



Media Release Communiqué

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Student Researchers Gain Expertise to Help Lead Canada's Future Automotive Industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2005

Oshawa, Ontario: Engineering and nursing students may not seem to have much in common but that's not the case if they are part of the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence. From May 10 to 12, more than 200 university students from across Canada will trade automotive research information at the AUTO21 Highly Qualified People Conference at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa. 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 contribute to AUTO21's 41 research projects.

"Whether a project focuses on child seat safety, alternative fuels or manufacturing processes, the research teams consist of people from disciplines that may not traditionally work together," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Program Leader and CEO. "Engineers, nurses, lawyers, economists and psychologists are just a few examples of the disciplines that create AUTO21. By pairing these fields together, the scope of expertise widens and allows for innovative solutions to automotive issues. The students are learning first-hand how to work in a team environment while engaging in world-class research, an approach that will provide benefits to Canada's auto sector in years to come."

A key component of the conference is the HQP Poster Competition, where student research teams will vie for prizes totalling \$20,000 and a trip for four finalists to the final round of judging at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference on June 20 in Toronto. The four finalists will be announced on May 12 at the closing luncheon.

In addition to a series of research presentations, the students will hear from industry leaders such as Robert Magee, president and CEO of The Woodbridge Group, a major supplier of polyurethane foams for automotive use. They will also tour the facilities of Johnson Controls, an automotive supplier of interior components, to see innovative technologies in action.

AUTO21 currently supports more than 230 researchers and close to 400 student researchers working on auto-related research and development projects at 37 Canadian universities. 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.

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For more information, please contact:
Stephanie Campeau, Communications Manager
AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence
Tel: (519) 253-3000, ext. 4129
Cel: (519) 890-3338



Media Backgrounder Communiqué

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AUTO21 HQP Conference Agenda

Tuesday, May 10

08:00-08:30	Conference Registration
09:00-09:05	Welcome – Dr. Peter Frise, Program Leader & CEO, AUTO21
09:05-09:10	Welcome – Dr. Gary Polonsky, President and Vice-Chancellor, UOIT
09:10-09:35	Theme A Presentation – Dr. Jack Callaghan, University of Waterloo
09:35-10:00	Theme B Presentation – Dr. Robert Mann, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-10:45	Theme C Presentation – Dr. Jennifer Jackman, Natural Resources Canada
11:00-12:00	Poster Set-up, Informal Project Meetings
12:00-13:15	LUNCH
13:20-16:30	Industry Tour
	Networking Competition Session #1
18:15-21:00	BANQUET: Keynote Speaker: Mr. Bob Magee, Woodbridge Group

Wednesday, May 11

09:00-11:00	(Round 1 Poster Judging Occurs)
09:00-09:30	Theme D Presentation – Dr. David Checkel, University of Alberta
09:30-10:00	Theme E Presentation – Dr. Steve Lambert, University of Waterloo
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-10:45	Theme F Presentation – Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, University of Calgary
10:45-11:30	Industry Speaker: Mr. Mark Johnson, General Motors Corporation
11:30-12:00	Free Time
12:00-13:15	LUNCH
13:15-16:00	Networking Competition Session #2
18:15-21:00	BANQUET: Poster Competition Round 1 Winners Announced

Thursday, May 12

9:00-12:00	Poster Oral Defense Judging/Informal Networking
12:00-13:30	LUNCH : – Winners Announced: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Poster Competition Round 2▪ Networking Competition
	– Closing Remarks – Dr. Marc Rosen, Dean of Engineering, UOIT
	– Closing Remarks – Dr. Peter Frise