

Autotech Council and AutoHarvest Partner to Accelerate Transfer of Tech Innovations to the Auto Industry

San Jose, Calif., Detroit, Mich, June 26, 2014—The Autotech Council, based in San Jose, Calif., today announced that it is joining the AutoHarvest Foundation as a strategic partner. The Council is a group of technology innovators whose members represent many of the nation's leading suppliers and automakers. AutoHarvest operates the world's only neutral and global online meeting place that allows inventors to showcase capabilities and technologies and then privately connect with companies to commercialize their products.

By working together, the Autotech Council and the AutoHarvest Foundation will facilitate the flow of innovation from Silicon Valley to America's automotive centers by easing the transfer of intellectual property in the areas of transportation and advanced manufacturing.

More than 100 innovation companies have worked with the Council to seek corporate partners through presentations at the organization's monthly meetings. As a result of the new partnership, all past and future presenting companies will be offered an AutoHarvest membership, enabling them to display their technology needs and solutions to a global market.

The Autotech Council's mission is to help speed the introduction of tech innovations into the auto industry. The organization believes that better and faster innovation benefits the entire automotive value chain—from developers and venture capital firms to vendors, parts suppliers, automotive OEMs and consumers.

"Fully 80 percent of the startups and innovation we see through the Autotech Council are pursued afterward by Council members focused on getting better cars to market sooner," said Liz Kerton, executive director of the Council, "proving that these new technologies also align well with the AutoHarvest innovation ecosystem."

To launch the new partnership, AutoHarvest President Jayson Pankin will be the keynote speaker at the July 11 meeting of the Autotech Council. The meeting coincides with two relevant events in San Francisco, the Semicon West tradeshow for micro- and nano-electronics manufacturing and the Global Summit for Advanced Manufacturing. Pankin recently was designated by Intellectual Asset Management magazine as "one of the world's leading IP strategists." During his keynote, he will address the emerging patterns of collaboration among rivals in advanced manufacturing.

"AutoHarvest is delighted that Autotech Council has become an active catalyst to ignite innovation among established manufacturers and new entrants in the automotive sector," said Pankin, president and CEO of AutoHarvest.

"Together we can create a superhighway for innovation from California and other regional clusters to the vehicle manufacturers around the globe. AutoHarvest senior vice president, Eric Stief, who will lead integration of the early stage companies into the virtual ecosystem added, "Tomorrow's breakthrough solutions and products often are the fruit of unlikely alliances among disparate parties who come together through open innovation mechanisms, making serendipity routine."

Participants in the two organizations have expressed enthusiastic support for the partnership. "Faurecia is proud to be a member of both the Autotech Council and the AutoHarvest Foundation," said Dana Lowell, Director, Advanced Business Development of Faurecia Automotive Seating, a business group of Faurecia, the world's seventh-largest automotive supplier. "By being connected to America's brightest technology companies in the heartland locations of both high-tech and automotive innovation, we will gain even more extraordinary value from these organizations. Faurecia is constantly seeking new inventions and innovative talent, and this partnership will help us accelerate the adoption of emerging technology developments."

About AutoHarvest Foundation

AutoHarvest Foundation, a 501(C) (3) nonprofit organization, created and operates a unique innovation ecosystem led by some of the most highly respected figures in the automotive and manufacturing industries. In 2012, AutoHarvest.org was launched as the world's only truly neutral and global online meeting place for innovators of all types with an interest in advanced manufacturing. This system allows users to showcase capabilities, technologies and needs system-wide and then privately connect with fellow inventors and commercializers to explore technology and business development opportunities of mutual interest. The AutoHarvest interest group consists of more than 250 prominent R&D and manufacturing organizations from industry, government and academia. Recently awarded a multi-year grant by the New Economy Initiative Foundation of Southeast Michigan, AutoHarvest is part of the Detroit Regional Innovation Network. For more information visit: www.autoharvest.org.

About Autotech Council

Since 2012, the Autotech Council has worked on helping better innovation in the auto industry get to market faster through discovery, education, introductions and cooperation. "Better and faster" innovation benefits the entire automotive value chain, from the entrepreneur and risk-taking VCs to the vendors, parts companies, automobile manufacturers and ultimately the consumer. On the web at www.autotechcouncil.com.