

NISSAN, FROM COVER

As SVP administration and finance at NNA, Thormann will be responsible for finance, legal, human resources, corporate planning, corporate communications, security and audit for Nissan's North American operations. In addition, he also has responsibility for the NNA sales financing affiliate Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation.

Doug Betts, currently V-P, product quality NNA, will become senior V-P of total customer satisfaction including product quality, customer satisfaction of sales and service and corporate quality assurance, NNA. This change is effective Apr. 1st, 2006.

Bill Bosley, currently managing director, Nissan Motor Great Britain, will succeed Bradshaw as V-P, general manager Nissan Division, and will be responsible for sales, marketing, and administration activities for NNA's Nissan Division.

Larry Dominique, currently director, product planning, NNA will become V-P, product planning, NNA responsible for advanced planning and product planning for Nissan and Infiniti vehicles. Dominique replaces Jack Collins who is retiring.

"We face significant challenges in an increasingly competitive industry and it has always been the quality of our people that gave us the ultimate com-



Dominique Thormann will be responsible for finance, legal, human resources, corporate planning, corporate communications, security and audit for Nissan's North American operations.

petitive advantage," said Carlos Ghosn, president and CEO of Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. "The new team

will enhance the resources we have to take on those challenges and succeed," Ghosn said.

"All these responsibilities are crucial to the successful fulfillment of the Nissan 'Value-Up' business plan and our longer term success," he said. "I would like to particularly recognize the contribution and leadership of Jed Connelly, who led the North American team through a period of unprecedented growth and profitability. I know everyone at Nissan wishes him and his family the best in the future."

After working for Sterling Motorcars and Volkswagen of America, Connelly joined Nissan in 1989 as national direct marketing manager for Infiniti, as the luxury-car division was being launched. He served as regional general manager in the Southwest and as director of remarketing before leaving Nissan in 1994 to join Predelivery Service Corp., a vehicle processor for Ford Motor Co. and Mitsubishi Motor Sales.

Connelly rejoined Nissan in 1998 as director of staff operations for Nissan Division and was promoted through the sales and marketing organization to his current position, in which he is responsible for all marketing and sales functions for Nissan and Infiniti divisions. — P.C.

TRADE TRACKER INC.**Lee Wittick named president, North American Operations**

Trade Tracker Inc., a leading North American developer and marketer of vehicle trade management and profitability enhancement solutions to the retail automotive industry, has appointed Lee Wittick to president, North American operations.

Wittick, a 15-year veteran on the retail automotive industry, joins Trade Tracker from Saturn SAAB of Thornhill, part of the Roy Foss Group of Companies, where he was general manager since 1999. Under

Wittick's leadership, the dealership's profits doubled in seven years. He has also served on numerous task forces for General Motors and was a valued member of Performance Incorporated, which brings together dealer groups in Canada and the U.S. to achieve common dealership objectives.

Prior to his tenure at Saturn SAAB of Thornhill, Wittick held progressive positions at Applewood Chevrolet Cadillac in Mississauga, Ontario, last-

ly as used-vehicle sales manager. His earlier career was spent in sales and financial services roles at Oakland Lincoln Mercury in Oakville, Ont. Wittick is a graduate of the Canadian Automotive Institute and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Northwood University in Michigan.

Trade Tracker Inc. develops and markets vehicle trade management and profitability enhancement solutions for the retail automotive sector.

Its core offering, Trade Tracker, is an online trade-in evaluation tool that allows dealerships to create instant, accurate appraisals and manage and track vehicle inventory and accounting to gain unprecedented insight into their used vehicle business. Based in Toronto, Trade Tracker Inc. serves leading automotive dealerships North America-wide.

For more information visit www.tradetracker.ca or www.tradetrackerusa.com.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY OF CANADA**Oakville, Ont. plant converted to flex production**

Ford of Canada's new crossover vehicle the Edge and the Lincoln MKX, the Blue Oval's entry in the luxury CUV market, will be produced the flexible way.

"What we are trying to do is have a facility that we can change over in the shortest amount of time than historically the industry has ever done," Oakville Assembly Complex manager Frank Gourneau told *AutoWorld*.

He went on to say that the new production method would allow Ford to respond to shifting consumer demand.

"It allows us to react to market trends and market shifts as consumers dictate what we need to do. And that allows us to deliver fresh products to the

dealer and the consumer quicker."

Gourneau explained that Ford defines flexibility as the ability to produce a variety of models with a variety of designs ("top hats") on the same line as long as they share the same platforms.

The Blue Oval says it will continue producing its Freestar/Monterrey minivan on the same line.

The \$200 million renovation started about a year ago and is part of Ford's \$1 billion investment at the facility. The complex will begin filling dealers' orders some time in the fourth quarter, he said.

Joining the Edge and MKX by 2010 will be hybrid versions of the two vehicles.

Gourneau refused to say what production or sales goals had been set for the new vehicles. — L.P.



Frank Gourneau, plant manager, Oakville Assembly Complex.