



MEDIA INFO

June 8 2011

Advanced automotive engineering design lab opens at Politecnico di Torino thanks to the PACE program – “Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education”

- ✓ *Politecnico di Torino is welcomed into the PACE program*
- ✓ *Politecnico di Torino hosts executives from the PACE Partner companies GM, Autodesk, HP, Oracle and Siemens PLM Software for the ribbon cutting ceremony*
- ✓ *Politecnico di Torino will be supported with IT product and services going forward*
- ✓ *General Motors Powertrain Europe has been Politecnico di Torino's first sponsor*

Torino, Italy. Ensuring that engineering graduates receive hands-on experience with current CAD/CAM/CAE software tools used in industry is the main objective of the PACE (Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education) Program. Politecnico di Torino now joins PACE and is the first Italian university selected to enter this prestigious international network of strategically-selected academic institutions.

The lab officially opened today by its partners GM, Autodesk, HP, Oracle and Siemens PLM Software will offer Politecnico di Torino students the most advanced automotive engineering software currently used by today's automotive industry. In this lab students will learn how to use actual commercial product design software rather than the simpler reduced functionality university versions. This experience gives students an edge in the job market through hands on practice.

Overall Politecnico receives an in-kind investment of state-of-the-art computer workstations plus other hardware, engineering software, student and academic training and software support.

Through PACE, Politecnico di Torino joins 52 universities around the globe, 4 of which are in Europe, becoming part of a virtual international campus. Other globally well known universities that are part of the PACE program include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States, the National Institute of Design (NID) in India, and Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUD) in Germany.

Politecnico was invited to apply to PACE by the GM Powertrain Engineering Center management located on its campus. Politecnico di Torino was chosen for the quality of its research and education, as well as for its role as a “Research University” where education and research are integrated to give a pragmatic answer to the need of the region.

Today the program enters an operational phase at Politecnico di Torino by making the PACE tools available to all students and faculty on computers in the various labs. Around 3,000 students and a large number of courses will benefit from the PACE program.



Quotes from University and Industry Executives:

“Joining PACE program is a great opportunity for our University. PACE will improve our automotive engineering programs, through the most advanced teaching instruments. In fact this will give to students a further edge in the job market: an additional value to form young graduates with skills that are available only in a few universities in the world. Moreover PACE is really important for all of us as it allows us to improve and enrich our cooperation with General Motors”.

Francesco Profumo, Rector Politecnico di Torino

“The participation of Politecnico di Torino in PACE is framed within the ever growing collaboration between this institute and GM Powertrain. PACE is a powerful opportunity for Politecnico to ensure its graduates the competence and skills the automotive industry and GM in particular are constantly looking for”

Achim Koenigstein, European Leader PT Advanced Engineering

“I’m glad to see the PACE project becoming a reality here at Politecnico. The GM Engineering Center has been the first Politecnico’s fan in this project. Since the beginning we were strongly confident in the Politecnico scientific competence and education premium quality: today we see the outcome of this partnership”.

Pierpaolo Antonioli, Managing Director GM Powertrain Europe

“On behalf of HP, I would like to extend my congratulations to Politecnico di Torino as they join the PACE family of universities. By integrating the PACE tools and processes throughout its engineering curriculum, Politecnico di Torino is upgrading its ability to train a new generation of engineers who are well-versed in today’s technology and ready to hit the ground running when they join the workforce.”

Todd R. Taylor, VP, Global Operations, GM Account, HP Enterprise Services

"Autodesk congratulates Politecnico di Torino on becoming a member of the prestigious network of PACE universities. PACE provides the next generation of designers and engineers with the real-world tools and technology to imagine design and create a better tomorrow. We are proud to support this global program."

Joe Astroth, Chief Education Officer, Autodesk

"Oracle is pleased to see a wider interest and expansion of the PACE program and particularly pleased today to grow the relationship by the joining of such a prestigious university such as Politecnico di Torino. We strongly believe this industrial-academic collaboration will be beneficial to all the parties involved and to the opportunity it offers to network across member organizations. Most importantly it will strengthen the exchange between the academic world, the research one and new future talents the universities will produce."

Monica Marinucci, Director for Research, Oracle EMEA

“Siemens PLM Software is proud to be part of this ambitious project to help students to be more effective when moving from the University to the professional world. Thanks to the PACE integrated suite of tools, Politecnico di Torino will be able to boost innovation in the region by injecting the next-generation graduates into the workforce.”

Franco Megali, CEO Siemens Industry Software Italy

Contacts:

Politecnico di Torino

Ufficio relazioni con i media
Tiziana Vitranò – Elena Foglia Franke
Tel: 011 564 6183 -6286
relazioni.media@polito.it

General Motors Powertrain Europe

Manuela Seia
Tel: +39 011 424 8411
+39 348 4830 559
manuela.seia@gm.com