



Press Release

Innovation can build bridges

Ontario Centres of Excellence Fellowship awarded to Carlos de Oliveira

TORONTO, ON (September 26, 2007): Carlos de Oliveira, CEO of Cast ConneX Corporation, has been named the Ontario Centres of Excellence Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship recipient for 2007, in recognition of the transformational impact his innovation will have on the steel construction industry. The Fellowship provides \$100,000 in business development funding over a two-year period.

Oliveira's research on earthquake-resistant structural castings at the University of Toronto evolved into Cast ConneX Corporation, with products that include a range of braces and connectors for low and medium rise steel structures. Developed in response to heightened awareness of structural failures and in anticipation of changes in North American steel industry building codes, these connectors are well positioned to become the technology of choice for the steel construction industry. The company also offers design and manufacturing management services for customer cast steel connections, and engineering consulting for complex connection design. Cast ConneX has already begun manufacturing prototypes for regulatory pre-qualification, and will be launching its product line at the North American Steel Conference in early 2008.

“Ontario's future increasingly depends on how well industry can produce innovative, high value products and services, at the same time growing a new cadre of entrepreneurs and business leaders. Cast ConneX and Oliveira exemplify OCE's formula for success, and we are proud to honour Oliveira with the Walmsley Fellowship which will accelerate this entrepreneurial young company to achieve the next level of commercial development,” said Mark Romoff, President and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE).

Romoff presented the award to Oliveira at OCE's Annual General Meeting in Toronto yesterday. The Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship facilitates the transition of OCE-funded university-based research into innovative business ventures. An expert panel selects the candidates, who are judged on criteria including strength of technology, commercial viability and sound business planning. The Fellowship honours the vision of Dr. Martin Walmsley, who was instrumental in founding the Ontario Centres of Excellence program in 1987.

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. For more information, please visit our web site at www.oce-ontario.org.

For more information, contact Ann Holtby, Marketing and Communications, Ontario Centres of Excellence, 416-861-1092 x 1018 or email ann.holtby@oce-ontario.org