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MSU CAVS Symposium

Posted by Paulo Salazar | June 27, 2012 / 04:24pm | Local News

STARKVILLE, MISS. (WCBI) - Emerging technologies get their starts in places like MSU. The Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems, or CAVS, pairs the bright minds of today with the industries of tomorrow. Experiments like the ones done at CAVS are changing the way materials are made and used.

CAVS Chair Professor Mark Horstemeyer says, "The idea is to simulate events where things break or fracture or tear apart. That's used in design of components of cars."

As well as planes, trains and trucks.

According to Horstemeyer, "If people aren't sure about when something is going to break they make something called safety factor and they add a lot more material cost a lot more and it's a lot heavier. What we're trying to say is we can predict things to the 99th percental so we can optomiose design and save weight."

The lighter the car, the farther it can travel on a tank of gas. That saves money and helps the environment.

Some of the materials have already hit the road in the form of a Corvette engine cradle or the swing arm for a Cadillac.

There is three major types of testing that take place at the CAVS Center. Compression, tension, and torsion.

MSU graduate student Wilburn Whittington says, "Some of the things we do is investigate crash worthiness for automotive vehicles and those applied engineering concepts that actually come out of our experiments we're able to put those in practice in the actual automotive industry."

The three day symposium brings together the brightest minds from across the globe to share ideas and perspectives.

Xin Shun with Pacific North West National Lab says, "Experts from various scales all come into this one room and we talk about the issues and the state of the art really modeling techniques at different scales."

It's all an attempt to stay on the cutting edge. Local industries that deal in metals, polymers and composites are already benefiting from the research that's being done in their own backyard.

The Symposium wraps up Thursday. This is the third year for the event.

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