

AUTO21 and partners invest \$20 million to increase Canada's automotive research capabilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Windsor, ON: Canada's automotive research community is celebrating a recent investment of approximately \$20 million in new project funding by the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence. Together with its 240 private and public sector partners, the national automotive research organization is funding 54 projects during the next two years that will enhance Canada's reputation as a leader in automotive R&D and help develop future vehicles that are safer and more environmentally friendly.

The funding was announced by the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry, at the AUTO21 national conference in London, Ontario. Through the federal Networks of Centres of Excellence program, the Government of Canada is providing about \$10 million of the total investment.

The projects range from child seat safety, to elderly driver education programs, to hybrid and lightweight materials research. More than 300 researchers at 43 universities will participate in the investigations, which will also provide training opportunities to more than 500 student researchers by the end of the two years. Approximately 240 private and public sector organizations, including automakers, parts suppliers and materials companies are contributing the remainder of the funding.

"Since 2001, AUTO21 has proven its ability to develop the technologies, knowledge and the people required by the Canadian automotive sector. This additional funding brings the total amount of AUTO21's R&D investment to more than \$85 million," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. "These 54 projects will provide benefits to Canadians through new automotive technologies that keep vehicle occupants safer, reduce energy consumption and increase product quality."

Each project will be led by an expert researcher, who will coordinate a national team of investigators. Summaries of the new projects can be found online at www.auto21.ca. AUTO21 research falls within six key areas: health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors.

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AUTO21 Project Funding 2008-2010

AUTO21 and its partners will support the following 54 projects for 2008-2010. Full project summaries can be found at www.auto21.ca.

Project	Project Leader/University
Health, Safety & Injury Prevention	
Injury Prevention in the Auto Industry	Dr. Jack Callaghan, University of Waterloo
Advanced Seat Design	Dr. Doug Romilly, University of British Columbia Dr. Jennifer Durkin, University of Waterloo
Enhanced Child Safety in Automobiles	Dr. Andrew Howard, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto Dr. Anne Snowdon, University of Windsor
Childhood Automobile Safety	Dr. Beth Bruce, Dalhousie University
Enhancing Vehicular Mobility in Older Adults	Dr. Michel Bedard, Lakehead University Dr. Jan Miller Polgar, University of Western Ontario
Safe Platform for Evaluating/Enhancing Driver Qualifications	Dr. Denis Laurendeau, Université Laval
Societal Issues	
Automobile-Linked Crime in Canada	Dr. Rick Linden, University of Manitoba Dr. Robert Mann, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Dr. Reg Smart, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Automotive Industry-Government Relations in the 21 st Century	Dr. Dimitry Anastakis, Trent University
Canadian Labour Market Regulation, Relations and Innovation	Dr. Charlotte Yates, McMaster University
Teen and Novice Driver Network	Dr. Jeff Caird, University of Calgary
Materials and Manufacturing	
Laser Welding of Thermoplastics	Dr. Phil Bates, Royal Military College
Powder Metallurgy for High-Performance Automotive Components	Dr. Carl Blais, Université Laval
High-Efficiency Machining Processes	Dr. Mohamed Elbestawi, McMaster University
Wrought Magnesium for Auto Parts	Dr. Marek Niewczas, McMaster University
Fine-Cellled Foam Structures for TPO Components	Dr. Chul Park, University of Toronto
Renewable Biofibres and Biomaterials for Interior Parts	Dr. Mohini Sain, University of Toronto
Processing Technologies of Light Materials Cast Components	Dr. Steven Cockcroft, University of British Columbia
Optimization of Composite Manufacturing by Resin Injection	Dr. Pascal Hubert, McGill University
Chemically Enhanced Formability of Automotive Aluminum Alloys	Dr. Dmitri Malakhov, McMaster University
Magnesium Casting Processes II	Dr. Jeff Wood, University of Western Ontario
Hydroforming of High-Strength Steels	Dr. Michael Worswick, University of Waterloo

New Generation Steels II	Dr. Stephen Yue, McGill University
Welding and Joining of Advanced Materials	Dr. Norman Zhou, University of Waterloo
NVH Design of Magnesium Alloys-Based Front Dashes	Dr. Nouredine Atalla, Université de Sherbrooke
Advanced Tribology for Products and Manufacturing	Dr. Ahmet Alpas, University of Windsor
Micro-Machining of Dies and Moulds	Dr. Yusuf Altintas, University of British Columbia
Next Generation Compaction System	Dr. Jack Jeswiet, Queen's University Dr. Il Yong Kim, Queen's University
Magnesium granule Micro-Structure of Semi-Solids	Dr. Hani Henein, University of Alberta
Powertrains, Fuels and Emissions	
Hydrogen Safety and Infrastructure for Hydrogen Vehicles	Dr. Pierre Bénard, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
On-Board Fuel Cell-Powered Auxiliary Power Units	Dr. Brant Peppley, Queen's University
Combustion of Low-Emission Automotive-Tailored Natural Gas	Dr. Steven Rogak, University of British Columbia
Ultra Clean Diesel Engines	Dr. Nasser Ashgriz, University of Toronto
Enabling Biodiesel Fuel Use for Sustainable Mobility	Dr. Murray Thomson, University of Toronto
Flexible operation of HCCI Using Intelligent Control	Dr. Charles Koch, University of Alberta
Battery Storage and Optimization of Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles	Dr. Eric Bibeau, University of Manitoba
PEM Fuel Cells for Automotive Applications	Dr. Xianguo Li, University of Waterloo
Low-Cost High-Density Storage for Fuel Cells	Dr. Boyd Davis, Queen's University
Computer-Aided Design of Catalytic Converters	Dr. R. E. Hayes, University of Alberta
Design Processes	
Collaborative Design Tools for Distributed Multidisciplinary Design Projects	Dr. Stephen Lambert, University of Waterloo
Neuro-Fuzzy Systems for Inspection in Manufacturing Processes	Dr. Brian Surgenor, Queen's University
Model-Based Damage Diagnosis of Components	Dr. Faouzi Ghrib, University of Windsor
Hybrid Active Safety Systems and Intelligent Grid Interfacing	Dr. Greg Rohrauer, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Life Cycle Environmental Assessment and Policy	Dr. Heather MacLean, University of Toronto
Productivity and Safety in Non-Structural Speed Fastening	Dr. Zbigniew Pasek, University of Windsor
Intelligent Systems and Sensors	
Integrated Navigation and Communications Systems Development	Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, University of Calgary
Vehicle Communications and Applications	Dr. Brahim Chaib-draa, Université Laval Dr. Soumaya Cherkaoui, Université de Sherbrooke
Cephalo-Ocular Behaviour & Visual Search Patterns of Drivers	Dr. Denis Laurendeau, Université Laval
Smart Technologies for Improved Acoustic Environment in Automobiles	Dr. Alain Berry, Université de Sherbrooke Dr. Patrice Masson, Université de Sherbrooke
Electrical Power Management and Safety Systems	Dr. Wai Tung Ng, University of Toronto
Dynamic Collaborative Driving	Dr. Jan Huissoon, University of Waterloo Dr. Francois Michaud, Université de Sherbrooke
Wireless MEMs-Based Sensor Nodes for Intelligent Systems	Dr. Luc Frechette, Université de Sherbrooke
Distributed Intelligent Sensing and Control for Factory Automation	Dr. Jonathon Wu, University of Windsor
Vehicular Telematics over WiFi and WiMax Multihop Networks	Dr. Victor Leung, University of British Columbia
Inertial Sensor Cluster for Adaptive Path Prediction	Dr. Edmond Cretu, University of British Columbia