

Faurecia ordered to pay \$10 million in breach of confidentiality

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DETROIT -- Auto parts supplier Multimatic Inc. was awarded nearly \$10 million by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, for a breach-of-confidentiality lawsuit that the company brought against Faurecia Interior Systems U.S.A. Inc. in 2005.

Multimatic had sought \$40 million in damages.

The two companies signed a confidentiality agreement in February 2004 under which the French parts supplier would protect Multimatic's design and technology for a proprietary crossbeam. Faurecia wanted to use the crossbeam to mount instrument panels in Chrysler's JS program, the code name for the replacement for the Chrysler Sebring/Dodge Stratus cars.

In April 2005, Faurecia violated the confidentiality agreement when it shopped for bids to manufacture Multimatic's crossbeam design from Multimatic competitors.

Multimatic, of Markham, Ontario, sued in June 2005, and the case went to trial last month. Faurecia, of Nanterre, France, ranks No. 8 on the *Automotive News* list of the top 100 global suppliers, with parts sales to the automakers of \$15.00 billion in 2006.

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