



FOR RELEASE: June 29, 2011

## Nexteer Automotive Engineers Continue to Develop Industry Leading Technology in the Great Lakes Bay Region

**SAGINAW, Mich.** –Nexteer Automotive, the only tier one automotive supplier committed exclusively to wheel-to-wheel advanced steering systems today held a special event to recognize 91 engineers for their recent patent accomplishments. The 80 new patents awarded to Nexteer engineers are a testament to the talented and skilled workforce developing innovation in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

“Saginaw is the heart of our global R&D efforts,” said Mike Richardson, senior vice president, engineering and global steering business line. “Our success as a business depends on our ability to develop breakthrough, patentable technology. Today is a celebration, not only of our engineers, but the technology that will drive our future growth.”

The 80 patents awarded to Nexteer are broken down into the following categories:

Category	New Patent Awards
Safety	24
Electronic Control	16
Mechanical	40

“Our electronic and software development is entirely in-house, which represents a major competitive advantage,” added Richardson. “We are the only steering supplier with complete design integration of its electric power steering, providing optimal control of the overall system. This vertical integration of the design provides real benefit to our customers in terms of responsiveness and ability to fulfill their needs and expectations.”

Also, the patents encompass the following Nexteer product lines:

Nexteer Product Line	New Patent Awards
Columns and Intermediate Shafts (CIS)	51
Electric Power Steering (EPS)	20
Halfshafts (HS) and Hydraulic Power Steering (HPS)	9

A particular highlight of the event was Richard “Dick” Riefe, senior staff research engineer, who received recognition for 13 steering column patents. With 50 years of service at Nexteer, Riefe has a grand total of 70 patents in his name.

“Nexteer has allowed me the opportunity to develop and experience the industry’s leading automotive technologies,” said Riefe. “The unique engineering environment at Nexteer fosters creative and technical inspiration.”

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After announcing a hiring blitz back in October, Nexteer continues to seek professionals skilled in mechatronics, with particular interest in safety and software engineering. A complete list of US career opportunities can be found on the company website at [http://www.nexteer.com/job\\_opportunities\\_search.html](http://www.nexteer.com/job_opportunities_search.html)

## **ABOUT NEXTEER**

Nexteer Automotive is a multi-billion dollar global steering and driveline business solely dedicated to electric and hydraulic steering systems, steering columns and driveline products for original equipment manufacturers. Its 9,800 workforce serve more than 60 customers in every major region of the world. The company has 20 manufacturing plants, five engineering centers and 14 customer service centers strategically located in North and South America, Europe and Asia. Nexteer Automotive's customers include GM, Fiat, Ford, Toyota, Chrysler and PSA Peugeot Citroen, as well as automakers in India, China, and South America.

[www.nexteer.com](http://www.nexteer.com)

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