

PRESS RELEASE

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CIC Database Task Force Meets with Mitchell International

Mitchell International (Mitchell) extended an invitation to the Collision Industry Conference (CIC) Database Task Force for a meeting at their corporate headquarters in San Diego, California. This meeting was prompted in part due to the collective efforts of this group in working with Mitchell to address a concern over labor times posted for panel bonding. The CIC Database Task Force (Task Force) is comprised of representatives from the three largest collision repair trade associations in the country: the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers (AASP), the Automotive Service Association (ASA) and the Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS).

The Task Force accepted the invitation and spent a day and a half touring Mitchell's facility and meeting with their executive and product management teams. AASP Immediate Past President Nick Kostakis said, "We viewed this as a great opportunity to continue the open dialogue we've established with Mitchell and for their management team to hear first hand the larger issues most important to our members, related to the database providers including Mitchell."

The Task Force viewed the meeting as successful and wanted to commend Mitchell, Tom Fleming, Vice President of Database Development, and their entire Executive Management team for their honesty and willingness to work with the Task Force. Darrell Amberson, ASA Collision Division Chairman stated, "I think all of us were pleased as to how receptive Mitchell was to the issues we raised and to our suggestions for changes that we feel would improve the accuracy of their database."

Barry Dorn, SCRS Secretary, said, "Our mission was to raise those macro-level issues identified at CIC, and discuss them at length. Hopefully, we can expect to see future changes related to database disclosure (when significant changes are made to the database), identification of 'new' substrates (i.e. magnesium, aluminum, boron), appropriate labor values associated with these new materials and unique procedures; and, finally, an estimate print font size that is more easily readable."

It was during this meeting that Tom Fleming further validated Mitchell's commitment to working with the Task Force; informing the group that the Task Force would be offered three seats on their advisory board. The advisory board, which consists of representatives from various industry segments, meets annually to discuss their database and feature/enhancement requests. Fleming commented, "The representatives on this Task Force represent a large percentage of our customer base, are leaders in the collision repair industry and are a valuable barometer of the needs and issues of the collision repair community. We felt adding *the voice of the Task Force* to our advisory board not only demonstrated our commitment to the Task Force, but also to the collective collision repair industry as we try and meet their needs from a feature and functionality perspective."

“The Task Force will continue to work with Mitchell International and the other information providers on an ongoing basis,” stated Lou DiLisio, “The need for ongoing dialog and physical meetings between the database providers and representatives of the collision industry, whether it is through the Task Force or Advisory Boards, will continue indefinitely. The extent to which we can work together responsively and productively will determine the methodology used to address the issues as they are raised”.

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This press release was produced and distributed as a result of joint efforts by the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers (AASP), the Automotive Service Association (ASA) and the Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS).

AASP: "The Alliance of Automotive Service Providers is a coalition of associations which serve the automotive service industry. In a spirit of mutual cooperation and support, Alliance participants are committed to sharing information, knowledge and other resources for the benefit of the members we serve." Visit the AASP website at www.autoserviceproviders.com.

ASA: The Automotive Service Association is the largest not-for-profit trade association of its kind serving an international membership base that includes numerous affiliate, state and chapter groups from all segments of the automotive service industry. ASA's headquarters is in Bedford, Texas. ASA advances professionalism and excellence in the automotive repair industry through education, representation and member services. For additional information about ASA, including past news releases, go to www.asashop.org, or visit ASA's legislative Web site at www.TakingTheHill.com.

SCRS: Through its direct members and 31 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 5,000 collision repair businesses and 58,500 specialized professionals who work with consumers and insurance companies to repair collision-damaged vehicles. Additional information about SCRS including other news releases is available at the SCRS web site: www.scrs.com. You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: info@scrs.com.