Media Release

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Canadian Universities Help Advance Automotive Research and Development

For immediate release May 21, 2009

Windsor, ON: Increasing fuel efficiency, creating greener vehicle parts, preventing whiplash injuries and protecting newborns and premature infants through better car seats are just some of the ways Canadian automotive researchers are contributing to the car of tomorrow. These projects are part of a $10 million investment in Canadian automotive R&D by the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence and its industry and public-sector partners.

AUTO21 is Canada's national automotive research network, with more than 220 researchers at 45 universities across the country helping to advance vehicle technology. The two-year $10 million investment will provide funding for 20 new projects that will provide technology and knowledge for Canada's automotive sector. AUTO21 is providing approximately $4 million while 59 industry partners are contributing about $6 million.

"These projects represent the highest scientific excellence and the strongest commercialization opportunities," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 CEO and scientific director. "More importantly, the projects are providing unique training opportunities for graduate students at universities across Canada."

The projects join AUTO21's current research portfolio of 32 projects. Each project is led by an expert researcher who coordinates the efforts of a national team of investigators and student researchers in collaboration with a private or public-sector partner.

"While the auto sector faces challenging times, it is important for Canada to continue to develop innovative technologies for when the market returns," said Dr. John Mann, chair of the AUTO21 board of directors. "Some of the best and brightest minds in automotive research are in Canada, and it is through this brainpower that the nation will find success in the global market."

AUTO21 supports research projects in six key areas: health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. AUTO21 is supported by the Government of Canada through a Networks of Centres of Excellence program, and its administrative centre is hosted by the University of Windsor.

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Backgrounder

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AUTO21 New Project Funding (2009-2011)

AUTO21 and its partners are investing approximately $10 million in 20 new projects. Full summaries of the projects and information on existing projects can be found at www.auto21.ca.

Project Title	Project Leader/University
Health, Safety and Injury Prevention	
Innovations for Children's Safety in Vehicles	Dr. William Altenhof, University of Windsor Dr. Anne Snowdon, University of Windsor Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, McMaster University
Manufacturing Ergonomics Through Improved Simulation and Modeling	Dr. Jim Potvin, McMaster University
Reducing Occupant Injury in Rear-End Collisions	Dr. Douglas Romilly, University of British Columbia
Societal Issues	
Understanding and Preventing Automobile-Linked Crime	Dr. Rick Linden, University of Manitoba Dr. Robert Mann, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Dr. Reginald Smart, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Materials and Manufacturing	
Laser Transmission Welding – Intercooler Development	Dr. Phil Bates, Royal Military College
Powder Metallurgy for High-Performance Powertrain Components	Dr. Carl Blais, Université Laval
Renewable, Recyclable and Lightweight Structural Prototype Parts	Dr. Amar Mohanty, University of Guelph Dr. Mohini Sain, University of Toronto
Recyclable, Lightweight Polymeric Nanocomposites	Dr. Hani Naguib, University of Toronto
Advanced High-Strength Steel Microstructures for Low and High-Rate Applications	Dr. Keith Pilkey, Queen's University
Lightweight Cast Components and Magnesium Recycling	Dr. Jerry Sokolowski, University of Windsor
High-Strength, Lightweight Cast Powertrain Components	Dr. Mary Wells, University of Waterloo
Magnesium Casting Processes III	Dr. Jeff Wood, University of Western Ontario
Powertrains, Fuels and Emissions	
Energy Storage in Lithium Ion Batteries	Dr. Gillian Goward, McMaster University
Second Generation Biofuels for Sustainable Transportation	Dr. Murray Thompson, University of Toronto
Infrastructure for Wide Market Adoption of PHEV	Dr. Maxime Dubois, Université Laval
Design Processes	
Multidisciplinary Optimization of Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Batteries	Dr. Bartosz Protas, McMaster University
Intelligent Systems and Sensors	
Wireless Sensor Networks for Communicative and Adaptive Cars	Dr. Soumaya Cherkaoui, Université de Sherbrooke Dr. Shahrokh Valaee, University of Toronto
Mems-Based Intelligent Active Safety Systems	Dr. Sazzadur Chowdhury, University of Windsor
Self-Sustained Active Smart Engine Mount Isolators	Dr. Farid Golnaraghi, Simon Fraser University
Pollution and Particle Sensors for Environment-Aware Vehicles	Dr. Wai Tung Ng, University of Toronto
Automotive Glass Exciter Technologies	Dr. Colin Novak, University of Windsor

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