

MASS HIGH TECH

MIT

THE JOURNAL OF NEW ENGLAND TECHNOLOGY

TECH CITIZENSHIP

Tech firms help design alternative-fuel cars

A Boston professional land surveying firm and a Concord software firm are among the local companies pitching in to help student engineering teams from around the world at the first-ever Vehicle Design Summit at MIT this summer. **Harry R. Feldman Inc.** helped the summit's retrofit team, charged with taking a Honda Insight and retrofitting it with composite material, and then making some design changes to make the vehicle more aerodynamic. Feldman's engineers performed a 3-D laser scan of the car so the team could use the information in their software to enhance the design.

The goal of the summit is to conceive, design, implement and operate a fleet of innovative autos that use noncarbon-based fuel hybrid technologies, including human power, biofuels, solar and fuel cells. It's an offshoot of a celebrated biennial 3,000-kilometer solar car race across Australia. Unlike the race, the summit at MIT focuses on collaboration, not competition, and on affordable technologies that don't require support vehicles to operate.

Concord software firm SolidWorks is the event's exclusive 3-D CAD sponsor and donated 90 licenses of SolidWorks Education 3-D CAD software, which includes a suite of COSMOS design analysis tools. The software specifically is being used



3-D LASER scanning engineers from Boston's Harry R. Feldman Inc.'s land surveying firm spent a day helping the student team at the Vehicle Design Summit at MIT perform six 3-D laser scans of a Honda Insight, pictured above, to make the vehicle more aerodynamic.

to help in prototyping auto bodies and designing chassis during the nine-week summit, which is set to come to a close this weekend.

Michael Feldman, president of Harry R. Feldman Inc., said his company's 3-D Laser Scanning team spent a day helping the student team perform six scans of the Insight. Results included a 3-D mesh of the vehicle given to the team to help with

design and analysis.

Feldman said he's gratified his firm was able to use its newest technology for a project that "could not have been done any other way."

"And, we helped a group of young, brilliant students who are our world's future regarding innovative design," said Feldman.