



## NEWS RELEASE

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

### **Ontario Engineering Students Win Big in Minerva Canada James Ham Safe Design Award**

**Toronto (May, 2012)** – Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc. has announced the winners of its 2012 James Ham Safe Design Award Competition. Canadian university engineering students were challenged to make an original contribution toward integrating safety into engineering design.

The team of Marla Desat, Alessandra Pizzolato, Ji-Young Ahn and Melanie Hazlett, chemical engineering undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo took the top prize for its design of a propane terminal to prevent fires and explosions. The team of Igor Ivanecky and Elmer Atagu, electrical/computer engineering undergraduate students at Ryerson University in Toronto took second prize for their design of an iPhone Driver Alertness Monitoring System. The winning team will be awarded the first prize of \$3,500 while the runner-up team will receive \$1,500 from Minerva Canada President and CEO Tony Pasteris along with other Minerva Board members during the Minerva Canada Summer Institute being held May 28, 29 at the University of Toronto.

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 engineering schools.

Through the Minerva Awards program, students and faculty members in Canadian 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.

## 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 Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, the Ontario Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, Ontario Ministry of Labour, Imperial Oil Limited, Shell Canada, Nova Chemicals, Dupont Canada, Erco Worldwide, Chemtrade Logistics, Nexen Inc., Bruce Power, Canada Post, Trimac, General Motors of Canada, the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering.

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