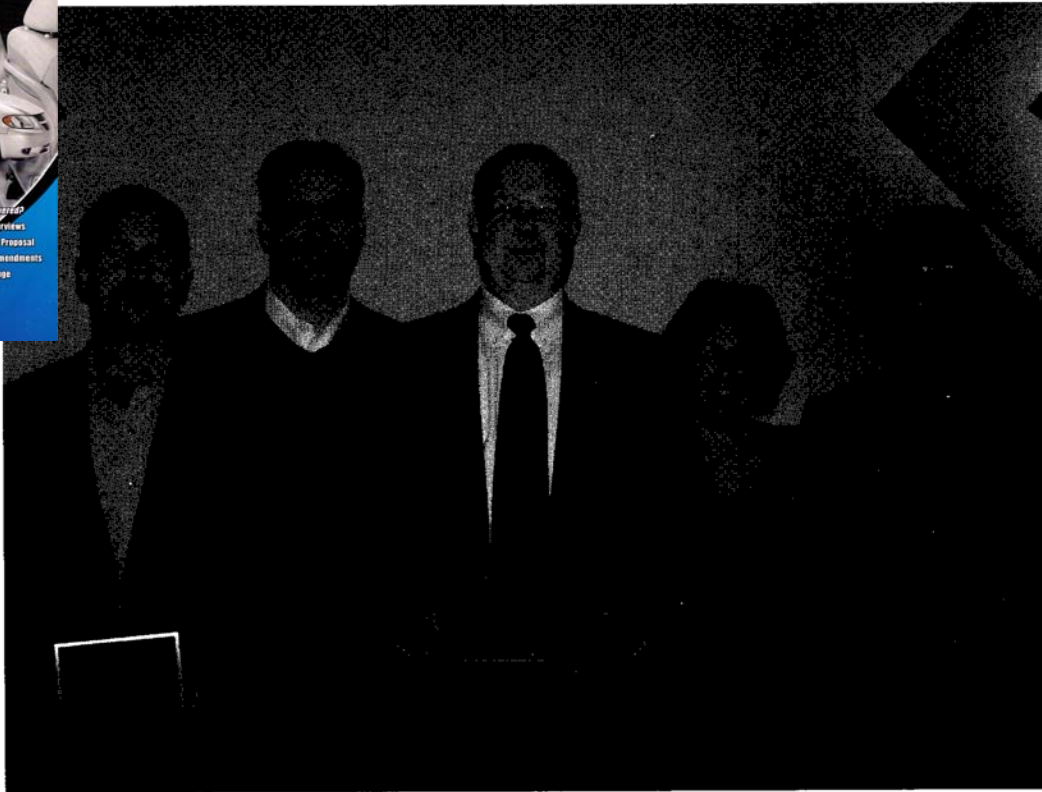


Adaptive Driving Alliance New Technology Award Presented to John Kazanchy

By Marilyn Myers



Congratulations to John Kazanchy, winner of the first Adaptive Driving Alliance New Technology Award. John won for his Accelerator Interlock for Hand Controls and Left Foot Accelerators. The concept was derived from his experiences as an expert witness in litigation cases involving hand controls and left foot accelerators. Essentially the interlock is a method of 'locking out' the accelerator function of hand controls and left foot accelerators to prevent inadvertent operation by able bodied individuals.

The two runners-up were Daniel Dube of Cubic Design in Lachute, QC Canada for his electromechanical hand control driving aid design and Bruce Mather of Lap Belt Cinch, Inc. in Hockessin, Delaware for his CG-Lock design for seatbelts that enhances the comfort, stability and safety of drivers and passengers.

The three finalists received \$1,000 each to offset travel to the NMEDA Conference and the winner received a \$2,000 grand prize. The Adaptive Driving Alliance provided the

cash awards and NMEDA provided complimentary registration for each of the finalists as well as a booth for the finalists to exhibit their new technology.

In 2006 the Adaptive Driving Alliance presented NMEDA with a proposal for a New Technology Award to promote new technology and innovation for the mobility vehicle market. The purpose of this being to provide an avenue for new ideas to get to market that may otherwise not have the opportunity. The award provides seed money and exposure for new ideas related to the automotive adaptive market. New products could make their way to the market faster, thus better serving the mobility dealer and consumer.

The competition was open to all individuals and small businesses with new technology in the prototype stage or beyond that was related to the adaptation of a motor vehicle or a product that applies to the adaptation of a motor vehicle.