



insidetrack

the newsletter of the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies



IAA

FISITA's Honorary Committee gathers in Frankfurt



Terry Spall

on the automotive 'tiger economies' of China and India



Win a 500!

Grace your desk with this FIAT 500 official collector's model

Record number of engineers submit abstracts for FISITA 2008

It's official. As we approach our 60th year, the FISITA Congress continues to grow in popularity among the world's automotive engineers. A record-breaking 1076 abstracts have been received for the FISITA 2008 World Automotive Congress in Munich – an increase of 13% on the previous biggest response to a FISITA call for papers which was 950 for FISITA 2006 in Yokohama.

Engineers from 36 countries logged on to the web site to submit abstracts, including 8 countries which are not yet FISITA members! Roughly 38% of the abstracts for Munich come from engineers based in Germany, compared with 29% of abstracts which came from Japanese authors for Yokohama in 2006.

But while Christmas seems to come earlier every year, authors seem to be leaving it later and later to offer their conference papers, testing the nerves of

the organisers. Of the 1076 abstracts submitted this time, almost 700 were uploaded during the final three days before the deadline! The Scientific & Technical Committee, led by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Seiffert, now faces the difficult challenge of choosing the best papers from this huge selection based on technical excellence, as well as the need to reflect the global role of FISITA and the balance between industry and academic presentations.

Authors will be informed whether their paper has been accepted in February 2008, prior to publication of the Preliminary Programme.

Besides the technical sessions there will also be keynote presentations from engineering leaders and Dr. Klaus Draeger, BMW Group Board Member for Development and Purchasing, is among the first VIP speakers to confirm his participation at FISITA 2008.

Anyone thinking of exhibiting in Munich is advised to act now, as space is selling fast. More than 30 companies have already signed up including OEMs (Audi, BMW, Daimler, Toyota), suppliers (Bosch, dSpace, ETAS, Fujitsu, Magna, Schaeffler, Siemens, ZF) as well as technology companies (FEV, IDIADA, SGS, TÜV SÜD) to name just a few.

FISITA 2008 Abstracts

| Country | No of abstracts |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Australia | 20 |
| Austria | 38 |
| Belarus | 2 |
| Belgium | 5 |
| Brazil | 9 |
| Canada | 2 |
| China | 44 |
| Czech Republic | 7 |
| Egypt | 3 |
| Finland | 7 |
| France | 34 |
| Germany | 406 |
| Greece | 8 |
| Hungary | 8 |
| India | 32 |
| Iran | 30 |
| Italy | 42 |
| Japan | 94 |
| Korea | 85 |
| Luxembourg | 2 |
| Malaysia | 5 |
| Netherlands | 15 |
| Poland | 19 |
| Portugal | 3 |
| Romania | 16 |
| Russia | 8 |
| Spain | 28 |
| Sweden | 9 |
| Switzerland | 9 |
| Taiwan | 2 |
| Thailand | 2 |
| Turkey | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 39 |
| United States | 36 |
| Vietnam | 6 |

Heavy truck specialists head for Minsk



Don't miss the opportunity to test drive one of the world's biggest mining dump trucks (with a capacity of 220 metric tonnes!)

The Academic Automotive Association – Belarus (AAA) invites all automotive professionals, engineers, educators and students to the International Congress of Heavy Vehicles, Road Trains and Urban Transport under the FISITA patronage during 28–31 May 2008 in Minsk.

FISITA President, Dr. Akihiko Saito, will be among the keynote speakers at the congress. Also present will be Professor Dr. Ali Emadi from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago and Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technologies, Inc. Prof. Emadi will be presenting details of HEVT's Plug-in Hybrid Electric Heavy-Duty Vehicles. A number of technical visits to the Belarusian automotive enterprises will be provided for congress participants, including the unmissable opportunity to test drive one of the world's biggest mining dump trucks (with a capacity of 220 metric tonnes!) manufactured by Belaz.

Further information:
<http://truck2008.bntu.by>

FISITA gets its first Indian Honorary Committee member



Ratan Tata

Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Motors, has become a member of the FISITA Honorary Committee. Tata Motors is the first Indian automotive company to join the prestigious group.

The company, whose sales passed the half million mark in 2006, is currently attracting the interest of the world's automakers with its planned introduction of the 'people's car', or 'Rs 1 lakh car' in 2008. With its anticipated price of around USD 2,500 positioning it somewhere between a motorcycle and a car, the vehicle has the potential to revolutionise the market in India and other developing economies.

News in brief

Australia

SAE Australasia has held a party to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the society's foundation. The event, which took place on 22 November, featured a special guest speaker from Ford Motor Racing as well presentations on the society's history. SAE-A is the second oldest association in all of Australia.

India

SAE India will host its first Baja competition in Pithampur this December, showcasing the design and engineering talent of Indian students. The SAE India Baja provides an opportunity for existing students to acquire practical skills and experience and to equip them to be globally competitive. The society also hopes the competition will attract new talent to the sector as part of SAE India's vision INDIA 2020.

United Kingdom

IMechE has launched a new Low Carbon competition as part of next year's Formula Student to be held at Silverstone. The aim of the new initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of green fuels and technologies which many of us could be using in the near future in the drive to combat carbon emissions. The UK government-funded Energy Efficient Motor Sport (EEMS), which encourages alternative fuels in motorsport, is a sponsor of the event.

Spain

STA has held the ninth in its successful series of biennial seminars on Alternative Sources to Automotive Fossil Fuels. The society co-organises the event with the Automobile Laboratory at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia.

United States

SAE International hosted the 2007 Commercial Vehicle Congress in Chicago in November. Though only in its fourth year, the conference attracted more than 3,000 attendees from 25 nations. The event also saw the presentation of the inaugural SAE Commercial Vehicle Excellence in Media Award which was won by Greg Bluestein of the Associated Press.



Honorary Committee members get together in Frankfurt

Members of FISITA's Honorary Committee gathered in Frankfurt on the evening of the first trade day of the IAA for a special VIP dinner. Representatives from 42 member companies attended. They had the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues, and to find out more about FISITA in a relaxed setting on the banks of the River Main, away from the hustle and bustle of the world's biggest motor show.

Also among the guests were Past FISITA Presidents, Dr. Heinz Hahn, Prof. Bert Breuer and Dan Hancock. The special guest speaker for the evening was Prof. Klaus Toepfer, former Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who addressed the group on the topic of 'Mobility in a Decarbonised World'.

The evening was such a success that FISITA will repeat it during the IAA in 2009. Meanwhile the next gathering of the Honorary Committee will be in 2008, during FISITA 2008 in Munich, when members will be invited to a special reception prior to attending the Gala Dinner as Honoured Guests.



Guests enjoyed FISITA's Honorary Committee Dinner during the Frankfurt Motor Show.

SIA boosts international participation in Automotive Power Electronics conference



More than 200 international experts attended the second APE conference organised by the French SIA from 26–27 September to discuss innovations in the field of power electronics.

Power electronics was developed more than 40 years ago for industrial equipment. The technology deals with the conversion and transport of energy – most often an actuator that transforms electrical energy into mechanical energy.

The use of power electronics in automotive applications is growing fast. Already implicated in all vehicle functions: engine (alternator, etc.), passenger compartment (seats, windscreen wipers, electric windows and more) and chassis (steering, braking ...), power electronics is receiving attention from OEMs and suppliers thanks to its potential in reducing fuel consumption, providing more active safety functions and additional comfort.

'It is of fundamental importance to involve European and other international players of the industrial world and existing networks of experience. This is why the APE conference was conceived' said SIA President, Jean-Pierre Couronne.

With APE, the SIA is seeking to unite the entire Supply Chain (from manufacturers to component producers) as well as the major research laboratories in this field. While there are already several industrial or university conferences on power electronics, APE is solely dedicated to the automotive industry and attracts specialists from all over the world.

This year SIA was successful in its goal to raise international participation to more than 50% of attendees. In all, more than 200 engineers from 12 countries took part.

To achieve this, SIA worked in partnership with the Regional Development Agency, Paris-Ile de France (ARD), the Mov'eo Competitiveness Cluster, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the European Centre for Power Electronics (ECPE) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

According to SIA Director, Daniel Pfrimmer, 'the ultimate goal of the APE conference is to become the global technological showcase of power electronics applied to automobiles. A showcase for the Supply Chain, laboratories and universities, it aims to accelerate the development of ever more environmentally-friendly products that provide added safety and comfort, at a universally accessible cost'.

SAE International announces new Executive VP



Dr. David L. Schutt

The world's biggest automotive society, SAE, has named David L. Schutt, Ph.D, as its next Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. Schutt joined the society on 29 October following an extensive executive search. After a six month handover he will take over from Ray Morris who retires as SAE's chief staff officer in April 2008.

Schutt comes to SAE from the American Chemical Society (ACS), where he was Chief Strategy Officer and Director of External Affairs. He holds a doctorate in physical chemistry from Princeton University and

a bachelor's degree from Calvin College. He also earned an M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

2007 SAE President, Rich Schaum, said Schutt's academic and professional experience made him the ideal candidate for the high-profile position.

'David brings outstanding scientific and business credentials, as well as a highly developed global view to the position; attributes that will be extremely important as he charts a successful future for SAE International.'

Feeding the tigers

Thursday 1 November saw this year's Chairman of IMechE's Automobile Division, Terry Spall, giving his Chairman's Address at the Institution's headquarters in London.

Spall, who works for MIRA as the company's Vice President, Asia called his presentation 'Feeding the Tigers' and he used it to explore the development of Asia's emerging automotive superpowers China and India, and the profound influence that the UK engineering sector has had over their formative years.



'China and India could both be described as Asian automotive "tiger" economies' he explained. 'Though the term was first coined to describe South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong back in the 1980's many of the defining characteristics such as rapid industrialisation, an export driven economy and double digit growth are now very true of both China and India'.



"Whilst China is producing sufficiently large numbers of engineering graduates, knowledge and experience cannot be created at a rate to meet the demand... the UK is very often featured in their list of places to seek automotive engineering talent."

Terry Spall
Chairman, IMechE Automobile Division

In China during 2006 growth in the automotive sector was a staggering 27% with vehicle production exceeding 7.2 million. Installed production capacity amongst China's 80+ vehicle manufacturers able to produce more than 10,000 vehicles per year is now 8.5 million and rising fast. 'The engineering resource required to feed this growth, from production line worker to professional engineer, is also rising at a phenomenal rate. Whilst China is producing sufficiently large numbers of engineering graduates, knowledge and experience cannot be created at a rate to meet the demand; consequently many Chinese VMs find the need to look overseas to acquire this "commodity" to support their forward model programmes and the UK is very often featured in their list of places to seek automotive engineering talent'.

Following the collapse in 2005 of MG Rover, the UK's last domestically controlled volume manufacturer, and its acquisition of the company's intellectual property by Nanjing Auto and SAIC, many ex-Rover engineers made the journey to China along with some 20,000 tonnes of equipment. Many more are using their skills and experience in UK based ventures with Asian companies such as Ricardo 2010/SAIC UK in Leamington and Tata Motors' European Technical Centre at Warwick.

Based on his years of experience of providing engineering services to companies in China and India, Spall argues that their phenomenal growth presents a window of opportunity for those engineering service providers able to feed their insatiable appetite for technology. 'The UK automotive fraternity has already risen to this challenge and in almost every corner of our industry you will find strong trade linkages developing.

Consequently I feel it is time that we extend the sphere of influence of the IMechE Automobile Division and build a much stronger international portfolio. As an industry, we have much of what they want and the time is right for us to build stronger international relations and gain greater recognition for the Institution to the ultimate benefit of our members'.

He might be right. China's current automotive policy calls for 50% of the vehicles manufactured in China to be of Chinese owned Intellectual Property Rights by the year 2010. At the same time, India's Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) seeks to establish the country as 'the destination of choice in the world for design and manufacture of automobiles and auto components with output reaching a level of USD 145 billion accounting for more than 10% of GDP and providing employment to 25 million people by 2016'. That's a lot of feeding.

Terry Spall is giving his address at IMechE AD centres throughout the UK during 2007/8, and at the SAE World Congress in Detroit.

UK automotive engineering companies playing a major role in China and India include:

ARUP

MIRA



RICARDO

Further information:

www.imeche.org/industries/auto

Brazil starts fuels' research program to improve air quality

Brazil's AEA is leading a new partnership between the country's automotive industry, government and research institutes to demonstrate how improvements in fuel could lead to better air quality. The AutoOil Programme will commence in early 2008; inspired by a similar initiative at EUA, Europe and Japan.

AutoOil was launched at the AEA/ National Oil Agency (ANP) Workshop in August 2007 in Sao Paulo, in which Petrobrás (PBR), representatives from the industry and international specialists on engine pollution control came together to share experiences from Asia, America and Europe. During the event the ANP and PBR declared that they were in favour of implementing fuel

research in Brazil and confirmed their participation in AutoOil.

A Coordination Committee comprising automotive assemblers, component manufactures, refineries, oil distributors, environmental agencies and research bodies, will implement the AutoOil Program. AEA will represent the private sector, the ANP will represent the public sector.



Further information:
www.aea.org.br

5 minutes with Pasi Perhoniemi



Name: Pasi Perhoniemi

Age: 34

Role: Executive Director, SATL

Location: Helsinki, Finland

When did you first become interested in automotive engineering?

My father sold spare car parts in the 1970's and therefore I was aware of cars from a young age. I learned to drive at the age of 10 by driving a car and tractor in the fields around our summer house, and in the winter on a frozen lake. After high school and a period spent in the army as a chauffeur, I studied for a vocational qualification as a car mechanic and car body repairs man. I continued to work in car repair- and car body shops and later went onto study Automotive Engineering at Helsinki Polytechnic, graduating 6 years ago, having successfully taken part in RaceAbout. I became involved in the automotive body structures and joining technology (MIG brazing) R&D project at university and after graduation went onto work on the project for a further 2 years. Following this I was involved in the study of automotive pollutants, developing and using a mobile emission laboratory 'sniffer' car ('Nuuskija-auto').

What ambitions do you have for SATL?

I have been working in SATL for one year now. The work is quite different from the research projects that I was previously involved with but I have learnt a great deal. We have recently appointed a new President, Mr. Keijo Mäenpää, and we both have some new ideas for the development of SATL. One of our key aims is to strengthen the identity of SATL and to give better value to its members. This will centre on SATL's unique position as a neutral body, which can bring together individual members who would normally be in competition with each other.

What is the most important challenge faced by the society?

To attract new active members to continue the societies' activities whilst balancing the needs of existing members. This will mean making changes in some areas to attract new members but at the same time continuing to give existing members what they want and need.

What do you like about working in Finland?

The Finnish automotive industry is made up of a few car manufacturers, tier one companies and many small companies, which are able to focus on particular areas to a high level. From a geographical point of view, the best thing about Finland is its diversity. When driving through the country from one member society to other the scenery and weather can change so much, meaning that there is always something new to see.

What do you do when you are not working at SATL?

I live together with my common-law wife Katja in Espoo and in the future we plan to build our own house in the yard of my parents' house in Vantaa. I like to be active when I am not working and in the summer I go cycling or walking in the woods. In the winter I enjoy cross-country skiing. During the holidays I also like to take time to explore other parts of Finland and last summer drove 2600 km around the country, camping and cycling along the way.

If you could drive any car in the world, what would it be?

The car of my dreams to drive ... hmm ... a sports car called Radical.

FISITA Council meeting in Prague

When Council delegates gathered in Prague during September for the second FISITA Council meeting of 2007 the main item of business was the new FISITA strategic plan.

In order to maximise discussion and feedback delegates broke out into 4 special workshop sessions, each with its own facilitator. A trial session was held during the APAC conference in Los Angeles in August to reach delegates from FISITA's Asia Pacific societies.

The groups discussed actions in support of the new strategy and, by the end of a busy afternoon with much lively debate, more than 200 ideas and suggestions for actions been recorded. These inputs will help FISITA grow and better serve our members in the years ahead.

The Strategic Plan Task Force, headed by Ted Robertson, is now working with this data, adding budget estimates and priorities. A detailed version of new action plans will be presented to Council early next year.

As well as hosting the meetings and workshops CAS organised an enjoyable social programme, including a memorable dinner at the historic Brevnov Abbey.

Other highlights included visits to the Škoda Auto plant and museum at Mladá Boleslav, and a tour of the TPCA plant at Kolín. Opened in 2005, TPCA is a joint venture between Toyota and PSA Peugeot Citroën producing 300,000 cars per year.

Thanks to Branko Remek and his team, and to the sponsors: Škoda Auto, TPCA, Irisbus Iveco and the Czech Automotive Industry Association.



SAE's Murli Iyer during one of the strategic planning workshops.



Dr. Saito talks with Milos Polasek, CAS member during a tour of the Škoda Museum.



Dr. Ing. Jaroslav Machan, International Cooperation Manager, R&D Škoda (left) and Branko Remek at the Škoda Museum.



TPCA manufactures the Toyota Aygo, Peugeot 107 and Citroën C1 models in equal quantities.



Mr. A. G. Samarasekera, President of IAE Sri Lanka, paid a visit to FISITA HQ in London in November – pictured here (left to right) with FISITA staff Helen Lycett, Sarah Morgan and Kelly Williams

Contact Update

Danielle Calicchio has joined AEA, Brazil responsible for communications.

Tanja Teloy has joined the staff of VDI as an Assistant, supporting FISITA 2008.

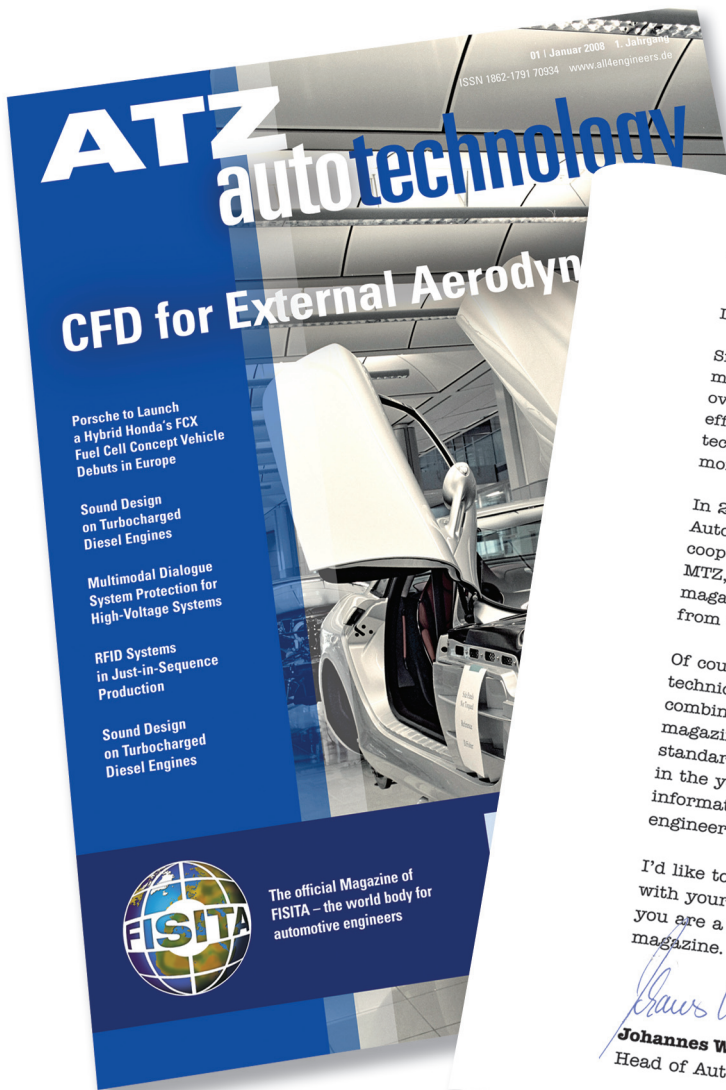
David L. Schutt has joined SAE Int. as Executive Vice President & COO Elect.

Jeanne Söderberg is the new secretary contact at SVEA, Sweden.

Ric Kleine, Vice President, Off-Highway Business, Cummins Inc. is SAE Int.'s new Vice President, Commercial Vehicles.

José M. Palacio is Senior Advisor of New Projects, Francisco García Torras is Senior Advisor of Technology Development and Miguel Ángel González has been appointed Senior Advisor of R&D and Innovation, all at the Spanish STA.

Big changes for FISITA Magazine



AutoTechnology becomes ATZautotechnology in 2008

Dear FISITA members

Since 2002 we have served you with our AutoTechnology magazine. From many talks with automotive engineers all over the world I know that you recognise our editorial efforts to provide first-hand information on new technologies making cars and trucks safer, cleaner and more comfortable.

In 2008 we will change – to serve you even better. AutoTechnology – renamed ATZautotechnology will cooperate more intensively with the magazines ATZ and MTZ, providing you with the best articles from these magazines for free. The number of issues will be increased from 6 to 10 per year.

Of course, ATZautotechnology will continue to publish technical articles from all over the world. We believe that combining the content of these titles in one international magazine will create a publication that can meet the high standard that FISITA and its member organisations ask for in the years ahead, and contribute to the exchange of information within the global community of automotive engineers.

I'd like to invite you to contribute to ATZautotechnology with your ideas and your suggestions for features. Because you are a FISITA member, ATZautotechnology is your magazine.

Johannes Winterhagen
Johannes Winterhagen
 Head of Automotive Media

Global Motorsports Congress 2007

The stars of global motorsports engineering were in Cologne for the fourth Global Motorsports Congress, organised in association with AutoTechnology. Highlights included a presentation from Kris Nissen, Director of Motorsports for Volkswagen AG, who described the development of VW's Race Touareg for the Rallye Dakar.

Proceedings are available from FISITA's on-line bookstore:
www.fisita.com/bookstore

ITS Connections: Saving Time, Saving Lives 16–20 November 2008, New York City



Michael Noblett of Connexis LLC, Chairman of the 15th ITS World Congress

In 2008, the 15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems will include the Annual Meeting & Exposition of the ITS America, making it the largest event in the world for ITS leaders, policy makers and industry professionals.

Technical paper submissions are invited, addressing technology subjects as well as the institutional, business and economic aspects of ITS. The deadline for submission of draft technical papers and full scientific papers is Friday, January 14, 2008.

Further information:
www.itsworldcongress.org

IMechE's John Lowe and 'Matilda'



Tell us about 'Matilda'

Matilda is a 1928 model 'Flatnose' Morris Cowley Coupe (2 plus dickie seat). She's officially rated at 11.9 horsepower from her (approx) 1.1/2 litre sidevalve Hotchkiss engine – still the original. Flatnose Morris cars are slightly rarer than the well-know 'Bullnose' Morris but both were built at Oxford and were benchmarks in their day for good reliable engineering and affordable mass production.

Why is she special?

The car actually boasts a number of 'advanced technology' features. There's a vacuum-operated windscreen wiper system (which is as effective as a fish in a horse race). There are four wheel rod-operated brakes (which can lock the wheels but only when everything is properly tuned). She also has dipping headlamps (originally one dipped, the other was designed to be extinguished – but both have been converted to permanent dip for regulatory compliance and safety reasons), and a side-draught SU carburettor with dash-pot control (which is capable of dripping fuel at an alarming rate).

How did you meet?

We saw her, sitting sadly on a garage forecourt in 1964 with a price tag of £130.00. We bought her instead of the house we had gone to see, having just returned from a long assignment and residence in



Nigeria. It took another 4 or 5 years before we could afford to buy a house, by which time Matilda's decline from a hard life in the hands of those who did not understand her had led to her having to be laid up. She stayed that way until 1994 when, after a frantic two year restoration programme, she was ready four days before our daughter needed the vehicle for her wedding car. She had been restored to her true colours and now gleams with shiny paintwork and polished nickel and brass.

What do you love about her?

The delight she brings to others when we're out and about. And being invited to park right at the front door of very grand country houses or five star hotels. Although the oil stains on the ground when we drive away are a bit of a disappointment.

I ♥ MY CAR

We saw her, sitting sadly on a garage forecourt in 1964 with a price tag of £130.00. We bought her instead of the house we had gone to see ...

If you are in love with a car, please tell us about it:
insidetrack@fisita.com

Robot dreams

SAE Australasia have teamed up with leading industrial robot supplier, ABB, to launch a new student design competition with a difference. Teams of university students partner with employers to design and develop an application of a robot in a work cell or process within an industrial application. All entries were evaluated on savings generated, innovation, safety, likelihood of success and presentation skills.

The inaugural competition was won by Jarred Spriggs from Deakin University who impressed the judges with his proposal for an automated vehicle glazing application for Ford Motor Company. Jarred wins three months paid work experience with ABB Australia in the robotics division, while all the finalists receive vouchers to attend a training course in robot engineering, as well as trophies.

Further information:
www.sae-a.com.au



Jarred Spriggs (left) and Aaron Dixon of Deakin University



OK, it's not a real one. But it is an official collector's model and it would look great on any desk!

Win a new FIAT 500!

In the last issue of InsideTrack, we told the story of Dante Giacosa, Past FISITA President, who was the creator of the original FIAT 500.

Since then, the new 500 has won Europe's prestigious 'car of the year award' for 2008 by a 60-vote margin. The contest, decided by a panel of journalists from 22 countries, dates back to 1964, when the Rover 2000 P6 won the title. Over the years, the award has been won by 45 cars. But can you tell us, which car maker has won the most titles?

Send your answer, along with your name and contact telephone number to insidetrack@fisita.com by 24 December for a chance to win this fantastic model.



insidetrack

Published by FISITA – the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies

President
Dr. Akihiko Saito

Chief Executive
Ian Dickie

Please send your contributions or suggestions to:

insidetrack
FISITA
30 Percy Street
London W1T 2DB
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0) 20 7299 6634
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7299 6633
email: insidetrack@fisita.com

Copyright © FISITA 2007



FISITA diary

14–15 April 2008

Executive Board
Detroit – SAE Congress

11–13 June 2008

Executive Board, Committees & Council
Barcelona, Spain

14–19 September 2008

Executive Board, Committees & Council
FISITA World Automotive Congress
Munich, Germany



www.fisita.com