

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS DRIVE INNOVATION AT AUTO21 SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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Hamilton, ON - Canada's automotive sector must become more innovative to stay competitive with the world, but how? Over 200 academic researchers and industry representatives will explore how together they can strengthen Canada's automotive sector at AUTO21's 2007 Scientific Conference in Hamilton, Ontario on May 10 and 11. AUTO21 is a federal Network of Centres of Excellence that focuses on automotive research and development for the user-sector.

Media are invited to attend conference sessions to learn more about applied auto-related research and development activities occurring at 42 Canadian Universities and institutions through the AUTO21 Network and how these *Research Collaborations Drive Innovation*. A conference agenda is attached for times and reference.

Speakers include representatives from CSM Worldwide, Decoma International, General Motors of Canada, The Woodbridge Group, Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, Bennett Jones LLP, DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc, MADD Canada, Westport Innovations Inc and DaimlerChrysler.

"The Scientific Conference brings together Canada's leading automotive researchers, industry, government and NGO representatives to explore emerging automotive-issues," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 CEO and Scientific Director. "It's also an opportunity to develop new collaborations that will work to address these concerns and to celebrate the accomplishments of Network projects and partnerships already in-progress."

Since 2001, AUTO21 has built a dynamic research and development community contributing to a sustainable, globally competitive Canadian automotive sector. The AUTO21 Network includes more than 260 researchers and 500 student researchers working with over 110 industry partner and 30 government and non-government organizations across Canada.

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.

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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