



## Media Release

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### New International Collaborations will Enhance Canadian and Norwegian Automotive Research

For immediate release

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Windsor, ON: Collaborating on automotive research became easier today for Canadian and Norwegian investigators. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by officials on behalf of the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence, Canada's automotive R&D organization and RTIM Raufoss, a technology institution that manages the Norwegian Centre of Expertise in automotive light materials research and automated production.

The agreement will allow researchers in each country easier access for knowledge transfer and exchange through the development of joint projects within the areas of manufacturing and materials technologies. It also provides excellent opportunities for student exchanges between the two countries for those completing PhD, Master and Bachelor degrees.

While there are differences in the automotive industries of Canada and Norway, both countries possess excellent lightweight materials capabilities. Lightweight materials hold great promise for future automotive technologies since increasing the content of lightweight materials may help vehicles become more energy efficient.

"We are pleased to help our research community leverage opportunities to partner with leading Norwegian researchers and gain access to the excellent research facilities of RTIM Raufoss," said Dr. Peter Frise, Scientific Director and CEO of AUTO21. "We are excited at the prospect of developing joint projects that will serve the global automotive industry, and even more excited at the aspect of AUTO21 student researchers gaining valuable experience through exchange visits."

RTIM CEO, Dr. Sverre Narvesen commented that "RTIM is excited about the potential opportunities for collaboration with AUTO21, and we believe that the signing will be a first step in a fruitful dialogue for projects of mutual interest. For Norway, it is particularly interesting to cooperate with Canada since both countries aim at advanced industrial solutions with the focus on development of technologies and processes in order to compete on a global scale. It is of utmost importance to provide high quality products to an industry which demands only the very best when it comes to safety. This can best be achieved through industrially oriented research efforts where more nations come together to reach common goals."

The signing took place today at the University of Windsor, AUTO21's host institution. Signatories included Dr. Frise and Dr. Narvesen.

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The AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence currently supports 54 auto-related research projects with an annual \$11 million budget of public and private sector funding. Research occurs 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 part of the federal Network of Centres of Excellence program, and its administrative centre is hosted by the University of Windsor.

Raufoss Technology and Industrial Management (RTIM) is a Norwegian technology organization with core competence in automated manufacturing, technology management, value chain management and material technology. As a subsidiary (50.1%) of the SINTEF Research Group, a public, scientific and technology research organization, RTIM oversees the management of the Norwegian Centre of Expertise in automotive light materials research and automated production (NCE Raufoss). Its core strength is to leverage collaboration with academia, business and industry and to transfer theory into practical and cutting edge solutions. SINTEF is largest independent research organization in Scandinavian and the fourth largest European research institution.

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