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April 30, 2008

Ontario university students unveil fuel cell vehicle

Toronto, Ontario – A team of students from Ontario's University of Waterloo (UW) have unveiled its hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle as part of the final year of Challenge X, a four-year North American competition to develop sustainable transportation solutions.

The team showcased its vehicle at Exhibition Place in Toronto, where visitors spent the day riding in and sometimes driving the team's vehicle. The technology has allowed UW to be the world's first university to successfully build a hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle that produces only water as its emission.

A top contender in the Challenge X competition, UW was the only Canadian university chosen to compete among the 17 North American teams. During the design phase, UW's detailed design process won eight of ten award categories and earned the team first place overall. Since then, the team has been working to integrate the design into a stock Chevrolet Equinox.

In May, the team will travel to New Jersey, New York, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. to showcase the vehicle alongside those of the other sixteen teams. This two-week event marks the conclusion of the four-year competition. The teams will compete in more than a dozen static and dynamic evaluations, and will be required to give oral presentations and submit a technical paper.

"We have built one of Canada's first passenger hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles and are very keen to see how our vehicle and our technology performs and compares," said James Goh, Business Director of the UW team. "For us, the real value of this competition has been the firsthand exposure to some of the most groundbreaking vehicle technologies being developed to solve the challenges of tomorrow. But, of course, we are also in it to win."

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