



NEWS

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For Immediate Release FORD, SENSORS, INC. , PUT EMISSIONS TESTING ON WHEELS

DEARBORN, Mich, February 28, 2003 – Ford scientists, in cooperation with Sensors, Inc., have developed a way to measure vehicle emissions by using on-road testing that captures real-world driving conditions.

"This partnership is part of Ford's continuing global effort to develop clean and energy-efficient vehicle technologies," said Gerhard Schmidt, Vice President of Research and Advanced Engineering at Ford Motor Company. "These real-world emissions tests supplements the extensive research we already perform in our labs and give our customers products developed with accurate and reliable emissions data that will stand up to real world conditions."

Historically, most emissions validation tests have been performed in dynamometer laboratories. These facilities follow strict U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) procedures that call for specific engine loads and speeds to be applied to each vehicle while emissions are collected for analysis. In the future, emissions testing is expected to encompass both dynamometer and on-road testing cycles.

Although dynamometer testing has been the industry standard for more than 30 years, many experts believe that on-road emissions data provides additional information that, in certain circumstances, cannot be attained with the current dynamometer test protocols. This is because dynamometers, although able to produce very accurate, repeatable data under controlled conditions, are unable to easily duplicate the changing scenarios encountered on the road, such as grade, four-wheel braking, weather and fuel quality.

Both Ford and Sensors, Inc. have been developing on-board emissions technology separately for many years, but this latest agreement will allow the best technology from both companies to be combined into one leading-edge emissions monitoring system, called SEMTECH. The system incorporates technologies and intellectual property owned by the two companies, much of it developed jointly over the past three years.

"Sensors has enjoyed a very beneficial relationship with Ford over the past three years," said Andrew Reading, President of Sensors, Inc., "and together we have developed an emission test system that is already best in class."

The Ford and Sensors SEMTECH system is a self-contained, battery powered analytical unit that can be installed in the trunk of a test vehicle to measure tailpipe emissions. An exhaust probe gathers the emissions while the test system reads data coming from the vehicle's on-board computer. The mass of gaseous pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons emitted by gasoline and diesel powered vehicles is continuously measured by the system. The data can either be recorded or transmitted from the test vehicle via satellite connection to a remote location for analysis.

Ford is a leader in developing environmentally responsible vehicles. Ford was the first manufacturer to announce plans for a hybrid electric-powered SUV, the Ford Escape Hybrid. The company also was the first to announce its production prototype fuel cell vehicle, the Focus fuel cell vehicle and it has led the industry in voluntarily pledging to make all of its vehicles cleaner and safer, often well in advance of legislative requirements. Ford's environmental leadership continues in 2003 as the all-new Escape Hybrid and Focus PZEV vehicles become available.

Sensors, Inc. has been a leader for many years in the design and manufacture of OEM gas analyzers for the inspection and maintenance industry. Over the past four years, the company has shifted its Research and Development focus to on-road, in-use emissions analysis technology, including the measurement of particulate emissions.

For more information on environmental and other technologies available for licensing from Ford Global Technologies, LLC, please consult www.fordbetterideas.com. For more information on Sensors, Inc. products and services, please consult www.sensors-inc.com.

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