



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release: Attention News/Assignment Editors**

### **Ontario engineering student wins big in Minerva Canada – James Ham Safe Design Award**

**Toronto (April, 2009)** – Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc. has announced the winner of its 2009 James Ham Safe Design Award Competition. Ontario's university engineering students were challenged to make an original contribution toward integrating safety into engineering design.

William Doyle and Michael Hermanns, engineering undergraduate students at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario took the top Minerva safety award for designing line of sight improvements for mid-sized hydraulic excavators. The new excavator design improves the operator's direct line of sight and awareness of surroundings through changes to the machine's structure and the inclusion of a camera and infrared sensor system. Each student received a plaque and a cheque for \$1,750 from Minerva Canada President and CEO Tony Pasteris and IAPA President and CEO Maureen Shaw.

The award honours James Milton Ham whose Royal Commission Report on Health and Safety led to the creation of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act in 1979 and to the adoption of the Internal Responsibility System in Ontario workplaces. James Ham trained as an engineer with a secondary field of study in sociology; his writings emphasized 'society and human needs'. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1980 and died in 1997.

Minerva Canada's James Ham Safe Design Awards:

- Encourage students and engineering faculty members to integrate safety into all designs.
- Produce safer designs of devices, processes and systems.
- Raise awareness of Process Safety Management (PSM) and Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) in the Province of Ontario.

Through the Minerva Awards program, students and faculty members in Ontario engineering schools are being challenged to:

- Suggest ways to improve the existing design of devices, processes or systems.
- Envision new, innovative designs that will eliminate or reduce potential hazards.
- Create tools to help manufacturers and workplaces integrate safety into new or retrofit designs.

The award will be presented Tuesday April 21, 2009 at the Industrial Accident Prevention Association's national Health and Safety Conference and Trade Show in Toronto. There are several thousand attendees at this Conference. The 2009 winners will also participate in a Research Poster session, where they will demonstrate the system.

Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc.

Minerva Canada is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the teaching of Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Management in post secondary schools across Canada. It targets the educators of tomorrow's leaders by encouraging colleges and universities to embed SHE management education into the core curricula of business and engineering programs. Research has repeatedly shown that effective, productive and profitable companies have a CEO and senior management team who understand the benefits of SHE management systems and processes and are committed to them. SHE management education is a fundamental cornerstone of an effective corporate culture. Minerva consists of volunteers from industry, government, academia and safety associations. Key sponsors include the Ontario Ministry of Labour, the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, Imperial Oil Limited, General Motors of Canada, Dupont Canada, Bruce Power, Trimac, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, the National Safety Council, and the Canadian Society for Safety Engineers.

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