



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 26, 2007

Contact:

Josie Patterson
(617) 253-4422
josiep@mit.edu

MIT Museum

Presents

A System of Coordinates: Invention and Sustainability

January 13 - August 10, 2007

Discussion with MIT Inventors
May 5, 2007
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

CAMBRIDGE, MA - *A System of Coordinates: Invention and Sustainability* opened with an opportunity to examine an electric car powered by a new generation of a lithium-ion battery. This unique exhibit unfolds in three parts and investigates MIT based engineering breakthroughs that will change current industrial practices to lighten their impact on the natural world. Visitors learn about the lines of connection between invention and social change, individual contributions and global-scale solutions.

"This exhibition is a celebration of the inventing mind, perhaps the most important instrument we have toward achieving sustainability," says Seth Riskin, MIT Museum Emerging Technologies Coordinator. "I'm looking forward to getting people of all ages into the museum so they can have a chance to talk with dynamic innovators whose work will reshape world society—the area of transportation is an example."

A System of Coordinates: Invention and Sustainability in the MIT Museum's emerging technology gallery was coordinated with, and sponsored in part by the Lemelson - MIT Program, as a special feature of EurekaFest, a multi-day celebration of the inventive spirit from May 2 to 5, 2007, in Boston and Cambridge, Mass.

The MIT Museum is inviting the public to meet some inventors during the afternoon for an informal discussion in the Emerging Technology Gallery on Saturday, May 5 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. MIT professors and students will join visitors in a discussion about the exhibit's featured technologies, the inventing process and the role of invention in achieving sustainability.

This "only-at-MIT" exhibit will display during an 8-month period:

- A new lithium-ion battery technology that is helping to reshape the course of global transportation by making plug-in hybrid electric vehicles a reality; developed by Professor Yet-Ming Chiang of the MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering.
- Molten oxide electrolysis: a pioneering new method of producing iron and other metals with oxygen as the only by-product—no greenhouse gases; Professor Donald Sadoway of the MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering.
- A bridge technology for the transition from fossil fuels: an Ethanol-boosted, half-sized gasoline engine with the power of a full-sized engine and fuel efficiency near that of today's hybrid engine systems; Researchers Leslie Bromberg and Daniel Cohn of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center and Professor John Heywood of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Currently on display in the Emerging Technologies Gallery is the Pulse Car, a single passenger, all electric commuter concept vehicle powered by batteries developed by Professor Yet-Ming Chiang, and a related detailed displays about his energy storage invention. These rechargeable batteries are high power, long lasting, green and safe. Nano-scale engineering of material structure led to this technology that is helping to reshape the course of global transportation by making plug-in hybrid electric vehicles a reality. The Pulse Car was developed by an international group of students at the 2006 MIT Vehicle Design Summit.