



Honda Canada Awards Canadian University Students for Innovative Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barrie, Ontario: Innovation, research excellence and a youthful passion for automotive research were on display as four semi-finalist teams of Canadian university students were announced in a national research poster competition earlier today. The student researcher teams were praised for their innovative auto-related research at the AUTO21 Highly Qualified People (HQP) Conference, and will advance to the final round of the Honda Canada HQP Poster Competition, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia in June. AUTO21, a federal Network of Centres of Excellence, focuses on automotive research and development and the development of highly qualified people (HQP) for future work in the automotive sector. The graduate and post-graduate level student researchers contribute to AUTO21's 41 research projects.

"Honda Canada is committed to supporting youth in the areas of engineering, environment and education," said Jim Miller, executive vice president, Honda Canada. "AUTO21 provides a supportive environment allowing today's youth to excel and bring best practices to the automotive industry."

The four finalist teams include:

Queen's University	On-Board Fuel Cell Powered Auxiliary Power Units
University of Waterloo	Regenerative Braking Systems
University of Windsor	Regenerative Braking Systems
Queen's University	Neuro-Fuzzy Systems for Inspection in Manufacturing Processes

A panel of judges evaluated a total of 76 teams from 30 universities, with 16 teams selected as semi-finalists. The four winning teams were selected from the 16 teams following oral defences of their research. Together, the semi-finalist and finalist teams received approximately \$10,000 in prizes. The four finalist teams now advance to a final round of judging at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference on June 14 in Vancouver, British Columbia for a chance to win an additional \$10,000 in prizes. The total prize purse of the Honda Canada HQP Poster Competition is \$20,000.

"These students are the future of Canada's automotive industry," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. "Each one is a key contributor to one of AUTO21's research projects, gaining technical experience and an opportunity to work with some of the leading industry representatives in Canada. The high quality of the research on display made the judges' job very difficult. We appreciate the support of Honda Canada for helping to recognize these bright leaders of tomorrow."

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The HQP conference was held May 15 to 17 at the Barrie Campus of Georgian College. Approximately 250 delegates attended the conference, which included a series of research presentations, a tour of the Honda of Canada Manufacturing facility in Alliston, Ontario, and heard from speakers including Jim Miller, executive vice president, Honda Canada Inc., and Audrey Zavodsky, GT-Series race car driver and corporate occupational health nurse, Ford Motor Company.

AUTO21 currently supports more than 230 researchers and close to 400 student researchers working on auto-related research and development projects at 39 Canadian universities. The projects are supported by more than \$12 million per year in combined federal and industry funding. Research occurs 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. AUTO21 is funded through the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada program.

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