



Press Release

Ontario Centres of Excellence and the Catalan Institute of Photonic Sciences collaborate to commercialize leading-edge photonics research

Toronto, ON (May 03, 2007) – Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. has set the stage for joint technical, scientific and technology transfer activities with the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO) in Catalonia, Spain. With members of a delegation from the Catalan region in Toronto this week for OCE's Discovery 2007: TO NEXT conference, OCE and ICFO signed a memorandum of understanding outlining increased partnership in photonics between the two regions.

The goal of the MOU is to stimulate innovation and expedite the commercialization of technologies that will make businesses in both regions more competitive globally. Together, OCE and ICFO will build industrial R&D collaborations and seek mutually beneficial trade and business opportunities. The two regions will also explore educational opportunities, including the exchange of scientific expertise and personnel.

"OCE is very pleased to create with ICFO the first concrete expression of the strengthening of broader research and commercial ties between Ontario and Catalonia," says Mr. Mark Romoff, President and CEO, Ontario Centres of Excellence. "This is a tremendous opportunity to build powerful synergies in a priority technology sector – the partnership has real potential to boost our respective economies."

ICFO Director, Dr. Lluís Torner noted that the formal agreement is "recognition of the alignment between Catalonia and Ontario around the potential of innovation, and a demonstration of the emphasis both governments place on making advanced research benefit industry. Teaming up with OCE and their Centre of Excellence for Photonics will create an exchange of ideas resulting in high-value commercial output."

About Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc.

Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. drives the commercialization of cutting-edge research across key market sectors to build the economy of tomorrow and secure Ontario's global competitiveness. In doing this, OCE fosters the training and development of the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs and is a key partner with Ontario's industry, universities, colleges, research hospitals, investors and governments. Celebrating 20 years of innovation in 2007, OCE's five Centres work in communications and information technology, earth and environmental technologies, energy, materials and manufacturing, and photonics.

For more information, please contact Ann Holtby, Marketing and Communications, Ontario Centres of Excellence, at (416) 861-1092.