

Chrysler Group Delivers More Technology to the Masses

In a year when Chrysler Group will launch more vehicles than ever before, it is also launching more new technology. With 10 new Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep® vehicles this year, technologies such as Adaptive Cruise Control, Hill Start Assist, Trailer Sway Control and the expansion of Electronic Stability Program will bring relevant innovation to more customers.

Adaptive Cruise Control technology, for example, is offered for the first time on a Chrysler Group product with the 2007 Chrysler 300. This technology increases driving convenience by recognizing vehicles in the path of your vehicle, determining their speed and automatically intervening – through braking and accelerating – to keep a preset distance from them. Offering this premium technology on high-volume vehicles in the marketplace benefits a wide range of customers and their families.

With a focus on customer benefit and value, the company continues its expansion of Electronic Stability Program. This is one of the many technologies Chrysler Group uses to enhance driver control and make its vehicles even safer. The company is making this valuable technology standard on all its sport-utility vehicles (SUVs) in 2006 in the United States.

“Chrysler Group is committed to offering select and specific technologies that are right for our customers,” said Frank Klegon, Executive Vice President – Product Development, Chrysler Group. “We target mainstream markets, making truly beneficial technology available to a wider customer base.”

Technologies available on 2007 model-year Chrysler Group vehicles include:

3.0-liter V-6 Common Rail Diesel (CRD)

What it does: An advanced diesel power plant, it produces more torque than most eight-cylinder engines, equal acceleration and the fuel economy of a small six-cylinder gasoline engine. It is designed to be an efficient, smooth-running engine that gives customers improved fuel economy and produces lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions without sacrificing performance.

Availability: Jeep Grand Cherokee

4.0-liter SOHC V-6

What it does: This engine improves power and reduces noise, vibration and harshness over the 3.5-liter V-6 on which it is based. The new V-6 makes 255 hp and 265 lb.-ft. of torque.

Availability: Chrysler Pacifica and Dodge Nitro

Adaptive Cruise Control

What it does: Automatically decreases the vehicle’s preset cruise-control speed when closing in on another vehicle in the same lane, or when another vehicle pulls into the same lane. The system will accelerate to the preset speed when the vehicle in front speeds up or moves into another lane. Adaptive Cruise Control will maintain a specific distance between its vehicle and the one in front of it, allowing the use of cruise control in light traffic without having to continuously adjust settings.

Availability: Chrysler 300

Chill Zone™

What it does: Acts as a cooled-beverage storage bin. Can hold up to four 20-oz. (500-ml) bottles or cans.

Availability: Dodge Caliber

Continuously Variable Transmission 2 (CVT2)

What it does: This second-generation CVT has been calibrated for pleasing engine response and precise ratio control. The optional Auto Stick feature allows for manual selection of six simulated stepped gears.

Availability: Dodge Caliber and Jeep Compass

Continuously Variable Transmission 2 With Low Range (CVT2L)

What it does: Offers the same advantages of the CVT2 but with the addition of a low range that engages when the off-road mode is activated. This provides additional gear multiplication for improved off-road performance.

Availability: Jeep Patriot

Courtesy Puddle Lamps

What it does: Provides additional ground lighting to help make entry and exit safer and easier. Mounted in the side-view mirrors, these lamps work in conjunction with the dome light and remote keyless entry system.

Availability: Chrysler 300

Electromagnetically Coupled All-Wheel Drive

What it does: Featuring an on-demand electromagnetic coupling, it drives only the front wheels until power to the rear wheels is needed. All-wheel drive is also used on dry pavement between speeds of 25 mph and 65 mph to enhance handling during spirited driving. The system provides added traction on snow, ice and other low-traction surfaces automatically and seamlessly without having to be switched on and off.

Availability: Chrysler Pacifica and Dodge Caliber

Expansion of Electronic Stability Program (ESP)

What it does: Enhances driver control and helps maintain directional stability under all conditions. It provides the greatest benefit in critical driving situations, such as turns, and is especially valuable when driving on slippery surface conditions, such as snow, ice or gravel. If there's a discernible difference between what the driver asks through the steering wheel and the vehicle's path, ESP will apply selective braking and throttle input to put the vehicle back onto the driver's intended path.

Availability: Chrysler 300, Aspen, Crossfire, Pacifica and Sebring; Dodge Caliber, Charger, Durango, Magnum, Nitro, Ram 1500 and Sprinter; Jeep Commander, Compass, Grand Cherokee, Liberty, Patriot and Wrangler

Heated and Cooled Cup Holders

What it does: Helps keep beverages cold in the summer and hot in the winter. Using a Positive Temperature Coefficient ceramic element attached to the side of the aluminum cup holders, the element can heat to 140° F or to a nearly freezing 35° F.

Availability: Chrysler Sebring

Hill Descent Control

What it does: Allows a smooth and controlled hill descent on rough or slippery terrain without the driver needing to touch the brake pedal. This system applies the brakes to each wheel individually when needed to reduce forward motion while negotiating down steep grades.

Availability: Jeep Compass and Patriot

Hill Start Assist

What it does: Assists the driver when starting a vehicle from a stop on a hill by maintaining the same level of brake pressure the driver applied for a short period of time after the foot has been removed from the brake pedal. The system will release the brake pedal in proportion to the amount of throttle applied. If the throttle is not applied within a short period of time after the foot has been removed from the brake pedal, Hill Start Assist will release brake pressure.

Availability: Dodge Ram

Illuminated Front Cup Holders

What it does: Makes it easier to find the front cup holders while driving at night by illuminating them in blue-green to match the center-stack lighting.

Availability: Dodge Caliber

LOAD 'n GO™ Cargo Floor

What it does: Allows the cargo floor to slide 18 inches rearward for easy and convenient loading and unloading of packages; can hold up to 400 pounds. It is made of a heavy-duty plastic for easy cleaning. A compact utility table is an available option.

Availability: Dodge Nitro

Low-Risk Deployment Air Bags

What it does: These front-passenger air bags use unique shape, venting, folding patterns, advanced inflators or a combination of these four technologies to position and inflate the restraint properly for a belted passenger while also meeting federal safety requirements for out-of-position, small occupants and rear-facing infant seats. Even with these advanced front-passenger air bags, all occupants are advised to always sit properly in their seats with the seat belt fastened. Children 12 and younger should always be seated in a back seat correctly, using an infant- or child-restraint system or having the seat belt positioned correctly for their age and weight.

Availability: Chrysler 300, Aspen and Sebring; Dodge Charger, Dakota, Durango, Magnum and Ram; Jeep Commander, Grand Cherokee and Patriot

MusicGate Power™

What it does: When the liftgate is open, the speakers can swing out from the trim panel to face rearward for tailgate parties and picnics. The available nine-speaker Boston Acoustics premium sound system with subwoofer includes two articulating speakers packaged in the liftgate.

Availability: Dodge Caliber

ParkView™ Rear Back-up Camera

What it does: Provides a wide-angle view of the area immediately behind the vehicle, giving the driver greater peace of mind before backing up. Also aids in lining up a trailer with the vehicle's towing hitch, when so equipped. The image is automatically displayed on the navigation screen when the transmission is shifted into "reverse."

Availability: Chrysler Pacifica; Jeep Commander and Grand Cherokee

Remote Start

What it does: Starts the vehicle's engine from up to 300 feet away. If the vehicle is equipped with Automatic Climate Control, it will automatically adjust, providing defrost, heat or air conditioning based on the outside temperature. Control of the Remote Start system is integrated into the vehicle's remote keyless entry fob.

Availability: Dodge Dakota, Durango and Nitro

Removable Flashlight

What it does: Mounts in the headliner above the cargo area and snaps out of the bezel. It has a dual purpose, functioning as the dome light and a removable flashlight.

Availability: Dodge Caliber; Jeep Compass and Patriot

Six-Speed Automatic Transmission

What it does: Lowers engine speed at highway speeds for improved fuel economy, thanks to an added compounder and two clutches. It's based on the four-speed 41TES transmission.

Availability: Chrysler Pacifica and Sebring

Supplemental Signal Mirrors

What it does: This increases the visibility of the turn signal and helps alert other drivers. Features bright light-emitting diodes (LEDs) within the side mirrors, which activate and blink when the turn signal is engaged.

Availability: Chrysler 300

Trailer Sway Control

What it does: Reduces trailer sway and improves handling in adverse towing conditions caused by crosswinds, traffic and improper weight distribution on the trailer. The system monitors the vehicle's movement relative to the driver's intended path, and the vehicle yaw sensor recognizes sway. Trailer Sway Control applies brake pressure on one front wheel to counteract the yaw induced by the trailer and applies brake pressure to all four wheels to slow the vehicle. As the trailer sways to the other side of the vehicle, Trailer Sway Control will increase pressure to the opposite side of the vehicle. The system will continue to apply alternating brake pressure and reduce engine torque until the trailer is under control.

Availability: Dodge Durango

World Engine

What it does: Three World Engine offerings (1.8-, 2.0- and 2.4-liter) provide 150 hp, 156 hp and 172 hp (110 kW, 115 kW and 127 kW), respectively. A turbo version of the 2.4-liter produces 300 hp (224 kW) for the Dodge Caliber SRT4. Chrysler Group engineers met aggressive performance and fuel-economy targets through advanced cylinder-head port and intake-manifold design. Technologies include dual variable-valve timing and intake-manifold design with flow control valves. Combined, these features produce more power, better fuel economy and smoother, quieter operation.

Availability: Dodge Caliber; Jeep Compass and Patriot

YES Essentials® Seat Fabric

What it does: Offers three key benefits: repelling stains, controlling odor and reducing static electricity. Dual-action technology repels and releases spills that would stain other auto fabrics. This technology also allows the upholstery surface to dry quickly. In addition, YES Essentials seating fabric reduces static electricity generated when entering or exiting the vehicle – a first for improving the comfort of drivers and occupants.

Availability: Chrysler Aspen and Pacifica; Dodge Caliber; Jeep Compass, Patriot and Wrangler