



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

12 November, 2009

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CRC FOR RAIL INNOVATION AND CRC FOR ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Rail Innovation and the CRC for Advanced Automotive Technology (AutoCRC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in relation to Australian Road – Rail Research Collaboration.

The MoU was signed by David George, CEO of the CRC for Rail Innovation and Dr Matthew Cuthbertson, CEO of AutoCRC, and it sets out to undertake mutually beneficial and collaborative research activities in the area of Road and Rail technology particularly in relation to level crossings

“Level crossing crashes result in enormous human and financial costs to society and are the single greatest source of risk to safety on the rail network. Since April 2006 there have been 14 major level crossing crashes involving trucks with the loss of 17 lives and more than \$100 million in damage. Collaboration between CRC for Rail Innovation and AutoCRC will further strengthen the research outcomes of this nationally important level crossing research.” said David George.

Dr Matthew Cuthbertson states that, “Advancements in automotive technology have contributed significantly to reducing on-road fatalities. AutoCRC is committed to using its participants’ world-class research capability in human machine interfaces, vehicle systems and telematics to find solutions that will reduce the road toll at rail level crossings. Collaboration with CRC for Rail Innovation will lead to transformational change and achieve superior outcomes for Australia.”

The Memorandum of Understanding recognises the importance of close co-ordination and co-operation between the two organisations.

In particular, it provides for exchange of relevant information and regular consultation on research issues of joint interest, particularly at the **Application and Interface Research Areas** such as level crossings, transport safety, driver distraction and inter-modal (road and rail) communications; and the **Technology Research Areas** like communications (especially digital short range communications) and human factors

A project from AutoCRC, **Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to Improve Safety**, and another from the CRC for Rail Innovation, **Integrating Driver and Traffic Simulation to Assess In-vehicle and Road-based Level Crossing Safety Interventions**, have been identified as the initial projects of mutual interest.

Both projects have been approved to progress. It is expected that both projects will be underway by early 2010.

Both David George and Dr. Matthew Cuthbertson agree that collaboration between the automotive and rail industries is the best way of dealing with these interface issues.

###

Media Enquiries

Dora A Ugalde
Communications Manager
CRC for Rail Innovation
Ph (02) 6270 4506
Email dugalde@ara.net.au

Thomas Ting
Commercial Manager
AutoCRC
Ph (03) 9647 5431
Email: thomas.ting@autocrc.com