

**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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SMITHERS TAPS MARIO PEREZ AS GENERAL MANAGER OF NEW JOINT-VENTURE COMPANY IN LAREDO**

LAREDO, Texas (July 30, 2001) – Mario A. Perez has joined Smithers Scientific Services Inc. as general manager of DRIVEtest LLC, the new joint-venture company in Laredo, Texas. He will be responsible for coordinating the daily operations of the facility, including scheduling, hiring and quality control, plus profit and loss responsibilities.

DRIVEtest is a joint venture between Smithers and Auto Testing Company Inc., a subsidiary of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Inc., to conduct durability testing in the U.S. for DaimlerChrysler Corp. It is located at Auto Testing Properties Proving Ground in Laredo, and is expected to be operational in August.

Mr. Perez brings to his new job an extensive background in automotive management and engineering, having worked previously for Philips Components, a supplier of ignition modules to the Big Three U.S. auto makers, and for ITT Automotive and Delphi Chassis. He also spent a year in Japan as a design engineer for Hitachi.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Nuevo in Monterrey, Mexico. He and his wife, Delia, reside in Laredo with their son, Elliott, 12.

Smithers [www.smithersscientific.com](http://www.smithersscientific.com) is a leading independent automotive testing, research and consulting firm based in Akron, Ohio.

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