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**New Centre For Energy:
The Latest Pillar In Ontario's Long-Term Energy Strategy**

Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc. and Hon. Joseph Cordiano,
Minister of Economic Development and Trade,
Launch The First Addition to Centres of Excellence Program Since 1987

Toronto, ON, January 10, 2005 — The Ontario Government and the Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc. today unveiled the latest pillar in the Province's long-term energy strategy: A new Center for Energy, within the Ontario Centres of Excellence program.

"The Ontario Centres of Excellence will play an important role in Ontario's long-term strategy for energy," said the Honourable Joseph Cordiano, Minister of Economic Development and Trade. "The new centre will help build better energy markets and systems that integrate new technologies."

The Centre for Energy, in which the Government of Ontario will invest \$8 million over four years, is the first new Centre of Excellence launched in Ontario since 1987. It responds to a key recommendation in the January 2004 Report of the Electricity Conservation and Supply Task Force.

The Centre for Energy will work within the OCE's unique model of economic development. In that model, OCE moves laboratory discoveries quickly into the marketplace by acting as the province's primary bridge between Ontario's academic researchers and Ontario's private sector companies.

During the year ended March 31, 2004, OCE linked nearly 800 Ontario companies to nearly 4000 academic researchers at more than 20 post-secondary institutions. In that one-year alone, intellectual property created by OCE's projects also attracted \$24 million in investment from private capital markets.

Starting in spring, 2005, the Centre for Energy will use the same model to:

- Accelerate the development of new energy technologies,
- Help integrate new technologies into the energy system, and
- Help industry develop information systems to manage energy markets.

The new Centre for Energy will be "virtual" – operating with only a small staff, based in Toronto, and building on a wide range of energy-related projects already underway across the Centres of Excellence program. That approach ensures that the government's investment will have the greatest effect, without being distracted by significant incremental costs.

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“The creation of this centre is a testament to OCE’s success in commercializing Ontario’s best new technologies,” added Mark Romoff, President and CEO of the Ontario Centres of Excellence, Inc. “For nearly 20 years, OCE’s model has succeeded in moving ideas from the lab to the marketplace. We’ve supported new research in Ontario, and created new business in Ontario. Now we’re taking that track record and applying it to one of the Province’s most pressing economic concerns: energy.”

“The Centre for Energy already has a running start,” Romoff added. “And this new funding will help us truly deliver viable, long-term energy solutions for Ontario.”

About OCE Inc.

OCE Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that delivers the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade's (MEDT) Ontario Centres of Excellence program, which was established by the Ontario Government in 1987 to support research excellence. OCE Inc. fosters innovation and supports the commercialization of industry and academic research collaborations in specific technologies across a range of market sectors including communications and information technology, environmental sciences, photonics, and manufacturing. OCE Inc. is a crucial link in Ontario's innovation cycle - providing a catalyst for ideas to evolve from the lab to the marketplace.

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