

AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence and industry invest \$6.5 million in Canadian automotive research and development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2003

Windsor, ON: Moving the hydrogen economy closer to reality by optimizing fuel cells, and enhancing vehicle safety for the elderly are just two areas of automotive research and development receiving a total of \$6.5 million in new funding this autumn. The AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence is investing \$1.8 million to fund seven projects exploring a variety of auto-related issues at universities across Canada. AUTO21 is a federal program that supports 28 other auto-related R&D projects at 33 universities across Canada, with combined federal and industry funding of more than \$8 million per year.

In addition to the \$1.8 million, the seven new projects will receive a total of \$4.7 million from industry and public sector contributors, including several vehicle manufacturers, automotive suppliers and government departments and agencies.

“We are very pleased to assist these researchers attain world-class results in Canadian universities,” says Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Program Leader. “In addition to the development of leading-edge knowledge and technologies required by the automotive sector, these seven projects provide graduate and post-graduate students an opportunity to work in an academic research setting with strong industry collaboration. These students are the future innovators of Canada’s automotive sector.”

A team of expert researchers will work on each project bringing a multi-disciplinary approach to the investigation. The new projects add 32 researchers and 53 student researchers to the AUTO21 investigative team. Over 250 university and industry researchers, and more than 250 graduate and post-graduate students are already working to enhance Canada’s reputation as a leader in auto-related research and development.

Project	Project Leader and university	Other universities involved
Safe Transportation for Seniors	Dr. Michel Bedard, Lakehead University Dr. Jan Miller Polgar, University of Western Ontario	University of Alberta University of Manitoba University of Waterloo University of Windsor
Evolution of Life Cycle Assessments	Dr. Heather MacLean, University of Toronto	University of British Columbia University of Windsor
Composite Acoustic Materials for Noise and Vibration Control	Dr. Noureddine Atalla, University of Sherbrooke	University of Ottawa University of Toronto
Electronic Controls for VVT and HCCI Combustion	Dr. David Checkel, University of Alberta	Simon Fraser University University of Windsor
Sodium Borohydride Recycling for Fuel Cells	Dr. Boyd Davis, Queen’s University	Royal Military College University of British Columbia Carleton University
PEM Fuel Cells and Related Technologies	Dr. Xianguo Li, University of Waterloo	Ontario Institute of Technology Simon Fraser University University of Toronto University of Windsor
Canadian Automobile Research Simulation	Dr. Jeff Caird, University of Calgary Dr. Ata Khan, Carleton University	University of Guelph University of Montreal

1/2

A description of each project can be found on the AUTO21 website: www.auto21.ca.

AUTO21 research projects occur 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.

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.

-30 -

For more information, please contact:

Stephanie Campeau
Communications Manager
AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence
Tel: 519.253.3000, ext. 4129