AutoCRC
Smarter Safer Cleaner

Press Release

For immediate release – 8 November 2006

New Computing Power to Boost Australia's Punch in Developing New Generation Safer Automobiles.

The strategic importance of the AutoCRC (Cooperative Research Centre for Advanced Automotive Technology) has been recognized by the Victorian Government which has awarded it $1m under its Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Infrastructure Grants Program.

The grant is to be used for a state-of-the-art High Performance Computing (HPC) and visualisation tools to explore the application of virtual reality to automotive engineering and design.

The HPC system will allow researchers to conduct leading-edge computer simulations and design optimisations, including durability analysis, stress analysis, automoted design optimisation and noise and vibration analysis.

Dr Matthew Cuthbertson, AutoCRC CEO says, "One of the immediate beneficiaries of the HPC system will be AutoCRC's occupant protection project which will use it for complex motor vehicle crash simulations not possible on less powerful systems".

"For example we shall now be able to validate models of the human brain using real life data which will then be used to improve occupant safety in motor vehicles crashes. HPC will also be used to develop new virtual engineering tools to design vehicles for reduced pedestrian impact injuries".

Dr Cuthbertson says; "It is critical for us to work together to give the Australian automotive industry a competitive edge in a global market".

"The new HPC capability for AutoCRC will further enhance the value of this collaboration by overcoming the difficulty of sharing and manipulating the huge data sets needed for 3D visualisation.

In the past, communication to remote locations of visualisations was achieved by what we could call manual methods, such as sending snapshots (effectively screen captures) of the data or physically sending the complete (huge) files for analysis.

"With the new HPC power, AutoCRC will be able to share data in a genuinely interactive (live) way previously not possible."

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This equipment will also be used in visualisation of engineering data/information as well as for the virtual training of automotive manufacturing or engineering workers

Dr Cuthbertson says, “The use of HPC is expected to help build the already impressive international reputation of many of the research groups in AutoCRC”.

(The CRC Programme is a Commonwealth Government initiative. For more information see www.crc.gov.au)

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High Resolution Photo* attached.

Photo Caption

AutoCRC participant, Monash University Accident Research Centre research fellow, Dr Melanie Franklyn, uses data from full-scale crash tests to help determine the stresses that cause brain injury. This work will be enhanced by AutoCRC’s high powered computing facility (HPC) which will be used to develop realistic models of the human brain to help design new levels of occupant protection in motor vehicles. (Photo Courtesy Monash University)

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