Melbourne, VIC, 30th August, 2012 - AutoCRC today announced a key change in leadership after its current CEO, Dr. Matthew Cuthbertson announced his decision earlier this year to not seek reappointment in the new term of the CRC.

A thorough selection process has led to the appointment of Mr. James Walker AM, who comes to the role with significant engineering and manufacturing experience and knowledge and a passion for innovation and human capital development.

Mr. Walker was previously CEO of QMI Solutions in Brisbane where he developed the company into a leading provider of technology diffusion, innovation and commercialisation services to the manufacturing and engineering sectors. Prior to that Mr. Walker was General Manager and Vice President at Boeing Australia, responsible for overseeing the leadership and management of all Boeing research and development programs in Australia and he also served in the Royal Australian Air Force reaching the position of Australian Commander, Joint Defence Facility in Nurrangar, South Australia in 1997.

Mr. Walker has also served on a number of boards, including the CRC for Integrated Engineering and Asset Management and he is currently Chair of the National Advisory Board of Enterprise Connect.

Outgoing CEO Dr. Cuthbertson focused on the achievements by AutoCRC to date, saying ‘we’ve achieved a lot over the last seven years. We started out trying to find our way as an organisation in the beginning (2005) and there have been many unique CRC achievements along the way, including the ASEA (Automotive Supplier Excellence Australia) program - which is going from strength to strength, creating a roadmap for the Australian automotive industry and also linking strategically to many international organisations. AutoCRC is now at a mature stage with a vision, a great team and a strong participant group, ready to continue its success’.

Dr. Cuthbertson continued ‘James Walker, as new CEO, will be a good complement to the team bringing the industry and government experience needed for this stage of the CRC’

AutoCRC Chairman Barry Comben thanked Dr. Cuthbertson for his outstanding leadership and acknowledged the major role that he had played in ensuring the successful five year extension of AutoCRC and the success of the company generally.
He also welcomed Mr. Walker, who starts his new appointment at AutoCRC on the 10th September 2012.

**About AutoCRC**
AutoCRC is the Automotive Cooperative Research Centre based in Australia with a vision of positioning Australia as a leading international manufacturer and technology provider for low emissions vehicles. AutoCRC also works with Australian automotive suppliers to make them more competitive through the Automotive Australia Supplier Excellence (ASEA) program.

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