

# Vehicle Dynamics International Awards 2012

IT'S TIME TO UNVEIL THE WINNERS OF THE 2012 VEHICLE DYNAMICS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS! OUR ACCOLADES REMAIN UNIQUE IN RECOGNIZING THE BEST IDEAS, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF VEHICLE DYNAMICS DEVELOPMENT. READ ON FOR FULL DETAILS...

## Car of the Year

Strictly speaking this ought to be *Cars of the Year*, but there's so little difference between the Subaru BRZ and the Toyota GT86 that they were counted together in the judging process. They needed that combined strength to fend off their rivals, too, for the Porsche 911 and in particular the impressive new BMW 3 Series ran the Japanese twins close for the category win.

Damian Harty was among those won over by the two OEMs' approach to their new sports cars: "Engineering choices driven by dynamic considerations are always going to get my vote," he said.

Accepting the award, Subaru's Toshio Masuda commented, "We always want our customers to understand the high base potential of the Boxer engine and how driving Subaru products instills confidence in the driver. The Subaru BRZ showcases our endeavors, and with an even lower engine position, it achieved an ultra-low center of gravity."

From the Toyota side, chief engineer Tetsuya Tada added, "I want people to have fun in their cars, to make their everyday life enjoyable. With the GT86, my team was focused on bringing back pure driving pleasure and I believe that this philosophy is strongly demonstrated in the final product. To have this achievement recognized is a great honor and I would like to thank VDI for this prestigious award."

## CAR OF THE YEAR

### Winner

Subaru BRZ/Toyota GT86

### Highly Commended

BMW 3 Series

### Also shortlisted

Ford Focus

Porsche 911



## THE JURY



**Paul Burnham**,  
vehicle dynamics  
manager, McLaren  
Automotive, UK

Paul worked in F1 before moving across to McLaren Automotive, where he leads the dynamics team responsible for the award-winning MP4-12C.



**Peter Cambridge**,  
principal, Peter  
Cambridge & Associates

A former Prodrive engineer, Cambridge has just finished a stint with Bilstein and is now freelance once again. He currently works for a UK-based OEM.



**Matt Davis**,  
freelance writer, Italy

Italy-based, USA-born Davis has been in motoring journalism for 15 years. He is highly respected by outlets worldwide, including *Genroq* and of course *Vehicle Dynamics International*.



**Damian Harty**,  
senior research fellow,  
Coventry University

Harty has spent a large amount of time in industry, most recently as dynamics specialist for Prodrive's Mini WRC project, and has now moved full-time into academia.



**Graham Heeps**, editor,  
*Vehicle Dynamics International*

At the helm of VDI since 2005, Heeps has recently added *Tire Technology International* and *Automotive Testing Technology International* to his portfolio.



**John Heider**,  
principal, Cayman  
Dynamics

Formerly with Ford, VDI columnist Heider now runs the Cayman Dynamics consultancy, which works with OEMs, suppliers, and other companies in the transportation industry.