

Another factor influencing future production concepts is that the automobile markets in Europe, Japan and North America are continuing to demand a very different automobile mix. The effect of the energy shocks have been largely overcome through more fuel efficient automobiles. Consumer interest in new product concepts is strong. These factors raise questions about the level of automotive production that may be maintained in Canada in the longer term. Only the GM Oshawa complex with its two automobile plants and one truck assembly plant and in-house and independent locally positioned parts suppliers appears to have the core features of the new flexible production system being developed. Neither Ford or Chrysler have as established or positioned production facilities in Canada. According to industry analysts each company has facilities in Canada which could be integrated into a flexible production system should such production centers be located in the United States within a distance that meets the delivery requirements of this assembly technique.