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Student Essay Awards in Magnetics – January 8, 2004. Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. A group of earth science companies recently announced an essay award program in magnetics for students enrolled in post-secondary institutions as of October 1, 2003. The program is intended to support the next generation of geoscience professionals through financial awards and access to professional magnetic software. It also focuses on magnetic methods as one of the key geophysical methods for addressing today's earth science challenges in a variety of disciplines.

The program is sponsored by GEM Advanced Magnetometers, Encom Technology, GISCO, Allied Associates Geophysical Ltd., Geostudi Astier SRL, and Terraplus Canada. As noted by GEM President, Dr. Ivan Hrvoic, "It's very exciting to be part of an effort focused on young professionals. As with others in the industry, we recognize that there is a decline in the number of students entering the geosciences. We see the award program as a small contribution in generating enthusiasm for a professional career that is both challenging and rewarding. It is also an opportunity to help advance the understanding of magnetics with the next generation of young minds."

Students from around the world are invited to prepare a short essay (800 to 1200 words) in English in any area of magnetics. Topics can include the application of magnetics in different disciplines (resource exploration, archaeology, earthquake research, UXO; environmental and engineering; magnetic observatories; volcanology/paleomagnetism, etc.). Essays on case histories, instrumentation, software, data acquisition and quality control, and interpretation and modeling are welcome. Students are also free to select other topics that are aligned with their current academic activities.

Three award recipients will be selected to receive financial awards as well as a one-year license to the Profile Analyst professional geophysical analysis package from Australia's Encom Technology. Entries are due by Friday March 19, 2004 and will be judged by a panel of internationally recognized magnetics experts. Judging will be based on overall impression and comprehensiveness of essays; technical merit; and writing and adherence to publishing standards.

The sponsors encourage any students or teaching professionals who are interested to access full program and contact information at http://www.gemsys.ca/current/magnetic_essays.htm. There is also a flyer available for print out and posting on notice boards in academic institutions at http://www.gemsys.ca/Students/essay_flyer.pdf. Award recipients and their essays will also be posted on participating companies' web sites following the judging process.