



AUTO21 GATHERS CANADA'S NEXT GENERATION OF AUTOMOTIVE LEADERS IN WINDSOR

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Windsor, Ontario: The Canadian automotive industry needs talented, educated and experienced people to stay competitive and AUTO21's award-winning student program is helping to ensure that today's students are ready to meet the industry's future challenges. To do so, over 200 of Canada's next generation of automotive leaders will converge in Windsor to share their research accomplishments and to discuss research and development opportunities. The student researchers are gathering for AUTO21's Highly Qualified People (HQP) Conference, June 11 to 13 at the University of Windsor.

AUTO21, a federal Networks of Centres of Excellence, focuses on multidisciplinary automotive research and the development of highly qualified people (HQP) for future work in the automotive sector. The graduate and post-graduate level student researchers currently study at one of 39 universities involved in the Network and contribute to AUTO21's 41 research projects.

“Our Network is focused on developing the capacity of Canada's future automotive experts and this conference demonstrates our student researcher's capabilities,” said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. “With a multi-disciplinary approach to research that focuses on industry issues, AUTO21 student researchers are gaining the skills and expertise needed to address the auto sector's research and development needs and to become the future of Canada's automotive industry.”

A key component of the conference is the DaimlerChrysler Canada HQP Poster Competition, where student research teams will vie for prizes totalling \$15,000 and the opportunity to participate as judges at the 2008 Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa, Ontario.

In addition to a series of research presentations, the students will hear from industry leaders such as Dr. John Mann, Director of Engineering, DaimlerChrysler Canada and from a local political leader, the Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Ontario Minister of Economic Development and Trade. In addition to the presentations, students will have the opportunity to tour two research and development facilities and two manufacturing facilities in Windsor-Essex.

“We are thrilled to welcome the automotive industry's leaders of tomorrow to the University of Windsor,” said President Ross Paul. “As host institution to AUTO21 and with our University's emphasis on automotive as one its pinnacle areas of focus, we recognize the acute need for multidisciplinary research and development to ensure Canada's future economic health.”

AUTO21 currently supports more than 260 researchers and over 500 student researchers working on 41 auto-related research and development projects at 42 Canadian universities and institutions. The projects are supported by more than \$12 million per year in combined federal and industry funding. Research occurs in the areas of health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. AUTO21 is funded through the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada program.

- 30 -

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