



For Immediate Release

**Millenium Biologix and Queen's University
Recognized for Outstanding Innovation and Collaboration**

Leading Canadian Biotech Company and Ontario University win the first Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Mind to Market Award.

Toronto and Kingston, Ontario February 14, 2006 -- Millenium Biologix, a pioneer and leader in the development of bone graft substitutes, and its research partners at Queen's University, are the first recipients of the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Mind to Market Award. The award is sponsored by RBC Financial Group.

As the premier financial institution in Canada for knowledge-based businesses, RBC is proud to recognize the type of innovation and collaboration demonstrated by the winner and finalists of the Mind to Market Award, said Charles S. Coffey, RBC's executive vice president, Government and Community Affairs.

Millenium, which makes Skelite™, a 100% synthetic, resorbable solution for the repair of the skeletal system caused by trauma or disease, was selected from a field of 60 Ontario-based competitors. Skelite™ reduces risk of infection, rejection and speeds healing. Millenium was a spin-off company formed with the assistance of the OCE. OCE began its relationship with this project in 1988, supporting multi-disciplinary research between the departments of Metal and Materials Engineering and Medical Sciences at Queen's, and has continued to support the research team and the company ever since.

The Mind to Market Award was established by the OCE to celebrate an exceptional collaboration between an Ontario company and an Ontario researcher, or team of researchers, which has led to the successful commercialization of a new technology.

“Our challenge was to select the best-of-the best, based upon the criteria of imagination and novelty - the “wow-factor”; collaboration and partnership; and commercial success – including profitability and new jobs, “said Mark Romoff, OCE President and CEO.

Millenium and Queen's represented an outstanding example of collaboration and successful commercialization that met all the judges' criteria. They turned their research into a full slate of products that enable and promote bone repair by the patient's own body. They established national and international collaborations both in research and marketing, and their approach to technology transfer produced an exemplary connection of university research to wealth creation in the economy.

This award was presented at the OCE's first annual conference, Discovery 2006: Bridging the Innovation to Commercialization Gap. The event, which attracted 1,200 participants, was a significant gathering of leaders focused on innovation and commercialization in Ontario. The award was presented by Mark Usher, Vice President, Knowledge Based Industry, RBC Financial Group to Jason Hendry, Director,

Biomaterials Development, Millenium Biologix and to Dr. Reginald Smith, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering and Dr. Mark Harrison, Researcher, Human Mobility Research Centre and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The OCE's blue-ribbon panel of judges consisted of:

- Dr. Tom Brzustowski (Panel Chair) Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Financial Group Professor in the Commercialization of Innovations, University of Ottawa & (Formerly) President, National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- Dr. Suhayya (Sue) Abu-Hakima, President and CEO, AmikaNow! Corporation & Director, OCE Board of Directors & Chair, Board of Management, Centre for Communications and Information Technology
- Len Crispino, President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- Dr. Anne Golden, President, Conference Board of Canada
- Dr. Feridun Hamdullahpur, Chair, Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR) & Vice President, Research and International, Carleton University
- Ian Howcroft, Vice President, Ontario Division, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
- Mark Romoff, President and CEO, Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc.

Although Millenium and Queen's were selected as winners, all six finalist teams represent exceptional examples of collaboration leading to successful commercialization. The other finalists were:

Slipstream Data Inc. and the University of Waterloo - developed a transformative technology for data compression. Slipstream is the most widely deployed dial-up Internet acceleration and optimization technology in the world and the de facto standard.

Fiber Optic Systems Technology Inc (Fox-Tek) and the University of Toronto is a gutsy example in the oil and gas industry with a sensor system that monitors the integrity of large metal-based infrastructures in real time during full operation, rather than relying on expensive scheduled shutdowns for maintenance. Its product can be found in the oil and gas, space and large scale construction projects.

EnviroMetal Technologies Inc. and the University of Waterloo have developed a simple but elegant technology which has resulted in sustained commercial success and global leadership for the treatment of groundwater, polluted with industrial solvents.

RWDI and York University provides an excellent example of a consulting company using university research to develop a new technology that gives them a competitive edge in the global market for predictions of the concentrations of airborne pollutants, including particulates, from traffic and various industrial sources.

PGI Fabrene, the University of Western Ontario and McMaster University demonstrate how a manufacturing company in a commodity business can use scientific research and numerical modeling to accelerate its main production process and improve performance.

OCE Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that delivers the Ontario Centres of Excellence program. The OCE supports research, industrial and academic collaboration, commercialization and technology transfer. It also supports the research and education of Ontario's best and brightest students at universities, colleges and research hospitals. OCE Inc. current areas of expertise include communications and information technology, earth and environmental sciences, photonics, energy, and materials and manufacturing. For more information, visit our web site at www.oce-ontario.org.

-- 30 --

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