

RAJ NAIR

Executive Director, Ford Motor Company

Raj Nair is Executive Director, Commodity Business Planning. In this capacity, he has direct, overall responsibility for improving Ford's material cost competitiveness. To achieve this goal, Nair leads a cross-functional team from Product Development, Purchasing and Manufacturing and is responsible for implementing both near term and long term actions in support of the America's Way Forward Plan. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Nair was Executive Director, North American Product Development for all Truck and SUV Body on Frame Platforms.

Nair joined Ford Motor Company in 1987 as a Body and Assembly Operations launch engineer. Since then, he has held various positions on more than 11 vehicle launches in 13 assembly plants in five countries.

In North America, he was the Launch Supervisor for the 1994 Lincoln Town Car, Continental, Mark VIII and the 1995 Contour/Mystique and later responsible for the 1997 Right Hand Drive Explorer launch and Lincoln LS prototype programs.

While in Europe, Nair was the Vehicle Operations Launch Manager for the 1996 European Fiesta. He then took on responsibility for all Ford of Europe launches including the 1998 Puma, 1999 Focus, 2000 Transit and 2001 Mondeo.

On returning to North America, Nair was appointed Director, New Model Programs, Advanced & Manufacturing Engineering/Vehicle Operations. In this position, he was responsible for all Ford North American Vehicle Operations launches, oversaw the New Model Programs Development Center and helped reinstitute Ford's Launch Quality Operating System.

In 2004, Nair was named Executive Director, SUV Body on Frame Platforms, North American Product Development. He was given the added responsibility for product development for all Body on Frame Platforms in 2005.

The son of two professors, Nair was born in 1964 in St. Louis, Missouri. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering automotive specialty from Kettering University. As part of his undergraduate studies, he spent five years as a co-op at General Motor's St. Louis Assembly Plant. Nair also is a certified 6 Sigma Green Belt, trained in forming and facilitating six sigma teams and projects from concept to completion.

An avid motorsports fan, Nair is a former Formula Ford and Formula 2000 race car driver. He currently resides in Saline, Michigan with his wife and two daughters.