



Media Release Communiqué

www.auto21.ca

AUTO21 and industry partners invest \$24.5 million to advance Canadian automotive research and development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2005

Toronto, ON: The Canadian automotive research community received a cash injection that will drive this area forward for the next two years. At a ceremony in Toronto, the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence announced the funding of 41 innovative auto-related research projects. Through AUTO21, the Government of Canada is investing up to \$9.8 million in funding for the projects, which range from studying ways to increase safety and protection of vehicle occupants to investigating new materials and manufacturing processes to advance Canada's leading-edge in fuel cell research.

In addition to the Federal government contribution, the projects are supported by an additional \$14.7 million from industry and other public sector partners, including several vehicle manufacturers, automotive suppliers and federal and provincial government departments and agencies. A list of the participating industry and public sector partners can be found on the AUTO21 website (www.auto21.ca).

"The automotive sector plays a vital role in the success of our economy," said Jerry Pickard, MP for Chatham-Kent-Essex and Parliamentary Secretary to David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry. "The Government of Canada is committed to strengthening our production-leading automotive industry by funding research that will support important breakthroughs in safety and manufacturing."

"This major investment is helping AUTO21 advance Canada's reputation as a leader in automotive research and development," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Program Leader and CEO. "The strong collaboration between government and industry supporters and the Canadian research community is leading to new technologies and also a steady stream of highly qualified student researchers who will lead the country's future automotive sector."

Each project will be led by an expert researcher who will coordinate a national team of investigators. More than 230 researchers at 37 universities across Canada will work on the 41 projects. AUTO21 research takes a multidisciplinary approach, pairing non-traditional fields together to spark innovative solutions. A project may consist of engineers, occupational therapists, nurses, economists, chemists, and psychologists. In addition, the projects are providing excellent training opportunities for close to 400 graduate and post-graduate students who benefit from working with Canada's top researchers and representatives from Canada's auto industry.

AUTO21 research occurs in six key areas: health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. The attached backgrounder includes a list of the newly funded projects. Summaries of the new projects can be found on the AUTO21 website (www.auto21.ca).

Networks of Centres of Excellence are unique partnerships among universities, industry, government and non-governmental organizations aimed at turning Canadian research and entrepreneurial talent into economic and social benefits for all Canadians. An integral part of the federal government's Innovation Strategy, these nation-wide, multidisciplinary and multisectorial research partnerships connect excellent research with industrial know-how and strategic investment. Three Canadian federal granting agencies - the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) - and Industry Canada combine their efforts to support and oversee the NCE initiative.

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For more information:

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Media Backgrounder Communiqué

www.auto21.ca

New Project Funding 2005-2007

AUTO21 and its industry partners will support the following 41 projects for 2005-2007. Full project summaries can be found on www.auto21.ca.

Project	Project Leader & University
Health, Safety and Injury Prevention	
Safe Transportation for Seniors	Dr. M. Bedard, Lakehead University Dr. J. Miller Polgar, University of Western Ontario
Injury Prevention for Auto Workers	Dr. J. Callaghan, University of Waterloo
Advanced Automotive Seat Design	Dr. J. Durkin, University of Waterloo Dr. D. Romilly, University of British Columbia
Enhanced Child Safety in Automobiles	Dr. A. Howard, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto Dr. A. Snowdon, University of Windsor
Societal Issues	
Evolution of Life Cycle Assessments	Dr. H. MacLean, University of Toronto
Automobile-Linked Crime in Canada	Dr. R. Linden, University of Manitoba Dr. R. Mann, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health Dr. R. Smart, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
Auto Industry-Government Relations in the 21 st Century	Dr. M. Molot, Carleton University
Canadian Labour Market Regulation & Innovation	Dr. C. Yates, McMaster University
Materials and Manufacturing	
Composite Acoustic Materials for Noise/Vibration Control	Dr. N. Atalla, Université de Sherbrooke
Laser Welding of Thermoplastics	Dr. P. Bates, Royal Military College
Powder Metallurgy for High-Performance Automotive Components	Dr. C. Blais, Université Laval
High Efficiency Machining Processes	M. Elbestawi, McMaster University
Wrought Magnesium for Automobiles	Dr. M. Niewczas, McMaster University
Fine-Cellled Foam Structures for Automotive TPO Components	Dr. C. Park, University of Toronto
Renewable Biofibres and Biomaterials for Interior Parts	Dr. M. Sain, University of Toronto
Optimization of Composite Manufacturing by Resin Injection	Dr. F. Trochu, Ecole Polytechnique
Processing Technologies of Light Materials Cast Components	Dr. J. Sokolowski, University of Windsor
Chemically Enhanced Formability of Automotive Aluminum Alloys	Dr. D. Wilkinson, McMaster University
Magnesium Casting Processes II	Dr. J. Wood, University of Western Ontario
Hydroforming of Advanced High Strength Steels	Dr. M. Worswick, University of Waterloo
New Generation Steels II	Dr. S. Yue, McGill University
Welding Processes of Advanced Materials	Dr. N. Zhou, University of Waterloo Dr. D. Mitlin, University of Alberta

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Powertrains, Fuels and Emissions	
Electronic Controls for VVT & HCCI Combustion	Dr. D. Checkel, University of Alberta
Chemical Hydrogen Storage Process Development	Dr. B. Davis, Queen's University
PEM Fuel Cells and Related Technologies	Dr. X. Li, University of Waterloo
Hydrogen Safety and Infrastructure for Hydrogen Vehicles	Dr. P. Benard, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
On-Board Fuel Cell Powered Auxiliary Power Units	Dr. B. Peppley, Royal Military College
Combustion of Low-Emission Automotive-Tailored Natural Gas	Dr. S. Rogak, University of British Columbia
Ultra-Clean Biodiesel Engines	Dr. N. Ashgriz, University of Toronto
Design Processes	
Regenerative Braking Systems	Dr. S. Lambert, University of Waterloo
Collaborative Design Tools for Multidisciplinary Design	Dr. S. Lambert, University of Waterloo
Neuro-Fuzzy Systems for Inspection in Manufacturing Processes	Dr. B. Surgenor, Queen's University
Model-Based Damage Diagnosis of Components	Dr. F. Ghrib, University of Windsor
Intelligent Systems and Sensors	
Canadian Automobile Research Simulation	Dr. Jeff Caird, University of Calgary Dr. Ata Khan, Carleton University
Integrated Navigation & Communications Systems Development	Dr. E. Cannon, University of Calgary
Vehicle Communications & Applications	Dr. B. Chaib-draa, Université Laval Dr. S. Cherkaoui, Université de Sherbrooke
Cephalo-Ocular Behavior & Visual Search Patterns of Drivers	Dr. D. Laurendeau, Université Laval
Smart Technologies for Improved Acoustic Environment of Autos	Dr. A. Berry, Université de Sherbrooke Dr. P. Masson, Université de Sherbrooke
Electrical Power Management & Safety Systems	Dr. W.T. Ng
Dynamic Collaborative Driving	Dr. J. Huisson, University of Waterloo Dr. F. Michaud, Université de Sherbrooke