



DaimlerChrysler Canada Awards Canadian University Students for Innovative Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Windsor, Ontario: Today, student researcher teams from four Canadian universities were praised for their innovative auto-related research. The students were competing in the DaimlerChrysler Poster Competition at the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence Highly Qualified People (HQP) Conference in Windsor, Ontario. AUTO21, a federal Networks of Centres of Excellence, focuses on automotive research and development and the development of highly qualified people for future work in the automotive sector. The graduate and post-graduate level student researchers contribute to AUTO21's 35 research projects.

"DaimlerChrysler Canada is proud to be the corporate sponsor of the 2004 AUTO21 HQP Conference, said John Mann, Director of Engineering and Regulatory Affairs for DaimlerChrysler Canada. The Poster Competition entries exhibit the depth and breadth of automotive research conducted at Canadian universities under AUTO21's leadership. Congratulations to the finalists."

The four finalist teams include:

- Queen's University – New Generation Steels
- Simon Fraser University – Interior Noise Environment of Future Automobiles
- University of Waterloo – Welding and Joining
- University of Windsor – Industrial Health and Safety in the Auto Industry

A panel of judges evaluated a total of 53 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 \$7,500 in prizes. The four finalist teams now advance to a final round of judging at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference on June 15 in Montreal, Quebec for a chance to win an additional \$7,500 in prizes. The total prize purse of the DaimlerChrysler Poster Competition is \$15,000.

"The research excellence displayed by the 53 teams is of the highest value, and made the job of the evaluation panel difficult," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Program Leader and CEO. "AUTO21 is committed to helping student researchers develop the skills and experiences needed to help guide Canada's future automotive sector to even greater successes."

The three day conference provided its 200 delegates an opportunity to attend auto-related research presentations, tour the DaimlerChrysler Canada Windsor Assembly Plant and hear from speakers including Linda Hasenfratz, president of Linamar Corporation, Nancy Hill of Hill and Schumacher Trade and Patent Agents, and Dr. Douglas Barber, president of Gennum Corporation. DaimlerChrysler Canada was the corporate sponsor for this year's conference.

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AUTO21 currently supports more than 250 researchers and 300 student researchers working on 35 auto-related research and development projects at 35 Canadian universities. The projects are supported by more than \$9 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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