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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PwC's Autofacts Forecasts 2012 Global Automotive Light Vehicle Assembly to Exceed 79 Million Units and Top 100 Million in 2016

Assuming the European debt crisis is contained, the automotive industry should anticipate a positive outlook in 2012

DETROIT, JAN. 5, 2012 – PwC's automotive analyst group, Autofacts, today announced that it expects 2012 global light vehicle assembly will exceed 79 million units, an increase of 6.8% from 2011's total. Although many market uncertainties will carry over into 2012, Autofacts remains optimistic that the global automotive industry outlook will be positive, assuming that a policy resolution in the European Union materializes in the near-term.

What is contributing to the positive outlook?

- Monetary tightening and other policy shifts in Brazil, India, and China caused slower growth in 2011. But, with inflationary fears in these markets subsiding (prompting correspondingly looser monetary policy), these markets could be poised for substantial growth once again.
- Russia is positioned for another year of strong local demand.
- BRIC growth is likely to reach double digits (12%) in 2012 following only five percent growth in 2011.
- Potential exists for strong output recovery in Japan and Thailand as the auto sector in both countries works to satisfy pent-up demand, clear product backlogs, and rebuild inventory in the wake of 2011's natural disasters. Thailand's eco-car program is also likely to provide assembly upside in 2012.
- North American industry outlook remains positive although volumes are not expected to achieve prior peaks. Autofacts predicts an 860k YoY increase in North America production predicated on healthier inventory, export growth, and US light vehicle sales of 13.6 million units in 2012.

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"The US region's automotive sector is poised for continued growth in 2012," said Rick Hanna, global automotive leader, PwC. "Automotive companies have ramped up vehicle inventories and growth markets are easing monetary policy. Although uncertainty persists, we anticipate the global automotive industry will run on all cylinders toward another record year as long as Europe's issues don't spill over to other regions."

To receive specific regional forecast data, sign-up for a free monthly subscription to PwC's Autofacts Analyst Notes at www.Autofacts.com.

About PwC's Automotive Practice

PwC's global automotive practice leverages its extensive experience in the industry to help companies solve complex business challenges with efficiency and quality. One of PwC's global automotive practice's key competitive advantages is Autofacts®, a team of automotive industry specialists dedicated to ongoing analysis of sector trends. Autofacts provides our team of more than 4,600 automotive professionals and our clients with data and analysis to assess implications, make recommendations, and support decisions to compete in the global marketplace.

About Autofacts®

Autofacts, PwC's automotive forecasting service, is a provider of automotive market analysis, strategy development, and competitive intelligence to the world's leading vehicle manufacturers, automotive suppliers, and support organizations. Autofacts service offerings are available on-demand, for one-time purchase and through an annual subscription basis to access the on-line portal with Autofacts' proprietary data query tool. For more information regarding Autofacts or to sign up for a free monthly subscription to Autofacts Analyst Notes, visit www.autofacts.com.

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