



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENT TEAM NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
FOR AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Windsor, Ontario: A team of student researchers from the University of Alberta has received top honours in a national automotive research competition. The students were competing in the DaimlerChrysler Canada HQP Poster Competition at the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence Highly Qualified People (HQP) Conference in Windsor, Ontario.

The winning team contributes to AUTO21's *Electronic Controls VVT and HCCI Combustion* project, which investigates new internal combustion engine concepts to replace conventional spark ignition engines, resulting in a more fuel efficient engine that produces lower emissions including green house gases.

"On behalf of DaimlerChrysler Canada I'd like to congratulate the winning team and all the finalists on the quality and ingenuity of their projects," said Dr. John Mann, Director of Engineering and Regulatory Affairs for DaimlerChrysler Canada. "This competition showed us that there is a deep pool of bright young minds that will have a tremendous impact on the future of Canada's auto sector. The 2007 AUTO21 HQP Conference helps to strengthen the bond between university researchers and the automotive industry, and we are very pleased to partner with them in that worthwhile initiative."

Final Placement

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| First | Electronic Controls for VVT and HCCI Combustion | University of Alberta | \$4,500 |
| Second | Safe Transportation for Seniors | University of Western Ontario | \$3,500 |
| Third | Hydroforming of Advanced High Strength Steels | University of Waterloo | \$2,500 |
| Fourth | Renewable Biofibres and Biomaterials for Interior Parts | University of Toronto | \$1,500 |
| Honourable Mention | Laser Welding of Thermoplastics | McGill University | \$1,000 |

A panel of judges evaluated a total of 66 teams from 26 universities, with 20 teams selected as semi-finalists. The five winning teams were selected following oral defences of their research. Together, the semi-finalist and finalist teams received a total prize purse of \$15,000 at the DaimlerChrysler Canada HQP Poster Competition.

"It is an honour to support Canadian students pursuing automotive-related research across Canada," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. "The calibre of research presented as part of this competition is testimony to the contribution these bright minds are making to Canada's auto industry. We appreciate the support of DaimlerChrysler Canada for helping us to recognize these talented researchers."

The three day conference provided AUTO21 student researchers an opportunity to attend auto-related research presentations and tour two R&D facilities (University of Windsor/DaimlerChrysler Canada Automotive Research & Development Centre and the University of Windsor/International Truck Centre for Innovation) and two manufacturing plants (Autoliv and The Woodbridge Group) in Windsor-Essex. They also heard from speakers including the Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Ontario Minister of Economic Development and Trade and Dr. John Mann Director of Engineering and Regulatory Affairs for DaimlerChrysler Canada. DaimlerChrysler Canada was the corporate sponsor for this year's conference.

AUTO21, a federal Networks of Centres of Excellence, focuses on automotive research and development and the development of highly qualified people for future work in the automotive sector. The graduate and post-graduate level student researchers contribute to AUTO21's 41 research projects across Canada.

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