



**H&R BLOCK AT HOME™**  
Get It Right.™  
File for FREE ▶



Welcome Guest | Register | Sign In | Wednesday, Jan 27, 12:43 PM

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH



**ABOUT MIKE ARMSTRONG**



Mike Armstrong, a business editor and writer for nearly two decades, is the Inquirer's business columnist and PhillyInc blog editor.

share | email | font size | Back to Blog home

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010  
**AFS Trinity shows off its hybrid electric vehicle to Delaware officials**

Maybe tiny Delaware really can make a comeback in the auto-assembly industry, thanks to technology and tax dollars.

A Bellevue, Wash., company that has developed hybrid electric vehicle technology was in Dover, Del., giving rides in its prototypes to state officials, including **Gov. Jack Markell**.

**AFS Trinity Power Corp.** calls its vehicle, which is a reconfigured Saturn VUE SUV, the XH150. It first showed off the prototypes at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January 2008 and brought them to Philadelphia that April.

AFS Trinity CEO **Edward W. Furia**, a Philadelphia native, said the company made the trip east to meet with Markell on the suggestion of attorney **Stephen M. Goodman**, a partner in the Philadelphia office of **Morgan Lewis & Bockius**.

In the last two years, Delaware lost two huge auto-assembly factories when **Chrysler** and **General Motors** closed them. But last fall, the California-based **Fisker Automotive** announced plans to build its electric cars at GM's shuttered Wilmington plant. And as PhillyDeals reported last week, **AutoPort Inc.** was picked by the **U.S. Postal Service** to build prototype electric vehicles in Wilmington.

Furia said he views Delaware's idled factories and able workforce as a viable option to produce AFS Trinity's hybrid, which has an all-electric range of 40 miles on a single charge. But the privately held company is not close to picking a location.

While Markell was test-driving AFS Trinity's XH150, GM said it would invest about \$246 million in its Baltimore Transmission factory to build electric motors, creating 200 jobs in Maryland. GM was able to do so, in part, with funding from the **U.S. Energy Department**.

AFS Trinity didn't apply for any of the billions offered by the Energy Department in 2009, Furia said, because "the regulations were not friendly to small business." I've heard other alternative-energy entrepreneurs make the same complaint.

To be chasing his electric car dream after 20 years, Furia had convince lots of people to take a chance of him. Furia said **John Andrews "Jay" Harris IV**, of Berwyn, who died Dec. 29, had supplied critical funding that enabled him to build the prototypes that spent Tuesday tooling around Dover.

Posted by Mike Armstrong @ 8:52 AM | Permalink | **File Under:** Manufacturing | | Technology | Post a comment

**Choose a Hertz Monthly Lease**

- No money down
- No financing

**BOOK NOW ▶**

**Hertz**  
Advertise Here

➔ PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS TODAY

**Play Video**

Philadelphia Business Today, 1/26/2010

00:00 | 02:17

Navigation icons: play, stop, back, forward, volume, menu

**Sponsored Links**

<p><b>Toyota Hybrids</b> Huge selection of new &amp; used Toyota hybrid cars, trucks &amp; SUVs. <a href="http://www.BuyAToyota.com">www.BuyAToyota.com</a></p>	<p><b>Official Smart Car Site</b> Smart car starting at only \$11,990! Price a smart fortwo in minutes. <a href="http://www.smartUSA.com">www.smartUSA.com</a></p>	<p><b>Best Electric Cars '09-10</b> Find &amp; Compare top Electric Cars of the year + Most fuel efficient list <a href="http://electricvehiclestoday.info">electricvehiclestoday.info</a></p>
---	--	--

Sign in to post a comment

**Comments**

0 comments

**Register to comment**

Why are we asking you to register? We've made some changes to the Philly.com commenting system to increase the quality of the user experience and dialogue, and reduce the number of inappropriate or offensive posts. You're now required to have a registered username and account before adding a comment. This will improve the comments for everyone. We apologize for the inconvenience. **Join the conversation!**

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

**Already Registered?**  
Sign In

Email   
Address   
Password

Forgot Password?

[SIGN IN](#)

- BLOG ROLL**
- Develop/Real Estate/Econ
  - Philly Skyline
  - Delaware Business Blog
  - PlanPhilly
  - Changing Skyline

- ARCHIVES**
- January
  - December 2009
  - November 2009
  - October 2009
  - September 2009
  - August 2009