Academia meets industry in unique partnership

The University of Windsor will celebrate the **launch of a unique partnership with industry** on Thursday with the grand opening of Tessonics Inc., a joint initiative between DaimlerChrysler and the research team of University of Windsor physics professor Roman Maev.~

Dr. Maev holds the joint DaimlerChrysler/NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Applied Solid State Physics and Material Characterization. He and his team have developed the Resistance Spot Weld Analyzer, a device to detect welding flaws during vehicle production. With approximately 4,000 spot welds on an average vehicle, Maev says the technology has the potential to save automakers hundreds of millions of dollars in quality control each year.

In return for providing start-up capital for Tessonics, DaimlerChrysler will hold exclusive rights to the company's product for one year – an arrangement that has already produced approximately 50 machines for the automaker.

"There is no doubt that technology and innovation are at the heart of Canada's future economy," says Susan McDaniel, University of Windsor vice-president, research. "It is vital that we make the connection between universities and industry. At the University of Windsor we are well on our way to ensuring that what goes on in laboratories on campus translates into solid benefits for all Canadians."

Dr. McDaniel gives high praise to DaimlerChrysler and its role in establishing a number of successful research and development projects with the University of Windsor.

"Tessonics is an exciting example of what can happen when innovation and academia meet industry," she says.

Maev and team shine at Tessonics grand opening

Physics professor Roman Maev and his team of researchers saw their labours bear fruit yesterday with the grand opening of Tessonics Inc., a unique partnership between the University of Windsor and DaimlerChrysler. Representatives from DaimlerChrysler and local industry joined University of Windsor faculty and staff to launch the type of initiative that is expected to be **the future of university research**.~

Dr. Maev welcomed Frank Ewasyshyn, DaimlerChrysler's Executive Vice-President of Manufacturing to Tessonics's Ambassador Drive facility to celebrate the joint initiative that has lead to the development of Maev's Resistance Spot Weld Analyzer. The analyzer is designed to assist the automotive industry detect welding flaws during vehicle production and has the potential to save automakers hundreds of million of dollars annually in quality control dollars.

Ewasyshyn says he is looking forward to growing the relationship between his company and the university and gave high praise to the efforts of Maev and his team, saying, "Technology is always an interesting journey … it's a real challenge to take something from the idea stage to a final product. It takes a tremendous amount of effort and today we are seeing the culmination of that effort."

A million-dollar idea: the resistance spot weld analyzer — displayed here by Frank Ewasyshyn, DaimlerChrysler's executive vice-president of manufacturing, and physics professor Roman Maev — has the potential to save manufacturers hundreds of millions of dollars each year.