

## Sands Chevy breaks ground on first dealership at Prasada

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Sands Chevrolet broke ground Wednesday on what will be the first car dealership to open at the future 303 Auto Show in Surprise.

The venue will be called Sands Chevrolet at Prasada, a nod to the Prasada mall that Westcor expects to build across from the autoplex, which will stretch along Loop 303 between Cactus and Waddell roads.

The Chevrolet dealership is going up closer to Waddell Road and Cotton Lane, and eventually will connect to a Kia dealership also owned by Sands.

Though construction of both dealerships could wrap as early as late this year, the Chevrolet outlet would likely open for business in February and Kia's in summer 2009. The Chevrolet dealership will be about 94,000 square feet and could employ 200 to 250 people. The Kia outlet is planned at 25,000 square feet and could have 50 to 75 employees.

The dealerships' architecture is supposed to incorporate several eco-friendly features to complement new models of hybrid and electric cars that Chevrolet expects to roll out by 2011, said Sands' construction consultant Tom Patrick. In addition to Chevrolet's hybrid Tahoe and Malibu, the company is working on an upgraded Malibu hybrid as well as an all-electric car called the Volt, Patrick said.

Now that dirt is moving on the Sands site, other 303 Auto Show dealers are expected to start construction soon, according to city officials.