

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **U.S. CUSTOMS PUTS eAUTO INDUSTRY IN THE FAST LANE AT THE BORDER**

**DEARBORN, Mich., April 19, 2002** — United States Customs Director of Field Operations, Kevin Weeks, today challenged automotive industry leaders to join in an initiative in America's fight against terrorism, the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) at the eAutoWorld Conference in Dearborn, Michigan.

C-TPAT is a joint initiative between government and business designed to protect the security of cargo entering the U. S. while improving the flow of trade. C-TPAT requires importers to adhere to rules put in place to evolve, assess and communicate new practices that ensure tighter security of cargo as it passes through borders. "Delays at the Canadian-U. S. border have a disastrous and costly effect on the automotive industry. The delays caused by the events of 9-11 have been especially hard on manufacturers that have to deal with border crossing," President of the Great Lakes Trade Corridor Association, Barry Bomier said. "The announcement by Weeks, earlier this week, that the U. S. Customs Service is launching C-TPAT is good news for the people attending this conference."

The eAutoWorld conference focuses on realistic e-business partnerships within the automotive industry between key players of the top automotive and technology companies as they merge together in the business world.

"We are very appreciative of Kevin Weeks for speaking to our attendees today," said Content Director, John Couretas. "The eAutoWorld conference was the ideal venue for bringing government-trade issues to the forefront of the automotive information technology industry."

eAutoWorld is a trade conference and exhibition featuring leading experts and executives in the automotive information technology industry. The conference focuses on practical and realistic e-business partnerships and solutions. eAutoWorld provides a forum for automotive manufacturers, distributors, parts suppliers and technology partners to discover how they can increase profits and improve core business operations. The conference was held at eAutoWorld at the Ritz-Carlton, in Dearborn, Mich. April 17-18. For more information on the show please visit [www.eautoworld.com](http://www.eautoworld.com) or call 1.800.830.3976.

Seven companies helped initiate the program. They are: BP America, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Motorola Inc., Sara Lee Corporation and Target. More than 200 importers have been invited to join C-TPAT. Thus far 60 have signed agreements and more than 100 additional applicants are pending. For more information please visit [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov).

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