



Media Release Communiqué

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Canadian University Students Awarded for Innovative Automotive Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2005

Oshawa, Ontario: Today, the future of Canadian automotive research shone brightly as the finalists of a national automotive research competition were announced. The student researcher teams from four Canadian universities were praised for their innovative auto-related research at the AUTO21 Highly Qualified People Conference. AUTO21, a federal Networks of Centres of Excellence, focuses on automotive research and development 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.

The four finalist teams include:

- Queen's University – Chemical Hydrogen Storage Process Development
- University of Calgary – Canadian Automobile Research Simulation
- Queen's University – Tools, Dies and Moulds
- Queen's University and Royal Military College – Reformer Technology for Fuel Cell Power Systems

A panel of judges evaluated a total of 71 teams from 23 universities, with 16 teams selected as semi-finalists. The four winning teams were selected from the 16 teams following oral defences of their research. Together, the semi-finalist and finalist teams received approximately \$10,000 in prizes. The four finalist teams now advance to a final round of judging at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference on June 20 in Toronto, Ontario for a chance to win an additional \$10,000 in prizes. The total prize purse of the HQP Poster Competition is approximately \$20,000.

"The 71 teams did an excellent job demonstrating their innovative research," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Program Leader and CEO. "These young researchers are the future leaders of Canada's automotive sector and they are clearly capable of leading one of Canada's most important economic sectors. Working on AUTO21's leading-edge research projects and participating at events such as the HQP Conference help the students develop the skills and experiences needed for future success."

The HQP conference was held May 10 to 12 at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa. More than 250 delegates attended the conference, which included a series of research presentations, a tour of the facilities of Johnson Controls, a leading automotive supplier, and heard from speakers including Robert Magee, president and CEO of The Woodbridge Group.

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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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