Steve Kroft: Obviously, you saw something in Chrysler that you thought would fit well with Fiat?

Sergio Marchionne: From a product standpoint, they were the other half of the coin. When you put the two together, we were going to come out with a product portfolio that was absolutely complete.

Chrysler's best assets were its Jeeps, minivans, and light trucks. Fiat's expertise was in small car technology and fuel-efficient engines, the very thing that Chrysler lacked. And next month, the first product of that collaboration will begin rolling off the assembly line in Belvidere, Illinois.

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Marchionne splits his time between the Fiat headquarters in Turin, Italy, and Chrysler headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan, but he is fully engaged on both continents at all times.

Steve Kroft: When you're here, do you get calls? Do you have to deal with Fiat? Sergio Marchionne: Yeah. That's why I get up at 3:30 in the morning, so I can deal with the European side and be here by the time I get in. I mean, the other thing that helps is the—our time zones.