

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, and two international organizations -- the European Enhanced Vehicle-safety Committee and the European Commission. In 2005 the Republic of Korea became an ESV member country. A representative from each country and organization serves as a Government Focal Point in support of the ESV Conference.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, in the interest of information exchange, distributes this CD-Rom publication containing the Proceedings of the 20th ESV Conference. The technical papers included in this publication detail safety research efforts underway worldwide, and share the common international objective of reducing motor vehicle related fatalities and injuries. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in the publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Transportation or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Final papers are accepted based on technically reviewed abstract submissions. The technical papers contained on this CD-Rom are the unmodified written work of the author(s).

The Conference Organizers thank our international assembly of participants for their dedication and support of the 20th ESV Conference and look forward to your future involvement.

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ESV Technical Coordinator

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