

## **ADAC Plastics Establishes Global Presence to Protect Domestic Health**

Grand Rapids, Mich. (February 15, 2006) - ADAC Plastics, Inc., one of West Michigan's largest privately owned automotive suppliers, today announced it has joined WITTE Automotive and STRATTEC SECURITY CORPORATION to create an innovative alliance to expand the company's international presence and to maintain its position as a leading door handle supplier in North America.

The new enterprise - Vehicle Access Systems Technology (VAST) - enhances an alliance formed in 2000 between WITTE and STRATTEC and will address ever-increasing customer demand for global support. VAST is a single source global supplier of security/access control products for the motor vehicle industry. ADAC, a \$225 million company, brings strong design and manufacturing capability in door handles, exterior trim and lighting products to the partnership.

"After an extensive search for partners throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia, we identified WITTE and STRATTEC and executed a strategy that will allow us to successfully compete in the global vehicle access systems market," said ADAC Plastics Chairman Ken Hungerford. "This new alliance will also ensure our ability to grow our product lines, our market share and sustain our strong West Michigan base."

WITTE (also known as WITTE-Velbert GmbH & Co. KG) is a privately held German manufacturer of automotive latches, hinges, specialty fasteners and door handles primarily for the European market. Headquartered in Milwaukee, STRATTEC is a publicly traded company that designs, develops and manufactures lock sets and keys. Together, the three companies' product lines encompass all of the products and technologies used in vehicle access and security systems.

The VAST Alliance has two distinct structures. One part is an Alliance Agreement that permits the sharing of information and technology and establishes a collaborative framework encouraging growth in product lines and customer bases worldwide. The second part is a joint venture - VAST LLC - that supports operations outside of North America and Europe. Currently, this entity operates facilities in China and Brazil.

"Our automotive customers are increasingly demanding that we support their programs globally. The financial and human capital necessary for a company of our size to put a plant in China, Europe or South America would be too high," said ADAC President and COO Jim Teets. "The VAST Alliance provides us the best of both worlds. If ADAC needs to support GM production in Europe, WITTE would produce the European volume for GM and WITTE would pay ADAC a commission for that privilege. Likewise, if WITTE requires support for Volkswagen in North America, ADAC will handle the production here under the same agreement."

In joining the Alliance, ADAC expects to better utilize its facilities in West Michigan to produce value added products for its existing customer base and for those customers that will be gained through the Alliance.

"Door handle systems are actually complex assemblies that need to be engineered to meet stringent safety requirements and at the same time be painted to an exact color match to the vehicle," said Teets. "The VAST Alliance gives us the ability to serve an even broader base of customers and provide them with a global source for technologically advanced vehicle access systems."

In conjunction with this announcement, ADAC has introduced a new corporate identity and logo. The company has adopted the name of ADAC Automotive to represent its

automotive activities.

*ADAC Automotive is a full-service automotive supplier dedicated to the production of door handles and components, cowl vent grilles, exterior trim, and marker lighting for worldwide automakers. Founded in 1975 as ADAC Plastics, Inc., the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based company operates facilities in North America and the United Kingdom, which comprise a combined total of nearly 800,000 square feet of manufacturing space. Today, ADAC is a \$225 million company with more than 1,300 employees in the U.S. and U.K. For more information visit [www.adacautomotive.com](http://www.adacautomotive.com), [www.witte-velbert.de](http://www.witte-velbert.de), [www.strattec.com](http://www.strattec.com), and [www.vastalliance.com](http://www.vastalliance.com).*