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***\$3 Million Grant to Provide Support for New Center***

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The global automotive and telecommunication communities will soon have a new one-of-a-kind proving center dedicated to advancing emerging technologies—with the added advantages of increased vehicle safety, and jobs for Michigan. The Connected Vehicle Proving Center (CVPC) will support the testing and evaluation of new products and services dedicated to improving vehicle safety and creating a pipeline for real-time broadband communication between vehicles, roadside transceivers, and remote service centers.

The Center for Automotive Research (CAR), a non profit research organization based in Ann Arbor, Michigan has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund. The 21st Century Jobs Fund is a \$2 billion, ten-year initiative proposed by Governor Granholm, approved by the Michigan Legislature, and administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to accelerate the diversification of Michigan's economy.

The grant is a part of a \$6.9 million effort to develop the Connected Vehicle Proving Center and includes CAR, the Connected Vehicle Trade Association (CVTA), universities, government agencies, automotive companies, and automotive suppliers.

CAR and the CVTA will jointly develop and operate the test bed and evaluation lab in Michigan. The focus of the CVPC is to support the development, evaluation and validation of intelligent transportation systems, including vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside communications, commonly referred to as “vehicle infrastructure integration.”

“One of our first tasks will be to create a consortium of not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, along with selected universities and public agencies, to advise the CVPC,” said CAR project director and research scientist Steve Underwood. “We see this as the first critical step toward enabling a full understanding of the needs and objectives of the public and private entities involved in the vehicle communications environment.”

Initially, the CVPC will be made available to public and private entities as a reference environment for product evaluation and qualification within this realm. Over time, the center will evolve into a certification / validation laboratory.

The project includes participation from the General Motors, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, Nissan, Michigan Department of Transportation, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, Road Commission for Oakland County, Motorola, NAVTEQ, Sun Microsystems, Intel, Delphi, ZoomInfoSystems, ARINC(spell out), MTS Technologies, VII Consortium, Cogenia Partners and Cisco Systems.

“There is a tremendous array of capabilities that exists and that can now be brought together in an efficient manner, through the CVPC, to help advance new solutions for intelligent transportation systems and vehicle communications,” said Harry Voccola, NAVTEQ Senior Vice President and CVPC Joint Governance Committee.

#### **About CAR**

The purpose of CAR is to conduct research on significant issues related to the future direction of the global automotive industry, as well as organize and present forums of value to the automotive community. For more information, visit [www.cargroup.org](http://www.cargroup.org).

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