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by Jeff MacNelly **GM wins bid for Hughes Aircraft Co.**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — General Motors Corp. was named the winning bidder for Hughes Aircraft Co. Wednesday, agreeing to pay \$1.5 billion for one of the nation's leading advanced electronics.

The announcement was made by GM Chairman Roger B. Smith and Hughes executives at a news conference in New York, where GM, Ford Motor Co. and Boeing Co. had secret bids for the big defense electronics company.

Smith said the Hughes deal, GM's \$2.5 billion acquisition of Electronic Data Systems Corp. last year, had put in place the basics for a grand plan of reshaping GM as a high-technology company.

"There's still some pieces there," Smith said. "But I'd say now with EDS and Hughes and General Motors, we have the basic building blocks that we need to go forward."

Smith had tantalized the business world for more than a year with statements that he had "a lulu" announcement coming.

"The lulu has come home," he said.

The move allows GM to diversify but Smith made it clear that he after Hughes' technology for under GM's 150 factories and under the hoods of its cars.

Despite its name, Hughes is not make aircraft. Its specialties are missiles, air-defense systems, satellites and the exotic systems of engineering and microelectronics the U.S. auto industry has been fond of.

"We felt they were the preeminent electronics company in the world," Smith said of Hughes. "Of course electronics, we believe going to be the key to the 21st century. It certainly is for our automobile."

Hughes was sold by Hughes Medical Institute, which had been the sole shareholder since 1953. The company and its assets were founded by the late industrialist Howard Hughes.

Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc., the investment firm advising the medical institute, said the deal was the largest sale ever of a privately held industrial company.

Thomas O'Grady, a senior director of the research firm Chase Manhattan Services, said GM's \$2.5 billion \$84 billion in 1984 sales compared with \$5 billion for Hughes — less the importance of diversification compared with GM's quest for technology.

"For GM, it's better to purchase high-tech where it already is taking place," O'Grady said. "It's faster; they have to be faster because of Japanese competition."

The Hughes acquisition will allow GM to challenge again for the spot among the world's top industrial companies. Based on 1984 sales, the GM-Hughes combination just \$2 billion behind the \$90 billion in sales by Exxon Corp., which placed GM as No. 1 in 1979.

Fibers foster toxic shock

Tampon mystery solved

Associated Press

BOSTON — Doctors said Wednesday they have solved the mystery of how some highly absorbent tampons contribute to toxic shock syndrome, and their discovery should allow the production of safe tampons.

Researchers at Harvard Medical School said two kinds of fiber used in tampons foster the production of a bacterial poison that causes the rare disorder.

The fibers remove magnesium from the vagina, which produces an ideal environment for bacteria to make the dangerous toxin. If magnesium is added to tampons made from this material, the researchers said, they appear to be safe.

"We hope we have found a means for making tampon fibers such that they will not stimulate maximum toxic production," Dr. Edward H. Kass said.

The two materials that absorb magnesium are polyester foam and polyacrylate rayon.

Tampons now being sold are made from cotton, viscose rayon and carboxymethylcellulose, which the doctors said are safe.

The study is being published in the June issue of the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

The national Centers for Disease Control says that between 1980 and 1984, 114 died of toxic shock syndrome. Three-quarters of the victims were tampon users, but the disorder also strikes men and children.

Kass said that some surgical dressings also contain the two fibers they identified, possibly the explanation for the toxic shock cases among men and children.

Toxic shock syndrome most commonly occurs on the fourth menstrual day. The researchers speculate that during the days of heavy blood flow there's so much magnesium in the vagina that the tampon cannot bind it all.

But as blood flow slows, magnesium levels drop. Then the tampons remove enough magnesium to induce high production of toxin.

Toxic shock is extremely rare, and the incidence has dropped by 50 percent. About three-quarters of all American women used tampons in 1980.

Tornado death toll reaches 88; 2 more people die from injuries

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Two more people have died of injuries suffered in last week's deadly tornadoes, raising the death toll to 88, authorities said Wednesday.

Estimates of the number of homes and businesses damaged or destroyed in Pennsylvania alone climbed to 2,400, at a cost of nearly \$226 million, said officials as they continued their detailed assessment of the tornadoes' destruction.

Tornadoes that swept through western New York, western Pennsylvania, northeastern Ohio and part of Ontario, Canada, killed 64 people in Pennsylvania, 12 in Ohio and 12 in Canada.

A Trumbull Memorial Hospital spokeswoman said 75-year-old Anthony Squatrito, of Wheatland, Pa., died Tuesday afternoon. Squatrito was the eighth Wheatland resident to die from the storm.

A dozen businesses were devastated, and 50 homes were destroyed in the tiny Mercer County town.

On Monday night, Miriam Wag-

ner, 57, of Milton, died at Muncy Valley Hospital from multiple injuries, state police Trooper Thomas Isenberg said Wednesday.

The tornadoes raked 13 Pennsylvania counties, 12 of which were declared disaster areas by President Reagan. An estimated 700 people were injured statewide.

As state and federal agencies continued their relief efforts, John Comey, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, said the most critical phase was over.

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DJ upsets town by reporting Lucas look-alike

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — The driver of a yellow pickup truck Thomas Poindexter spotted on his way to work looked exactly like multiple murderer Henry Lee Lucas, so when Poindexter got to his radio disc jockey job, he told listeners what he had seen.

The result, authorities said, was a mild panic in Marlin, the Falls County town where station KLMT is located, and a flood of calls to the station's switchboard.

Lucas was safely behind bars in the jail of neighboring McLennan County Tuesday, when Poindexter was driving to work.

"I saw a guy who looked just like Henry Lee Lucas," Poindexter said. "I mean he looked exactly like Lucas. I couldn't believe it."

Lucas, a one-time drifter, has been held in the McLennan County Jail the past seven weeks while a grand jury investigation of his murder confessions is being conducted. He has confessed to dozens of murders and retracted most of them.

Shortly after Poindexter aired his report, the KLMT switchboard was flooded "with more than 100" telephone calls from people wanting to know how Lucas had escaped.

Vida Johnson, secretary for the Falls County Sheriff's Department, also began getting phone calls from concerned residents. She decided to call Capt. Dan Weyenberg of the McLennan County Sheriff's Department.

"I told her that we'd run out of doughnuts and had sent Henry out for some more," Weyenberg said.

"She didn't seem to think it was funny."

"Needless to say, Lucas was in here, and has not left for anywhere."

Poindexter was called, and at 9:10 a.m. he had aired a retraction informing listeners that Lucas still in police custody in Waco.

"I really didn't mean to cause a scare," Poindexter said. "I just started a little panic. We had to announce several times that Lucas still in jail."

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