



Press Release

Ontario's Innovative Health Technology Businesses Get Boost from Strategic Partnership

Toronto, Ontario – June 14, 2007 – A three-way collaboration between the Health Technology Exchange (htx.ca), National Research Council Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), and Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. is stimulating growth in Ontario's medical and assistive technologies industry. The partnership will strengthen Ontario's leadership position in this sector, improving quality of life while reducing economic pressures on the province's public health care system.

With a growing and aging population, new challenges and increased financial demands threaten the province's most cherished social programs. The partnership will co-invest with small and medium sized businesses in the sector to support their research and development efforts. These investments will support collaborative research drawn from the province's publicly funded research institutions, bringing the brightest minds to focus on sector-specific needs. The objective is to create new, commercially viable products for the medical and assistive technologies industry, generating new business opportunities and jobs in the sector.

Each of the three partners brings the benefit of its particular expertise to the evaluation of potential projects. Working and investing collectively strengthens the projects and increases the likelihood of success. HTX has exceptional knowledge of and connections within the sector, and NRC-IRAP has a solid track record supporting research and development in small and medium sized enterprises. OCE brings to the partnership the rigour of its commercialization expertise and its systematic approach to accelerating technology to the marketplace.

"This initiative is a tremendous example of our confidence in the ability of Ontario's research community to spur commercial innovation," said Mark Romoff, President and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence. "Medical technologies play a critical role in sustaining the social benefits enjoyed by Ontarians while reducing costs and improving the efficiency of the health care system. We are confident that the results of this partnership will have a positive impact on the provincial economy and the quality of life for Ontarians."

"Ontario is proud to invest in Ontario Centres of Excellence and htx.ca - The Health Technology Exchange," said Premier and Minister of Research and Innovation, Dalton McGuinty. "Each contributes to a health care system that is more effective and efficient for all Ontarians."

"We are announcing today that seven high-potential projects have taken flight through the collaboration," says Morris (Mickey) Milner, President & CEO, htx.ca – The Health Technology Exchange. "The projects support collaborations around a diverse range of medical and assistive devices and will have impact across the sector."

Attodyne Inc. and the University of Toronto will develop a high power laser for medical and dental surgery that will improve healing and reduce the surrounding tissue damage that can result from existing laser technologies.

Best Medical Canada and the Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Centre are collaborating to develop a device to automatically measure the position of dosimeters during radiation therapy in cancer treatment. This new device will allow true 4D patient dose measurements during radiation therapy.

Dynamis Mobility and Georgian College are partnering to improve the performance and maneuverability of patient transfer devices. The result will improve the safety, speed and flexibility of patient transport for both patients and healthcare workers.

Genopod Inc. and Trent University are working together to develop a universal sample container with an embedded read/write radio frequency identification (RFID) chip for identification and tracking. They are also developing a chemical medium to preserve blood and tissue specimens without ice or refrigeration.

GestureTek Inc. the University of Ottawa and McGill University are collaborating to enhance GestureTek's Interactive Rehabilitation and Exercise (IREX) system and produce guidelines for clinicians using IREX for measurement, assessment and rehabilitation purposes.

Quillsoft Ltd. and Bloorview Kids Rehab are partnering to develop software to help children with learning disabilities. Their work will enhance the word prediction software, WordQ™, and develop ThoughtQ™, which acts as a student's scratchpad for ongoing visual and spoken reference, predicting and prompting words associated with a particular topic.

Tertec Enterprises Inc. and Seneca College are researching and developing intelligent peripherals to extend the capabilities and functionality of the Tertec Mon Ami™ system which serves as an electronic companion, guardian and mentor to support active aging, caregivers and persons in need of care.

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 also 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.

About htx.ca – The Health Technology Exchange (HTX)

htx.ca – The Health Technology Exchange (HTX) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support and accelerate the growth of a dynamic, prosperous MAT sector in the province of Ontario. HTX has a mandate to support research and development and commercialization of medical and assistive technologies emerging out of Ontario's public research institutions. Financial support derives from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. For more information, please visit the web site at www.htx.ca

About National Research Council Canada

Recognized globally for research and innovation, NRC is a leader in the development of an innovative, knowledge-based economy for Canada through science and technology. The National Research Council Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) provides a range of both technical and business oriented advisory services along with potential financial support to growth-oriented Canadian small - and medium-sized enterprises. Working directly with these clients, NRC-IRAP supports innovative research and development and commercialization of new products and services. The program is delivered by a network of 260 professionals in 100 communities across the country. Funds provided under this program are done on a cost-share basis with their clients. For more information, please visit the web site at http://irap-pari.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/main_e.html

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