

PRESS RELEASE

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## GAZ Group and FinnvedenBulten Agree to Establish a Joint Venture in Russia

**NIZHNY NOVGOROD, RUSSIA/GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN, 5 April 2011. Automotive Components Division of GAZ Group, Russia's largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles, and the international industrial group FinnvedenBulten today announced the signing of a letter of intent to establish a fasteners joint venture at the GAZ Group facilities of Gorky Automobile Plant, whereby FinnvedenBulten gets its first production site in Russia.**

The parties will determine the full scope of the joint venture at the end of this year, and production is planned to start in 2012. The joint venture, which is made through the Automotive Components Division of the GAZ Group and the Bulten division of FinnvedenBulten, will develop and manufacture fasteners for the automotive industry in Russia and the CIS. It will also supply fasteners to Bulten's global customer base with production in Russia.

Gorky Automobile Plant, which manufactures fasteners for Russian customers, will provide production and distribution infrastructure, whereas Bulten, which supplies fasteners to the global automotive industry, will provide the development of new products and technologies.

"As one of the world's foremost suppliers of fasteners, Bulten estimates the potential of the Russian market to be significant. High import duties in Russia and high demand for quality products create great opportunities of efficient development for local manufacturers. The experience and competence of GAZ will benefit Bulten greatly in the process of producing high-quality fasteners in Russia," commented Tommy Andersson, CEO of Bulten.

"Through the cooperation with Bulten, the working equipment of Gorky Automobile Plant used in fasteners manufacture will be significantly upgraded. The creation of high-tech components production at GAZ aimed at a wide range of customers is provided for by Automotive Components Division's development strategy. Implementing this strategy, in 2010 the Division increased supplies to external customers by 70% in comparison with 2009; these include automakers, transportation companies, companies in aviation and other industries," said Bo Andersson, President of GAZ Group.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**FinnvedenBulten** develops and manages industrial businesses, offering products, technical solutions and systems in metallic materials. The Group operates as a business partner to international customers in the engineering industry, primarily the automotive industry. FinnvedenBulten is structured into two divisions – Finnveden Metal Structures and Bulten – both with strong positions in their respective customer segments. The Group had net sales of SEK 2.6 billion in 2010. Further information can be found at [www.finnvedenbulten.com](http://www.finnvedenbulten.com).

**Division Bulten** is a leading business partner and supplier of fasteners to the international automotive industry. The division has four production sites and seven logistics and sales centers in Europe, the US and Asia. Bulten has its own R&D centers, advanced production technology and processes conforming to international quality and environmental

standards. The division has a close cooperation with the automotive industry, developing customer-specific solutions for every client. Further information can be found at [www.bulten.com](http://www.bulten.com).

**GAZ Group** is the largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in Russia. It includes 18 plants in ten regions of Russia, distribution and a service network. It produces light and medium-duty commercial vehicles, heavy-duty trucks, buses, cars, construction equipment, powertrain and automotive components. GAZ Group is the leader in the commercial vehicles market with about 50% in the markets of light commercial vehicles and all-wheel drive heavy-duty trucks, about 70% in the bus segment, over 40% in the engines segment and over 65% in the segments of wheel excavators and motor graders. The headquarters of GAZ Group is located in Nizhny Novgorod. The controlling shareholder of the company is Russian Machines Corporation. GAZ Group press service [NataliaVA@ruspromauto.ru](mailto:NataliaVA@ruspromauto.ru), [MariaVK@ruspromauto.ru](mailto:MariaVK@ruspromauto.ru)