



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEA Institutions among First HBCUs in Nation Granted Delphi Automotive Systems Academic Research Partnership

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SEA institutions are among the first Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation to enter a partnership agreement with Delphi Automotive Systems (DAS) of Troy, Michigan to conduct research projects funded by DAS.

The Academic Partnership Agreement will provide an opportunity for SEA students and faculty, particularly in the fields of engineering, chemistry, and physics to participate in the development of inventions, improvements, and discoveries relating to research projects of interest and importance to DAS.

“I am pleased to offer the SEA institutions the privilege of becoming a member of the Delphi Academic Partnership Program. This master agreement was developed in conjunction with several major universities and places the SEA institutions on a par with the University of Michigan, The Ohio State University, The State University of New York, and several other major universities for obtaining research contracts from Delphi Automotive Systems,” said George S. Frahm, DAS new technology buyer.

The agreement was executed through the efforts of the SEA Office of the Executive Director on behalf of the member academic institutions—Alabama A&M University (Huntsville, AL); Jackson State University (Jackson, MS); Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX); and Southern University and A&M College (Baton Rouge, LA). Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the national laboratory member of the SEA, will participate.

“The Laboratory is available to assist the SEA Office of the Executive Director with the implementation of the DAS Academic Partnership Agreement at the HBCU institutions.

Additionally, we will look for opportunities for our Lab scientists to get involved,” said Tommy Smith, Director of LLNL's Affirmative Action and Diversity Program. “The SEA is a unique resource for the nation and this new partnership is another example of the progress being made through SEA. We are pleased to expose to DAS our faculty’s work on ink jet metal deposition on printed circuit boards, fiber optic experience on fly by light, and their computational work on droplet breakdown in hot gas flows for rocket engines, which might be useful for fuel systems work and injectors for gasoline and diesel engines,” noted Dr. Robert L. Shepard, SEA founding executive director. “Another important aspect of this Agreement is that this partnership with DAS will assist Jackson State University in development of its new School of Engineering,” said Shepard.

SEA is a consortium of the four state-supported HBCUs in alliance with LLNL, in Livermore, CA. The Alliance was established in response to a reduction in resources for undergraduate and graduate education and a government and industry mandate to improve science and mathematics education at all levels, including enhanced research infrastructure and participation by faculty and students in high-quality, collaborative research in science, engineering and related fields.

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