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Jerrie Fiala, Editor: jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu**Eaton signs with CAViDS for future hybrid-electric drive lab at CEAS**

In a ceremony held last December, Western Michigan University (WMU) and Eaton Corporation, Galesburg, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop the Eaton Hybrid Electric Drive Applied Research Lab at the CEAS Parkview Campus. **Dr. William Liou**, a professor in WMU's Dept. of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) and the director of the WMU Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation (CAViDS), coordinated the ceremony.

Dimitri Kazarinoff, Eaton VP and general manager, signed the MOU, which had already been signed by **Lowell Rinker**, WMU's VP for business and finance. The result is that Eaton is providing \$350,000 for the lab startup and around \$300,000 annually after that to maintain a lab where the hybrid electric drive business group at Eaton and the CEAS can collaborate to promote innovative ideas and research solutions.

According to Liou, the lab development represents the collaborative efforts of Eaton and WMU to promote the research of solutions to emerging engineering problems associated with commercial and military hybrid drives at the level of system integration through testing and computer simulations.

"We want to use the lab to attract others into future joint research ventures," Liou said.



Dimitri Kazarinoff (seated), Eaton VP and general manager, at WMU/Eaton MOU signing with (left to right) **Dr. Osama Abudayyeh**, CEAS associate dean for research; **Dr. William Liou**, WMU professor and CAViDS director; **Daniel Busby**, Southwest Michigan Council executive director, Boy Scouts of America; **John Bair**, CAViDS executive director; **Dr. Paula Kohler**, WMU associate VP for research; and **Robert Smith**, SW Michigan First VP. Photo by Laura Decker

Liou said the focus of the lab will be on systems integration. "It will have the typical hybrid electric drive facilities, but we're not focusing on any one component," he said. "We're looking at systems integration and how well things work when you put them together."

"Funding the development of this lab represents a major commitment from Eaton toward that eventual goal and how they see CAViDS at WMU as a viable partner in their long-term hybrid drive business plan," Liou said.

In addition to CEAS, Eaton, and CAViDS officials, others who attended the ceremony included **Daniel Busby**, executive director for the Southwest Michigan Council, Boy Scouts of America, and **Robert Smith**, a VP for Southwest Michigan First. "This coming year is a big year for the Boy Scouts, and we're looking to do some activities with the scouts in the next year," Liou said, "and Southwest Michigan First is one of our CAViDS partners.

In addition to those who attended the ceremony, Liou acknowledged **Dr. Rudy Smaling**, a chief engineer at Eaton, for his efforts in developing the new lab.

CAViDS was formed to provide breakthrough applied computer simulation technology and knowledge to the vehicle industry in the area of vehicle design and analysis. Eaton is a charter member. Other members include Dana Corporation, L-3 Communications, MANN+HUMMEL USA, TARDEC, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. For more information, contact william.liou@wmich.edu

Send your thoughts or suggestions for future topics to the editor at jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu Thank you.