Quanser Awarded Funding to Advance Intelligent Auto Parts Manufacturing
New technology will give competitive edge to Canadian automotive industry

Toronto, February 19, 2008: A Canadian technology leader, Markham-based Quanser Inc. has been awarded the lead role in a $1.5M research project to develop new technology that will help Canadian automotive manufacturers become more globally competitive. Funding of $500,000, announced last month by Ottawa-based Precarn Incorporated and the Toronto-based Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association (APMA), will allow Quanser to develop a cutting-edge, intelligent system to predict the failure rate of auto parts in the manufacturing process.

"Canada is at the forefront of many exciting technology advancements," says Quanser CEO Paul Gilbert. "This is a great opportunity to use home-grown technology to reach a higher level of automotive manufacturing capability. And our advances in this area will allow Canadian companies to better compete at the international level."

This initiative will explore the development of a highly advanced and intelligent integrated fault detection system. Quanser was selected as the industrial research partner for this project because of its expertise in advanced control systems for industrial applications, and its unique ability to bring revolutionary ideas to life – from concept and design through to prototype development and production of commercially-viable systems. These capabilities are an ideal match for the challenge of developing next-generation systems that will take auto-parts manufacturing to the next level.

"This innovative project is designed to develop advanced technological solutions that will improve productivity and lower costs in the automotive manufacturing sector," said Paul Johnston, President and CEO of Precarn. The APMA is equally optimistic about the potential results. "We recognize the critical importance of innovation in this sector to maintain our competitive advantages," says Gerald Fedchun, President of APMA.

The 'Auto Component Failure Prediction System' is aimed at improving the very complex task of testing components designed for car engines. Since parts driven by the engine's crankshaft experience great strain during their life, a key component of this project is to understand their durability prior to failure. The new failure diagnosis system will use a combination of hardware and artificial intelligence (AI) tools to simulate the environment engine components will experience and thus help in the design of more robust products.

Joining Quanser as partners in this initiative are Laurentian University (Sudbury, ON), and Litens Automotive Group (Woodbridge, ON), a joint venture of auto-parts giant Magna International Inc.

This initiative is pat of the 'Collaborative Auto R&D Program,' created in May 2007 to target smaller automotive parts suppliers and deliver innovative operational prototypes for the auto parts industry. The program is administered by Precarn, a not-for-profit company representing a national network of corporations, universities, colleges, research institutes and government partners engaged in the development of enabling technologies. The Quanser project is one of three initiatives announced by Precarn in January, funded by Precarn and APMA, that together represent a $1.5 million investment. Combined with participant investment, the total project value is estimated at $3.5 million for research and development in the Canadian auto parts industry.

Quanser success stories include developing the freehand-script reproduction robot that brought to life Margaret Atwood's famed LongPen™ virtual book-signing device (www.quanser.com/longpen). Recently, Quanser was chosen as the industrial partner in an exciting new initiative led by C-STAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics) to develop next-generation surgical-robotic tools using Quanser's advanced haptic technology (http://www.quanser.com/NET/Industrial/News/PressRelease.aspx)

About Quanser
Founded in 1990, Quanser is a world leader in the innovation and development of advanced control systems for industry, education and research. Quanser provides flexible, real-time solutions for complex control problems – from design to manufacture to OEM implementation – taking concepts, products and research to the leading edge. Quanser's flexible state-of-the-art control technology is currently employed worldwide in a diverse range of applications, including aerospace, robotics, medical assistive devices and the emerging field of haptics.

About Precarn
Precarn is a not-for-profit corporation that has been designing and managing intelligent systems research programs in Canada for 20 years. Precarn has managed over 220 projects, $225 million in collaborative industry-based research, $60 million in collaborative university-based research, over 300 participating companies, more than 3,000 collaborating researchers and 40 start-up companies. Delivering innovation and value in Canada - the Precarn Network.

About APMA
APMA is Canada's national association representing OEM producers of parts, equipment, tools, supplies and services for the worldwide automotive industry. APMA's more than 400 members account for approximately 90 per cent of Canada's $33 Billion (2006) industry and employ over 90,000 workers. APMA's fundamental objective is to promote and support the automotive original equipment supply industry both domestically and internationally. The association creates and executes global marketing initiatives in order to develop international trade and business opportunities for the membership and also provides important representation to both the federal and provincial governments. APMA is the voice of the automotive original equipment suppliers in Canada. For more information on APMA, please visit www.apma.ca.

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