

INTRODUCTION

The ESV Program originated more than three decades ago under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, and was implemented through bilateral agreements between the Governments of the United States, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Sweden. The participating nations agreed to develop experimental safety vehicles to advance the state-of-the-art technology in automotive engineering and to meet periodically to exchange information on their progress. Since its inception the number of international partners has grown to include the Governments of Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Korea, and two international organizations -- the European Enhanced Vehicle-safety Committee, and the European Commission. A representative from each country/organization serves as a Government Focal Point in support of the Program.

In the interest of information exchange, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, distributes this CD-ROM which contains the Proceedings of the 21st International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV). The technical papers included in this publication detail safety research efforts underway worldwide, and share the common interest of reducing motor vehicle related fatalities and injuries globally. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in the publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Final papers are accepted after the corresponding abstracts undergo technical review. The technical papers contained on this CD-ROM are the unmodified written work of the author(s).

The Conference Organizers thank our international participants for their dedication and support of the 21st ESV Conference and look forward to your future participation.

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