

Delaware

E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T O F F I C E



CONTACT: Dina Reider (302) 672-6826

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

DaimlerChrysler to Restructure U.S. Operations *Newark Assembly Plant Impacted by Plan*

Dover, DE (February 14, 2007) – Today, DaimlerChrysler officials announced their restructuring plans during the company’s Annual Press Conference, held in Auburn Hills, Michigan. **The state of Delaware has received official notification from DaimlerChrysler that the company will reduce production at the Newark Assembly Plant by one shift, then idle the plant in 2009. To idle the plant means, in DaimlerChrysler’s words, that no new products are planned for the plant.**

As DaimlerChrysler announced its plans for restructuring late last year, the Delaware Economic Development Office partnered with numerous stakeholders to develop an innovative, responsible plan to address DaimlerChrysler’s business needs.

“We are pleased that DaimlerChrysler has demonstrated its commitment to Delaware by maintaining production of the Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen,” said Judy McKinney-Cherry, Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office. “We view this as an opportunity to assist DaimlerChrysler in their profitability. The current plan to idle the plant in 2009 provides us time to work with the company on new models and flexibility. We will be working closely with DaimlerChrysler on strategies to bring the plant back to full production in coming years.”

The Delaware Economic Development Office has already approached the U.S. Economic Development Administration regarding federal monies that may be available to benefit the Newark region as a whole. Additionally, the Delaware Economic Development Office, Delaware Department of Labor, Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and Delaware Technical & Community College are working closely in executing a strategy to provide services to the workers scheduled to be displaced later this year.

The state of Delaware plans to work side-by-side with DaimlerChrysler during this transition and have launched a rapid response strategy to assist displaced workers. Components of the strategy include: connecting Delaware companies in a hiring mode with DaimlerChrysler

--more--

**Page 2 - DaimlerChrysler to Restructure U.S. Operations, Newark, DE
Assembly Plant Impacted**

human resources managers, hosting job fairs for downsized employees with hiring companies, and deploying customized training programs to meet hiring employers' needs. The Delaware Economic Development Office will also encourage new business start-ups.

DaimlerChrysler's Newark Assembly Plant employs approximately 1950 workers at full employment and contributes a total economic impact of nearly \$819 million to the state's economy.

###