

## DELOREAN PUSHING NEW CAR PLAN

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- **John Z. DeLorean**, smiling and optimistic, met here Wednesday with several businessmen to hammer out plans for a new high-performance sports car bearing his name.

"We're working hard at it right now," **DeLorean** said. "There's an infinity of details that have to be worked out."

**DeLorean** met with Gordon Novel, a New Orleans businessman, and Don Bowman, a Columbus businessman who directed the sales of the previous **DeLorean** sports cars after **DeLorean Motor Co.** went bankrupt.

Also discussing the new car was Columbus businessman Marvin Katz, who bought millions of dollars in parts from the bankrupt company and has agreed to supply parts for the new car project.

Katz told reporters he is not otherwise involved. "I'll sell parts to anybody," Katz said.

A new car for **DeLorean** faces several hurdles, including a possible legal battle over manufacturing rights and a federal grand jury investigation of **DeLorean** in Detroit. **DeLorean's** attorney has said he expects his client to be indicted by the grand jury.

**DeLorean** would disclose no dollar figure for the new car plan, but he said he hoped to leave Columbus in several days with enough information to attract private investors. No public stock offering is planned, he said.

Investors in **DeLorean's** previous company sued and settled out of court in a bankruptcy case in Detroit to recover their lost investment. The bankruptcy is proceeding before Judge Ray Reynolds Graves amid allegations **DeLorean** stole millions of dollars from his previous company.

Novel has said in the past that he and **DeLorean** have a "50-50" agreement to build an updated version of the gull-wing door **DeLorean** car. The new vehicle, with a larger engine, would go more than 200 m.p.h. -- making it the fastest production car in the world, Novel has said.

Wednesday, Novel repeated that claim: "I will absolutely bet you anything you want to bet . . . that it will be the fastest car in the world."

Bowman confirmed previous reports that Columbus is being "strongly considered" for the new assembly site. Novel has said that only a few hundred of the new high-performance cars would be built annually.

**DeLorean** said Columbus could be a good location because of the Katz parts supply and an automobile testing facility near the city.

**DeLorean** 's previous stainless-steel sports car was made in 1981-82 in a Northern Ireland plant funded largely by the British government. That car company went under after **DeLorean** was arrested in 1982 in the United States on drug charges. He was acquitted of those charges last year.

In Columbus, **DeLorean** viewed a videotape of deep-sea divers who found some of the dies used to stamp out parts for his previous car. Novel discovered in May that the dies were sold as scrap metal after the Northern Ireland plant closed. Divers hired by Novel found the dies in 60 feet of water in a bay in the Republic of Ireland. The dies were being used to anchor fish nets.

**DeLorean** and Novel said Wednesday they were undecided about using the dies for the new car or if the dies still would be usable.

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