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THE AUTOMOBILE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY – L'AUTOMOBILE DU XXI<sup>E</sup> SIÈCLE

## **University and Industry Representatives Gather to Help Enhance the Automobile and the Canadian Automotive Sector**

For immediate release

June 12, 2003

Windsor, Ontario: Improving the automobile and the Canadian automotive sector in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the main topics of discussion for the 150 delegates attending the AUTO21 Scientific Conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario from June 16-18, 2003. The conference is an annual event for participants, most of whom are part of the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence, a federal automotive research and development program.

Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Program Leader, says the conference is an important event for the Network's 220 university researchers. AUTO21 was created to enhance Canada's reputation and position as a global leader in automotive research and development. The annual Scientific Conference is a chance for the researchers and graduate students who are working at 32 universities and private laboratories across Canada to come together with representatives from industry and government to discuss their work and share milestones and results.

The conference includes a high-profile speaker's series that includes Michael Grimaldi, President of General Motors of Canada; Gerald Fedchun, President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association; John Mann, Director of Engineering and Regulatory Affairs for DaimlerChrysler Canada; and Jeremy Burne, North American Automotive Sector Specialist for the British Government.

Some AUTO21 researchers will also present key findings of their work on topics including the development of a hydrogen infrastructure in Canada; re-designing children's vehicle restraint systems to better protect passengers; testing the limits of high-strength dual-density steels in hydroforming automotive parts; and enhancing rapid manufacturing systems.

The conference will be held at the White Oaks Conference Resort (235 Taylor Road) in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A complete agenda and speaker information is available in the news and events section of [www.auto21.ca](http://www.auto21.ca).

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

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and development. At 32 Canadian universities, more than 220 researchers and 250 graduate and post-graduate student researchers 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.

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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