

Auto Service World

Canadian Team Wins North American Advanced Vehicle Competition

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A Canadian vision of the vehicle of the future has taken top honours at a North American competition in Detroit. A team of University of Waterloo engineering students - the only Canadian team in the competition - beat out 16 other top U.S. universities to win first place overall at "Challenge X" for their fuel-cell-powered vehicle design. Challenge X is a three-year competition sponsored by General Motors Corporation and the U.S. Department of Energy. It focuses on the re-engineering of a GM crossover sport utility vehicle. The four-day event at GM University, held from June 5 to 8, marked the end of the first year of the competition. Years two and three of the competition will be held at the end of the 2006 and 2007 academic years to showcase the teams' learning and vehicle development from year to year.

The team, sponsored by Natural Resources Canada and Hydrogenics Corporation, was the only one to use fuel cells for vehicle propulsion in their design to improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The University of Waterloo team will receive a new 2005 Chevrolet Equinox and a total cash prize of US \$19,500.

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