



For Immediate Release
AAIA-14-00

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Canadian Tire Partners With AAIA on i•SHOP Initiative
Top Canadian Retailer Provides Prototype of Integrated Repair Shop

BETHESDA, MD – August 22, 2000 – Canadian Tire, the top hard goods product retailer in Canada, has contributed three fully equipped service bays for the testing of i•SHOP standards at its Retail City facility in Toronto, Ontario, the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA) announced today.

i•SHOP is an open shop integration standard that permits computer-based products and services in an automotive service facility to work together as one seamlessly integrated system. Technicians in an integrated shop can access all the information needed to complete a repair from any workstation.

“AAIA is grateful for the generous contribution by Canadian Tire to the integrated shop standards initiative,” said Al Gaspar, AAIA president and CEO. “With the level of support from partners like Canadian Tire, AAIA can advance programs like i•SHOP to benefit the North American aftermarket.”

The service bays, which will host the testing of i•SHOP standards, will be housed in Canadian Tire’s new 50,000 square-foot prototype mega-store, Retail City, in Toronto. Retail City is used for research, training and merchandise testing.

The state-of-the-art service bays will be the first fully functional integrated shop environment featuring the latest service and repair tools and diagnostic equipment from i•SHOP members: Snap-on, SPX, Vetronix and ALLDATA.

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(Quote here from Canadian Tire)

i•SHOP is the result of the Shop Integration Task Force, coordinated by AAIA's Electronic Commerce Committee. The technology was developed by Snap-on, the Enterprise Alliance, ASA-Net in Europe and others around the world to create a single open standard – i•SHOP.

(Canadian Tire boilerplate here)

The Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA) is a Bethesda, Md.-based association whose member companies manufacture, distribute and sell motor vehicle parts, accessories, tools, equipment, materials and supplies. The organization is comprised of manufacturers, distributors, jobbers, wholesalers, retailers, manufacturer's representatives and other companies doing business in the automotive aftermarket. AAIA formerly served the automotive aftermarket as APAA and ASIA.

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Note: A copy of this news release is available electronically at the AAIA World Wide Web site at www.aftermarket.org