

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact:

Simon Cobb: Phone: 252-678-2174

Gary Brown: Phone 252-534-1092

**North Carolina
Center for Automotive Research, Inc.**
9495 NC 305 North, PO Box 685
Jackson, North Carolina 27845

Heaton Construction Receives NCCAR Building Contract Award

Northampton County, NC --- Officials of the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research, Inc. (NCCAR) have confirmed the approval of a Notice of Award to Heaton Construction, Inc. of Roanoke Rapids, NC, pursuant to bids submitted for construction of buildings included in Phase 1A of the NCCAR project. The approval came during a meeting of the NCCAR Board of Directors yesterday, February 9, 2009.

The award follows a bid opening held on January 29, 2009 at which time bids from nine general contractors were received. Heaton Construction was identified as the apparent low bidder, submitting a total bid of \$2,795,000 for base bids plus alternates. Project Architect AKTAI subsequently tabulated and confirmed all bids, and issued a recommendation of award to the NCCAR Board of Directors.

NCCAR buildings to be constructed during Phase 1A of the project include the center's 23,620 square-foot engineering, client garage and operations building and the entry security building. The Phase 1A operations building will include six fully-equipped, double-bay client garages with integrated offices and secure storage; three engineering suites with individual offices and bull-pen areas; and conferencing facilities. NCCAR officials describe the facility as being designed to provide clients a very user-friendly environment for conveniently, efficiently and effectively conducting their work.

Simon Cobb, NCCAR's chief operating officer, noted "The design integrates office, garage and support functions such that engineers and technicians can conduct their work at NCCAR as if they were working at their own facilities. Plus, fully-secure high-speed internet connectivity in the operations building, coupled with WiFi which will be available across the site, will provide for virtually seamless communications and data transmission."

Tim Kurmaskie, President of AKTAI commented, "The NCCAR board of directors has done an exceptionally great job of guiding the project. They have been consistently deliberate, prompt and accurate --- and perhaps most importantly, they have provided very effective management. We're in daily conversations with Heaton Construction and are preparing all contract documents. We will be submitting that contract to the NCCAR board of directors quite soon with the intent of getting Heaton on-site and underway as soon as possible."

NCCAR officials also report that the work of site construction general contractor PLT Construction has proceeded steadily and is on schedule and budget, accomplishments they attribute to careful planning and precise execution by project engineers and contractors. Project managers have also cited the support and guidance received from the North Carolina General Assembly, Office of State Budget and Management, and State Construction Office as being very valuable in successfully moving the project forward.

About NCCAR

Purpose-designed to exacting standards, the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR) is an independent, non-profit center devised to meet the ever-evolving product research, testing and development demands of the automotive industry. State sponsorship and affiliation with North Carolina's university and community college system offers exceptional opportunities for matching the innovative talents of the world's automotive industry with the research capacity and business development resources of the State of North Carolina. For more information please visit the NCCAR website, www.nccar.us. Use the website to sign up to receive the NCCAR newsletter "CarTech", released in February 2009.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Simon Cobb, 252-678-2174, simon.cobb@nccar.us www.nccar.us