

## **Major funding awarded by The Ontario Centres of Excellence for new business venture**

TORONTO, September 16, 2005 – The Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) today announced that Jamie Doran is this year's winner of the OCE Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship. Operating in the agriculture and agri-food sector, Mr. Doran's research centres on improving garlic production to make Ontario a world leader in the garlic market.

The Walmsley award facilitates the transition of an OCE-funded, university-based technology into an innovative new business venture. Candidates for the award are judged on a variety of criteria, including the commercial viability of their technology and the strength of their business plan.

Mr. Doran, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Guelph, brought together the key elements of research excellence, innovative technology, entrepreneurship and enthusiasm in being selected as the successful recipient for the \$100,000 fellowship, which is made available over two years. The funding will provide support that is critical to the early stage development of a business.

Mr. Doran's company – Glass Onion – will sell innovative technologies to the allium industry, starting in Ontario and eventually expanding across Canada and internationally. The company is built around two main business divisions. Its greenhouse production division will market cultivation protocols, components and systems designed to accommodate year-round production of high-value alliums such as garlic. The company's flavour chemistry division will market a pungency assessment tool – the Pungometer – as well as a method for producing highly-concentrated allium extracts, a process known as the Glass Onion Method. The company's offerings will support the expansion of the \$24 million allium industry and position it to better compete internationally.

Glass Onion was created at the University of Guelph through the support of OCE and its Centre for Earth and Environmental Technologies. "The company's ultimate goal is an ambitious one: to enable Ontario garlic producers to secure 30 per cent of the fresh garlic market, compete with world suppliers and eliminate the need for North American imports," said Mark Romoff, President and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc. "We're proud to have supported this innovative research and are delighted to see the results being transferred to the marketplace in this exciting new venture".

The award honours Dr. Martin Walmsley whose vision of stimulating leading-edge research and development in Ontario led to the creation of the Ontario Centres of Excellence program in 1987. Not only was he founder of the OCE, but during his career with the Government of Ontario, he was an advocate and driver behind joint industry and academia programs behind the province's innovation agenda.

Presentation of this year's award will coincide with the annual general meeting of the OCE taking place in Toronto on September 19, 2005.

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**About OCE Inc.**

OCE Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that delivers the 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, energy, and materials 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. For more information, visit [www.oce-ontario.org](http://www.oce-ontario.org).

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