

Technology

2018 Chevrolet Impala comes with new standard features

All-new Impala available at Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms

KUWAIT: Chevrolet Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, introduced the all-new Impala 2018 which comes with new standard features to bring customers a luxury sedan loaded with advanced technology and brimming with power.

Available at all Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms, the Impala 2018 sets itself apart from competition thanks to its advanced standard features including the Rear Vision Camera, the 8-inch infotainment touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, the Passive Entry/Passive Start for keyless entry, the Push Start Engine and the Rear Park Assist.

New standard features

A standard feature to the all-new Impala 2018 is its Rear Vision Camera which enables drivers to see stationary objects behind them while reversing at low speeds. The Rear Vision Camera comes with the Rear Park Assist features, giving drivers a smooth and enjoyable driving experience.

The 2018 Impala also offers other high-tech convenience including its brilliant 8-inch Chevrolet MyLink touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto which provides information, entertainment and constant connection. The touchscreen enables users to order and choose apps with a simple drag-and-drop control. The system also includes a variety of music options that sound all the more incredible with the great interior acoustics of the Impala.

The Passive Entry/Passive Start provides a luxury entry in the Impala by simply pressing the sensor on the door handle to unlock, and then with a push of a button, start the car's engine, all while leaving the keys in the pocket.

Also 2018 Impala offers other high-tech convenience such as the Remote Starter System to start the vehicle in a press of a button. When started remotely, the doors immediately lock, and the climate controls activate to their most previous setting, warming or cooling the interior appropriately.

Performance and best-in-class safety

The Impala 2018 distinguishes itself in its class thanks to a 3.6L V-6 engine that's the most powerful naturally aspirated six-cylinder engine in the segment. Output for the engine is rated at 305 horsepower. Impala is loaded with some of the most advanced safety features available. 10 air bags



come standard - more than most other vehicles in the full-size sedan segment. Impala also

Luxury sedan loaded with advanced technology

newly launched Impala is in its reinforced high-strength steel safety cage to give drivers and passengers the protection and confidence they need on every drive. Owners of the all-new Impala 2018 benefit as well from the Chevrolet Complete Care Program, which provides many additional services to enrich their experience with Chevrolet Alghanim.

Chevrolet "Complete Care" Program

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A.

features StabiliTrak(r) to help you keep control in all types of weather condition and Collision Mitigation Braking technology to help reduce the impact of a collision. The car also comes with standard safety features which include Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Side Blind Zone Alert and Forward Collision Alert. A key advancement made on the



Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Complete Care Program is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery,

quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

Customers can view and test the all-new Impala 2018 at any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Sharq, Fahahel and Ahmadi.

Pressured for profit, oil majors bet big on shale technology

HOUSTON: Shale oil engineer Oscar Portillo spends his days drilling as many as five wells at once - without ever setting foot on a rig. Part of a team working to cut the cost of drilling a new shale well by a third, Portillo works from a Royal Dutch Shell Plc office in suburban Houston, his eyes darting among 13 monitors flashing data on speed, temperature and other metrics as he helps control rigs more than 500 miles (805 km) away in the Permian Basin, the largest US oilfield.

For the last decade, smaller oil companies have led the way in shale technology, slashing costs by as much as half with breakthroughs such as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing that turned the United States into the world's fastest-growing energy exporter.

Now, oil majors that were slow to seize on shale are seeking further efficiencies by adapting technologies for highly automated offshore operations to shale and pursuing advances in digitalization that have reshaped industries from auto manufacturing to retail.

If they are successful, the US oil industry's ability to bring more wells to production at lower cost could amp up future output and company profits. The firms could also frustrate the ongoing effort by The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) effort to drain a global oil glut.

"We're bringing science into the art of drilling wells," Portillo said. The technological push comes amid worries that US shale gains are slowing as investors press for higher financial returns. Many investors want producers to restrain spending and focus on generating higher returns, not volume, prompting some to pull back on drilling.

Production at a majority of publicly traded shale producers rose just 1.3 percent over the first three quarters this year, according to Morgan Stanley. But many US shale producers vowed during third quarter earnings disclosures to deliver higher returns through technology, with many forecasting aggressive output hikes into 2018. Chevron Corp is using drones equipped with thermal imaging to detect leaks in oil tanks and pipelines across its shale fields, avoiding traditional ground inspections and lengthy shutdowns.

Ryan Lance, chief executive of ConocoPhillips - the largest US independent oil and gas producer - sees ample opportunity to boost both profits and output. Conoco also oversees remote drilling operations in a similar way to Shell. "The people that don't have shale in their portfolios don't understand it, frankly," Lance said in an interview. "They think it's going to go away quickly because of the high decline rates, or that the resource is not nearly that substantial. They're wrong on both counts."

Shell, in an initiative called "iShale," has marshaled technology from a dozen oilfield suppliers, including devices from subsea specialist TechnipFMC Plc that separate fracking sand from oil and well-control software from Emerson Electric Co, to bring more automation and data analysis to shale operations. One idea borrowed from deepwater projects is using sensors to automatically adjust well flows and control separators that divvy natural gas, oil and water. Today, these subsea systems are expensive because they are built to operate at the extreme pressures and temperatures found miles under the ocean's surface. —Reuters

Russia loses contact with satellite after launch from new spaceport

MOSCOW: Russia said it had lost contact yesterday with a weather satellite just hours after it was launched from its Vostochny cosmodrome, in only the second rocket liftoff from the new spaceport.

The glitch is a fresh embarrassment for Russia's beleaguered space program which has suffered a series of setbacks over recent years as Moscow seeks to ease dependence on the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

"During the first scheduled communication session with the space vehicle, contact has not been established because it is not on its planned orbit," the Russian space agency Roscosmos said in a statement.

"Information is currently being analyzed." The statement did not provide further details and its representatives declined immediate comment. Marking another milestone after the inaugural liftoff last year, the Soyuz rocket carrying the Meteor weather satellite and other equipment took off at 2:41 pm (05:41 GMT) from far eastern Russia.

"All the initial stages of the rocket's flight went according to plan," Roscosmos said after the liftoff. National television broadcast live footage of the launch, showing the rocket taking off into a grey sky in the Amur region near the Chinese border. Apart from the weather satellite, the rocket carried 18 payloads from institutions and companies in Canada, the United States, Japan, Germany, Sweden and Norway, the space agency said.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Monday that such contracts would help Russia modernise its space industry. "The launch of foreign devices with the help of Russian launch vehicles should strengthen our positions on the global market of space services and increase the volume of extra-budgetary funds and investments," Medvedev told a meeting.

The first launch from Vostochny spaceport took place in April 2016, with President Vladimir Putin overseeing the take-off. It represented a major development for the country's space sector, with the new cosmodrome touted to mark a rebirth of an industry plagued by a string of embarrassments. In December last year, an unmanned Progress ship carrying supplies lost contact with Earth

Scandal-hit Uber hits the road to reassure regulators

TOKYO: Uber executives are travelling the globe to reassure regulators that the company is changing the way it does business, after a massive data breach became the latest controversy to hurt the ride-service firm's reputation. Uber Technologies Inc is also continuing talks with Japan's SoftBank Group Corp over an investment, Brooks Entwistle, Uber's recently appointed chief business officer for Asia Pacific, told Reuters on Monday.

Uber disclosed last week that it covered

up an October 2016 data breach involving 57 million customers and about 600,000 drivers. The company said it paid two hackers \$100,000 to destroy the stolen data and keep the matter a secret.

The revelation, made by Uber's new Chief Executive Officer Dara Khosrowshahi in a blog post, prompted governments in countries including Britain, the United States, Mexico, Australia and the Philippines to launch probes into the breach and Uber's handling of the matter.

The global backlash will test Uber's new collaborative approach to regulators, a stark change from the rule-breaking culture created by former CEO Travis Kalanick. "We have changed tacks in so many ways in dealing with regulators, dealing with governments," Entwistle said in an interview in Tokyo, where he is meeting Japanese officials and potential business partners. Nevertheless, Chicago Mayor Rahm

Emanuel and Kimberly Foxx, the public prosecutor for Cook County, Illinois, said on Monday they filed a consumer fraud lawsuit against Uber for its failure to protect the data of its customers and drivers, accusing the company of violating local laws by failing to promptly disclose the breach. "We are committed to changing the way we do business, putting integrity at the core of every decision we make, and working hard to regain the trust of consumers," Uber said in a statement.

Also on Monday, fresh questions came from US lawmakers demanding an explanation for the company's handling of the breach. Republican senators John Thune, Orrin Hatch, Jerry Moran and Bill Cassidy sent a letter to Khosrowshahi seeking answers about the data theft and cover-up, which they called "a serious incident that merits further scrutiny." The senators requested a response from Uber by Dec. 11. Hatch chairs the Senate Committee on

Finance and Thune chairs the Commerce Science and Transportation Committee. In a separate letter sent Monday, Senator Mark Warner, a Democrat and advocate of the technology industry including the on-demand sector that includes Uber, sent a letter to Khosrowshahi with detailed questions about Uber's security systems and rationale for covering up the breach.

The disclosure of the 2016 data breach at a time when Uber is trying to bring in SoftBank as an investor has spurred speculation about the price of the deal. SoftBank and Dragoneer Investment Group agreed on Nov. 12 to lead a group that would invest as much as \$10 billion in Uber, people familiar with the deal previously told Reuters. The group plans to directly invest \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion at Uber's current \$69 billion valuation, and also buy at a lower valuation shares held by existing investors and employees. —Reuters



The Soyuz-2.1b rocket carrying Russia's Meteor-M 2-1 weather satellite and other equipment lifts off from the launch pad at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Ulglegorsk, about 200 kms from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region yesterday. —AFP

minutes after blast-off and burnt up in the atmosphere over Siberia. In April 2015, a failed Progress launch was also blamed on a problem with the Soyuz rocket, a space workhorse dating back to the Cold War-era.

Launches 'will grow'

The third launch from Vostochny is scheduled for December 22. "The program of launches will continue next year - it will grow, increase," Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who oversees space, told Medvedev on Monday. The Kremlin's goal is to ease Russia's dependence on Baikonur in Kazakhstan, a launchpad Moscow has been forced to rent since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russia is also home to the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the north, which is used for satellite launches and missile testing. But Vostochny, like Baikonur, is closer to the equator, making launches cheaper and more energy-efficient.