

Press Release

For immediate release 25 May 2010. .

New Auto Industry Technology Agreements with China

AutoCRC has joined Swinburne and Deakin Universities in collaborative automotive research agreements for nine automotive technology development projects with Hefei University of Technology.

Hefei University of Technology is one of China's leading universities and a specialist centre for engineering and technology development in close alignment with the booming Chinese auto industry.

Both breakthroughs follow the investment of time and effort in development of relationships in China by AutoCRC Chief Executive Dr Matthew Cuthbertson. Dr Cuthbertson visited Hefei University of Technology earlier this year accompanied by Professor Peter Hodgson of Deakin University, Dr Weixiang Shen of Swinburne University of Technology and Frank Lui of Austrade.

Nine specific research topics have been identified along with comprehensive management arrangements.

Dr Cuthbertson says that work will now begin in earnest and will be supported by an active program of staff and student exchanges between Australia and China.

The program will entail a cluster of PhD student research projects on:

- Materials and design for lightweight vehicle structures
- Computer simulation and design of advanced manufacturing processes
- Environmentally friendly coatings, composites and adhesives
- Casting process for light metal alloys
- Automotive component design for disassembly
- Mechanical design and analysis of wheel mounted electric motors
- Energy management systems for electric vehicles
- Control systems for electric vehicles
- Automatic transmission and control systems.

These are all key areas of AutoCRC research activity, and focus on the special interest Australia, AutoCRC and China's auto industry have in the development of new technologies for electric vehicles.

Close relationships with Hefei University will assist the development of links with Chinese companies.

Further links to China's automotive industry and universities are being explored by AutoCRC and further research collaborations are expected to be formalised and announced shortly.

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Photo Caption

The AutoCRC team among the Hefei University of Technology staff at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.