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Delphi Engineers Share SAE Top Honors for Excellence

DETROIT, Feb. 25 /PRNewswire/ -- Two of Delphi Automotive Systems' engineers have been named co-winners of the 1996 Henry Ford II Distinguished Award for Excellence in Engineering by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

The award went to Subir Chowdhury, quality and systems engineer, and Ken Zimmer, quality and systems manager, both of Delphi's Saginaw Steering Systems Division. Their book, "QS-9000 Pioneers," was selected as having the greatest positive impact on the passenger car, truck and bus industries during 1996.

The award was presented at the SAE Honors Convocation Luncheon, Feb. 25, 1997, during the SAE Congress in Detroit. QS-9000 is the quality system used exclusively by the automotive industry. It is based on the ISO international quality standard and its 23 elements which significantly impact all areas of a manufacturing facility, including operations and inventory control, industrial engineering, manufacturing engineering and quality assurance.

"QS-9000 Pioneers" provides understanding and easy translation of the specific requirements that must be met to gain certification. Chowdhury and Zimmer's groundbreaking book assists in the implementation of a good quality system in companies, regardless of size, which are involved in the global automotive industry.

The Aug. 5, 1996 issue of U.S. Auto Scene declared the publication, "the most highly endorsed book on quality in the world." It has also been featured in Fortune magazine.

It is the only book in the world that has been endorsed by virtually every respected quality leader, including J.D. Power III, Dr. Genichi Taguchi, Philip B. Crosby and Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum, among others.

According to Power, Chowdhury's and Zimmer's book "is the key to informing the automotive suppliers about how to get on the automotive quality improvement bandwagon."

Crosby stated that the book details successful implementation techniques and helps readers understand what it takes to get things done right the first time.

More than 40,000 automotive suppliers worldwide will be trying to get QS-9000 registered or compliant by the end of 1997. Currently, less than 1,000 companies are QS-9000 registered. (Registration is the first step toward QS-9000 certification.)

Interestingly, this is the first time that automotive suppliers have shared their strategies for effective quality systems implementation. Chowdhury and Zimmer jointly edited "Jump-Start QS-9000," a compilation of proceedings from the international conference on QS-9000. It was highly acclaimed by General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

Chowdhury and Zimmer also jointly edited the American Society for Quality Control's (ASQC) 1996 Automotive Division summer workshop proceedings and the 35th annual fall conference proceedings for ASQC Automotive Division.

In addition to their editorial work, both men have found time to establish new ASQC student chapters in U.S. universities to promote manufacturing as a forefront career consideration.

Chowdhury holds a master's degree in industrial management and technology from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering (with honors) from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, India.

Among a long list of honors, Chowdhury has received the prestigious Automotive Hall of Fame's Young Leadership and Excellence Award for his major contributions to the automotive industry, the Ralph E. Cross Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers for his significant achievements and leadership in the field of manufacturing engineering and the Judson G. Jarvis Service Award from the ASQC's Automotive Division.

Zimmer, a 23-year veteran of General Motors, holds a master's degree in industrial technology from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich., where he was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award and was named to the National Dean's List. Currently, he is a member of the adjunct faculty of Eastern Michigan's graduate program in quality management. He is certified as a quality engineer and quality auditor by ASQC.

Delphi Automotive Systems, headquartered in Pontiac, Mich., U.S.A., is the world's largest and most diverse automotive supplier of components, integrated systems and modules with operations in 36 countries on six continents, including three regional headquarters (Europe, Asia-Pacific and South America) and 17 technical centers worldwide. Delphi can be found on the Internet at:

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