

SMITHERS Scientific Services, Inc.
425 West Market Street – Akron, Ohio 44303-2099



News Release

Media Contact:
Michael E. Fay
Director of Communications
Tel: (330) 762-7441
Fax: (330) 762-7447
Email: mfay@smithersmail.com

“Creative Solutions Since 1925”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHERS IN JOINT VENTURE WITH AUTO TESTING COMPANY

AKRON, Ohio (March 2, 2001) – Smithers Scientific Services Inc. has entered into a joint venture agreement with Auto Testing Co. Inc. (ATC), a subsidiary of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Inc, to conduct durability testing in the U.S. for DaimlerChrysler Corp. (DCC). Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

The new joint venture company – Automotive Testing DRIVEtech LLC – will be located at the Automotive Testing Properties (ATP LLC) Proving Ground in Laredo, Texas, formerly owned by Michelin North America. ATP, a subsidiary of ATC, has owned and operated the Laredo facility since 1998.

More than \$3.5 million will be invested to enhance the existing test facility with a new 14,000-sq.-ft. administrative building and garage and a 65-ft-high hill climb with a 20-percent grade on one side and a 30-percent grade on the other. Also included will be three new stop lanes on the five-mile high-speed track. The new test facility is expected to be operational by this fall.

Smithers will manage DRIVEtech, which will employ about 80 people to include engineers, technicians, mechanics, clerical staff and test drivers. It will operate three eight-hour shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“This is a great opportunity for us to combine our automotive proving grounds expertise with DaimlerChrysler technology,” said J. Michael Hochschwender, Smithers’ president and chief executive officer. The company operates two automotive proving grounds – Smithers Transportation Test Center in Pecos, Texas, and Smithers Winter Test Center near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

“The joint venture between Smithers and Auto Testing Co. represents an excellent combination of automotive expertise from two highly qualified companies. DRIVEtech will benefit from the synergies of their cooperation,” said Helmut Keller, ATC’s chairman and CEO.

Smithers is a leading independent testing, research and consulting firm, serving an international client base of designers and manufacturers of automotive, tire, aerospace, elastomeric, plastic, steel, chemical, medical and transportation products. For more information about the Akron, Ohio-based company, log onto its Web site at www.smithersscientific.com .

###