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## **Local Researchers Help Develop Fuel Cell Infrastructure**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trois-Rivières, PQ: Fuel cell vehicles hold great promise for the future, but a proper infrastructure needs to be established before wide-spread use can occur. A team of researchers is investigating how that infrastructure can best be created in Canada. On June 18, 2003, Dr. Tapan Bose will present some of the team's findings at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Dr. Bose, a professor of physics at l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières and project leader for the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence, is coordinating the team of researchers investigating the issue

"Before fuel cell vehicles can be driven by the majority of the population, a support network needs to be established, with accessible places to re-fuel, and ways to supply hydrogen to those re-fueling stations," says Dr. Bose. "We're investigating how to best develop this system in Canada, and also exploring how the hydrogen can be best stored for vehicle use, whether it be on board or off."

As part of the AUTO21 Network, Dr. Bose coordinates the work of researchers from l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia.

The AUTO21 2003 Scientific Conference will take place June 16-18, 2003 at the White Oaks Conference Resort in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Dr. Bose's presentation is scheduled for 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18. The conference is an annual event that highlights some of the Network's recent research results while providing a networking opportunity for the Network's 450 university and student researchers and additional industry and government representatives.

Other conference presenters include Michael Grimaldi, President of General Motors of Canada, and Gerald Fedchun, President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association. Additional conference information can be found on [www.auto21.ca](http://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 32 Canadian universities are working on innovative, auto-related 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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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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