



Media Release

Communiqué

Université de Sherbrooke Researcher Offers Hope to Lost Drivers

For immediate release

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Sherbrooke, PQ: A national team of researchers has developed software that will help lost drivers find their way more effectively. The software uses global positioning satellites (GPS) and wireless access to the internet that allows drivers to quickly connect to existing webpages to identify location-based services such as gas stations, automotive repair shops and other facilities. On June 17, 2004, Dr. Shengrui Wang, a professor in the department of computer science at Université de Sherbrooke will present some of the team's findings at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference in Montreal, Quebec.

“Currently, drivers with GPS in their vehicles need to purchase DVDs from navigation system manufacturers that contain this information. Depending on when the DVD was created, the information may be out of date,” said Dr. Wang. “Using our software allows a driver to access the most current information for these location-based services in real time. The software offers a new way for navigation system manufacturers to provide better services to their clients.”

The research team is funded by the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence. Dr. Wang and Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, a geomatics professor at the University of Calgary coordinate the national research team, which consists of researchers from Université de Sherbrooke, Université Laval and the University of Calgary.

The AUTO21 2004 Scientific Conference will take place June 15-17, 2004 at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal, Quebec. The annual conference highlights some of the Network's recent research results while providing a networking opportunity for the Network's 600 university and student researchers and additional industry and government representatives. Other conference activities include the final awards ceremony for the DaimlerChrysler Canada Highly Qualified People Poster Competition and an industry speaker series, which includes Ray Tanguay, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, Jim Gouin, vice-president and controller, Ford Motor Company, and Michael Kelly, vice-president, Alcan Automotive. Additional conference information can be found on www.auto21.ca in the news and events section.

The Government of Canada awarded the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence an initial four-year grant of \$23 million in 2001 to help it enhance Canada's position as a world leader in automotive research and development. Researchers at 35 Canadian universities are working on innovative, auto-related

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projects 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. In addition to the federal grant, AUTO21 is supported by industry, government and institutional contributions of \$11 million.

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