



Press Release

Brave New Ontario: Global innovation powerhouse converges under one roof at OCE Discovery 2007

TORONTO, April 26, 2007 – Products we can barely dream of. Jobs so new, they haven't got a name yet. Economic prosperity exploding with growth and opportunity. The colonization of outer space. Better, earlier disease detection. Fibre optics so finely tuned they could prevent major structural disasters from ever happening. This is the Ontario happening right here, right now, at Discovery 2007:TO NEXT.

Discovery 2007:TO NEXT, the annual conference of Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc., presents the unlimited potential and promise as key research and industry talent join forces under one roof on May 1, 2007 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Ontario's premier driver of the research-to-commercialization process, OCE helps find, fund and facilitate solutions that benefit people and the economy. From diagnostics to dentistry, from clean air to multimedia, from space travel to sustainable energy, OCE is making Ontario synonymous with ingenuity—by building the competitive potency our changing world demands.

The promise is realized in results. OCE invested \$21.4 million in research in 2006, with another \$33 million co-invested by industry and government partners—that's more than \$54 million to advance commercial R&D in the province. 82 active companies are in business because of OCE-supported research, and more than 400 new high-value jobs were created in the last five years. OCE has been instrumental in finding the footholds innovators need to reach new heights. Discovery 2007: TO NEXT delivers the future now, showcasing leading edge examples of research, industry and government innovators turning Ontario's scientific discoveries into commercial successes.

Futurist Ray Kurzweil, world-respected thinker and entrepreneur, will materialize at the conference via hologram for an interactive talk with the audience. The Innovation Showcase features a full complement of groundbreaking technologies and prototypes. Meet those leading the charge against global warming with solar and electric cars, a vertical axis wind turbine, a human-touch computer interface, holographic technology and more. Witness firsthand the exciting breakthroughs in information technology, photonics and robotics—and learn more about the companies who are transforming cutting edge research into viable commercial enterprises in this supercharged network of Canada's newest and most promising talent. And Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*, will talk about keeping that talent right here in Ontario.

“At OCE, our sole purpose is to create this Brave New Ontario. Since 1987, we've been making the connections, providing the guidance and investing the seed funding to turn our province's scientific discoveries into commercial success,” says Mark Romoff, President and CEO, Ontario Centres of Excellence. “We enter our 21st year accelerating innovation across the province by designing this forum to encourage the creative sparks that fly when all of the key players unite, share ideas and explore possibilities.”

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



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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 Karen Tinsley, Media Relations, Ontario Centres of Excellence, at (416) 762 5704 or Ann Holtby, Marketing and Communications, Ontario Centres of Excellence, at (416) 861-1092.