He replaces Paul Skalny, who retired late in 2011.

“The NAC will continue to serve as the Army's focal point for the development of dual-use automotive technologies and their application to military ground vehicles,” explained Thomas.

TARDEC NAC was chartered by the Secretary of the Army in 1993 to help facilitate joint efforts between industry, government and academia. According to Thomas, the NAC's primary focus moving forward will be making those connections.

“NAC associates are placing a renewed and greater emphasis on making the right connections and linking our customers with the right technology expertise,” said Thomas.

In going forward, Thomas stresses the NAC will build upon prior success. He points to the Hybrid Truck Users Forum (HTUF), the Advanced Battery Initiative and the Advanced Vehicle Power Technology Alliance (AVPTA) as key strategic initiatives.

“In all these cases, the NAC did exactly what we were chartered to do,” said Thomas. “The NAC connected people and organizations with existing and emerging technical programs that facilitated the execution of advanced research, development, engineering, integration and productions and field support.

“In short, we make connections.”

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For 2012, the NAC will place a heavy emphasis on AVPTA and the key areas TARDEC is directly affecting. Those include:

- Powertrain and Combustion
- Lightweight Structures and Materials
- Energy Recovery and Thermal Management
- Alternative Fuels and Lubes
- Hybrid Propulsion Systems
- Energy Storage and Batteries
- Analytical Tools
- Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Vehicles
- Alternative Energy Initiatives

TARDEC's NAC actively seeks companies that can aid the Army in addressing these energy security issues. Proposals and ideas can be submitted confidentially to the TARDEC NAC through the NAC's Ground Vehicle Gateway at <https://tardec.groundvehiclegateway.com/>

Via the gateway, experienced personnel link companies with subject matter experts from TARDEC business groups with industry and academic partners.

## **MORE 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'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. For more information go to:

- <https://tardec.army.mil>
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