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Introductory Remarks
Role of Standards in India-U.S. Commercial
Dialogue – Automotive Sector Panel Discussion
July 7, 2009 – New Delhi

Good evening, everyone.

It is a pleasure to join you for this automotive sector panel discussion. I am honored to be here and to witness what is sure to be a very exciting dialogue.

As you are likely aware, the United States automotive industry is governed by both regulation and voluntary consensus standards and conformance activities. Some issues – emissions testing comes to mind – are mandated by the government. But others, such as headlamps, tires, automotive glass, and braking performance, are addressed by standards that are developed with a private-sector lead.

Truly, the U.S. automotive industry is a partnership between government and industry. And in our role as the coordinator of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment system, ANSI is pleased to facilitate this public-private partnership. Many of our members are also ANSI-accredited standards developers working on automotive or vehicular component standards, such as ASTM International, IEEE, the Automotive Lift Institute, SAE International, Underwriters Laboratories, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, to name just a few.

The American automotive industry are also very heavily involved in ISO work, and I'm pleased to report that our experts are working right alongside yours on Technical Committee (TC) 22, *Road vehicles*, and TC 204, *Intelligent transport systems*. A lot of technical activity is also underway within the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and there too the U.S. and India are already working side by side on TC 21, *Secondary cells and batteries*.

In today's marketplace, auto manufacturers are faced with big challenges, but they also have big opportunities. Clearly, they are dealing with the difficulties brought about by the global economic downturn. But they also have an opportunity to innovate and rethink their business models as increased consumer awareness of vehicle efficiency and sustainability drives industry-wide change.

It is an interesting time, and I look forward to hearing about the issues and opportunities that you identify during this session. Of course, we will capture the issues that you raise in our joint CII / ANSI issues matrix, so that our organizations can conduct or support any necessary follow-up activities.

As I discussed in my remarks earlier this afternoon, the ANSI / BIS / CII MoU is based on encouraging increased collaboration on standards and conformance in both the U.S. and India. It is also based on supporting industry by connecting individuals and organizations with expertise in specific sectors and technologies to share information and best practices.

After all, we are not the experts – you are. We are here to facilitate your connection, listen to your needs, and provide you with resources that can help you meet your business goals.

I look forward to listening as an observer, and want to express my strong support for collaborative efforts such as this. Together, we can address opportunities, share ideas, and build relationships that will result in shared benefits across the automotive sector.

Thank you very much for your attention – I look forward to an exciting discussion.

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