

## University of Sherbrooke Student Team Praised for Innovative Automotive Research

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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London, ON: A team of student researchers from the University of Sherbrooke were nationally recognized earlier today for their innovative automotive research. The team was awarded first place in the AUTO21 Highly Qualified People (HQP) Poster Competition, which is open to student researchers within the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence. AUTO21 is Canada's automotive R&D program, supporting more than 300 researchers and over 500 student researchers at 43 universities across the country.

More than 70 student teams from 40 Canadian universities took part in the competition, which was held in conjunction with the AUTO21 2008 Conference in London, Ontario. The students contribute to AUTO21's 54 automotive research projects.

"The research poster developed by the University of Sherbrooke students was of the highest scientific excellence and clearly illustrates how the research they conduct will have a direct benefit to the Canadian automotive sector and to all Canadians," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. "AUTO21 projects focus on developing new technologies and knowledge for Canada's automotive sector, plus the development of its future participants by providing hands-on R&D training."

The annual HQP Poster Competition is held each spring and boasts a total prize purse of nearly \$20,000. Twenty semi-finalist teams are selected from the initial pool of entrants, with each team member receiving a \$50 voucher for a bookstore. The semi-finalists provide an oral defence of their research poster, and five finalists are selected upon this evaluation. The finalists receive a cash prize to be divided amongst the team. Judges are external to AUTO21.

Final ranking of the top five student teams:

| <b>Project name</b>   | <b>University</b>              | <b>Ranking/prize</b>          |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Smart Technologies for Improved Acoustic Environment of Autos | University of Sherbrooke       | First/\$4,500.00              |
| Regenerative Braking Systems                                  | University of Waterloo         | Second/\$3,500.00             |
| Powder Metallurgy for High-Performance Auto Components        | Dalhousie University           | Third/\$2,500.00              |
| Neuro-Fuzzy Systems for Inspection in Manufacturing Processes | Queen's University             | Fourth/\$1,500.00             |
| Combustion of Low-Emission Automotive-Tailored Natural Gas    | University of British Columbia | Honourable Mention/\$1,000.00 |

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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.

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