

Constellium supplies aluminium structural parts for the Ford F-150

Constellium will supply the US car-maker Ford with high-strength aluminium structural parts for the new Ford F-150 pick-up. In addition to the aluminium concerns Alcoa and Novelis, Constellium is one of the largest suppliers of Ford for these components of the F-150. The 2015 Ford F-150 has the best towing and payload capability among comparable pick-ups in the branch. This is because it uses high-strength steel for the frame and a high-strength aluminium alloy for the body, so it is up to 320 kilograms lighter.

In order to keep pace with the rising demand, Constellium has doubled its production capacity at its plant in Van Buren, Michigan, and enhanced its prototyping and development capacities. "Due to our innovative solutions and the expansion of our production capacities for components in the USA, Europe and China Constellium is strongly positioned to meet the demand around the world," explained Paul Warton, President of Constellium's Automotive Structures and Industry business unit.

The body and loading area of the new F-150 are made completely of aluminium, which is unusual for a high-volume vehicle. The F-150 is seen as heart of Ford's F-series – the series that has been successful for more than 60 years now. This embodiment of a "truck", which is the name Americans give this segment, has been the biggest-selling pick-up truck in North America for 37 years – and even the biggest-selling car there for 32 years, with sales of 763,000 recently in the USA alone. The truck is put to use for tough jobs, such as at construction sites or to pull trailers.

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