



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Sept. 23, 2009**

### **OCE's strong year affirms innovation is key to building province's economy *Minister's address and technology company showcase highlights OCE's Annual General Meeting***

**TORONTO** – Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. looked back on an outstanding year in terms of performance, partnerships and potential at its Annual General Meeting, proving once again that even in tough economic times, innovation flourishes.

“OCE delivered on its commitment to be on the leading edge of driving commercial innovation,” said David McFadden, OCE Chair of the Board. “In 2008-2009 OCE invested a total of \$29.3 million in 635 projects and leveraged \$44.7 million from industry partners in further investments — a 24 per cent increase in leverage from a year ago. OCE also connected 4,500 researchers and students with 752 companies, reflecting a 16 per cent increase over the previous year.”

The Annual General Meeting took place at Toronto's Design Exchange and featured several exciting events and photo opportunities such as:

- An address by the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Research and Innovation and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Presentation of the Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship to Leonardo Millon, for the development of synthetic models that replicate the characteristics of human tissue for surgical training
- A showcase of cutting edge Ontario-based innovations such as the latest in LCD screen manufacturing technology, an unmanned flying robotic camera that records digital images and video and a patent-pending nutrient, drug and toxin extraction instrument for food and pharmaceutical labs (***See company background below***)

The past year was highlighted by several new initiatives designed to help Ontario companies take that next crucial step to commercial success. OCE's new Centre for Commercialization of Research (CCR), created in partnership with the federal government last year, recruited strong leadership this year and is already seeing results, having established precedent-setting partnerships to advance the innovation yardstick. The Investment Accelerator Fund (IAF), providing early-stage funding and entrepreneurial services to early-stage companies, helped nineteen 19 outstanding companies move toward commercial success.

Determined to maintain a vibrant talent pipeline, OCE was also resoundingly successful in supporting Ontario's students. “Thanks to talent programs like Connections, First Job and others, OCE helped move nearly 1,500 individuals last year from OCE-funded projects to positions within industry, government and academia,” said Romoff.

The importance of innovation to the Ontario economy was also captured at OCE's Discovery conference earlier this year. Canada's premier innovation event showed there's no better venue for forging connections in the innovation ecosystem. The sold out two-day event attracted 2,300 attendees and welcomed new partners Greening Greater Toronto and Zerofootprint.

“Discovery’s International Café, featuring 50 Canadian trade commissioners from 24 different countries, helped transform the event to a place where industry and academia not only discuss business, but get down to business,” said Romoff.

McFadden also noted OCE is well positioned to take on the new challenge within the new Ontario Network of Excellence (ONE). “OCE will play a key role working with the Ministry, Ontario’s universities and colleges and other stakeholders to build an integrated, world-class and client-focused platform, providing greater access to programs, resources and expertise,” he said.

## **Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. 2009 Annual General Meeting Showcase Presentations**

**The following OCE-supported companies and ventures represent an example of the people, ideas and technologies that are driving Ontario’s Innovation Agenda forward, ensuring the province remains globally competitive.**

**Aeryon Labs Inc.** (Waterloo)  
**[www.aeryon.com](http://www.aeryon.com)**

For security and surveillance of areas that are too dangerous or difficult for human movement, Waterloo-based Aeryon Labs have created the Aeryon Scout – a hovering, unmanned flying vehicle that records digital images and video for a range of security and surveillance applications. Shaped like a four-leaf clover, the Aeryon Scout is small (just 60 cm by 60 cm), lightweight (1.2 kg) and quiet. It can take-off and land vertically and easily operate in confined spaces, making it ideal for dense urban environments and covert applications, both indoors and outdoors.

**Angle Media Group** (Toronto)  
**[www.anglemediagroup.com](http://www.anglemediagroup.com)**

Angle Media Group embraces the power of visual communication. Fusing creativity with advanced film technology, Angle Media Group produces affordable, high quality marketing communications as well as distribution channels. Highly focused on customer needs, Angle Media Group effectively creates brand identities for a wide variety of global clientele in order to help them meet business objectives in a meaningful and entertaining way. Angle’s creative team intersects with the world of digital media to deliver complete production services from conception to completion.

**BumpTechnologies Inc.** (Toronto)  
**[www.bumptop.com](http://www.bumptop.com)**

BumpTop is a fun, intuitive and visual approach to the computer desktop. BumpTop combines the look and feel of a real desk with the power of the PC. It lets users spatially organize and share their files and photos with their social contacts, while adding advanced search and sort capabilities to enhance productivity and deliver the ultimate computer desktop.

**Certo Labs Inc.** (Toronto)

**www.certolabs.com**

Certo Labs Inc. is a Toronto based start-up that is commercializing a new, patent-pending automated nutrient, drug and toxin extraction instrument for analytical laboratories within the food, drug and environmental industries. Certo Labs has recently completed and successfully tested a first generation proof-of-concept prototype and is currently building the first prototype-product with Kangaroo Design and Innovation Inc. ***(2008 Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship recipient)***

**Dejero Labs (Waterloo)**  
**www.dejerolabs.com**

The Dejero Platform is an innovative broadcasting solution for Electronic News Gathering (ENG). It permits broadcasters to gather live video content from anywhere there is cellular coverage. News conferences, breaking stories and any other time sensitive event can now be covered without the need to send expensive satellite or microwave trucks. Dejero's Platform plugs directly into the existing broadcast equipment. Plug the camera into the Dejero Mobile Unit and receive high-quality live video in the studio within seconds. ***(2009 Discovery conference Elevator Pitch Competition winner)***

**Digital Dash (Hamilton)**  
**www.digital-dash.com**

The Digital Dash Tactile Display is the only vehicle interface that can safely incorporate the high value devices required for tomorrow's networked and internet-ready vehicles. It features a curved screen, real physical controls, and the largest possible screen area, suitable for navigation systems, web browsers and smartphone interfaces. Other markets include medical devices, education and audio/visual mixing.

**HousAll Systems Corporation (Ottawa)**  
**www.housall.com**

HousAll Systems Corporation is a new start-up specializing in long-term temporary shelters for commercial, residential, military, and most importantly, emergency applications. HousAll Systems solves increasing global and domestic temporary shelter problems with its technologically advanced, patent protected Shelter System. Deployable and re-deployable, even in the harshest and most devastated environments it can be quickly and easily assembled.

**LifeLike Bio Tissue Inc. (London)**

Surgical skills are a necessary part of medical students' training. LifeLike Bio Tissue is developing products that provide realistic touch and feel via the use of synthetic materials that mimic human tissue, (also known as Surgical Phantoms) for surgical skills training in Canada and worldwide. By improving the techniques of surgeons the impact on the healthcare system is immeasurable. The result will be decreased risk of errors and malpractice, as well as reduced operating costs generated by increasing surgical residents' speed and accuracy. ***(2009 Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship recipient)***

**OneChip Photonics (Ottawa)**  
**www.onechipphotonics.com**

OneChip Photonics is a privately held company, headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, that develops and manufactures low-cost, high-performance optical transceivers – based on monolithic Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs) in Indium Phosphide (InP) – for access networks and other mass-market broadband applications. OneChip’s breakthrough approach and technology will remove the cost and performance barriers that have been impeding the widespread deployment of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) and enable new business and consumer broadband applications.

**Segasist Technologies** (Waterloo)  
**www.segasist.com**

Capturing an image of organs, lesions or tumours from an MRI, CT scan, ultrasound or other medical images is objective. But analyzing and interpreting these images is subjective. So imagine a medical imaging program that thinks like a doctor. Segasist has merged years of research on artificial intelligence with the field of medical imaging. The result is a computer program, Segasist, which rapidly learns a clinician’s preferences and interpretation until it approaches the accuracy of its human clinician-operator when analyzing an image.

**Spongelab Interactive** (Toronto)  
**www.spongelab.com**

Genomics Digital Lab (GDL) is an online, interactive, educational tool created by Spongelab Interactive to teach students about biology. Using a series of games, students in Grades 7-12 begin with the task of saving a dying plant by changing its environmental conditions. The advanced games illustrate abstract concepts, such as photosynthesis and respiration, in three dimensions. In 2009, GDL was awarded a World Summit Award for best e-content in the e-Science and Technology category.

**Tomatosphere**  
**www.tomatosphere.org**

Tomatosphere is an educational outreach project involving more than 11,300 classrooms in Canada. The project uses the excitement of space exploration as a medium for teaching students about science, space and agriculture and the role being played by Canada as a world leader in the support of long-term missions. OCE plays a significant role in the project through annual contributions since 2001.

**Transform Automotive** (London)  
**www.transformauto.com**

Gone are the days of simply driving the cost down by working harder and faster. TransForm has been able to achieve competitive manufacturing success through High Tech knowledge of the formability behaviors of the materials they use to produce high precision, high performance automatic transmission components. TransForm’s vision is to lead the company from being manufacturing driven to technology driven. Their core business is still manufacturing. However they seek to drive performance by linking highly qualified personnel directly into the product value-stream, including design through process planning to final production. **(2009 OCE Mind to Market Award finalist)**

**Wise Device Inc. (WDI)** (Markham)  
**www.wdidevice.com**

WDI Wise Device Inc.'s money saving potential in the production of liquid crystal displays (LCD) has captured the attention of major electronics manufacturers like Samsung, LG and Sharp. WDI's solutions speed up the inspection and repair of LCD screens during the production process. LCD screens used in televisions are manufactured from large plates of glass that can have hundreds of microscopic defects or imperfections. Each of these imperfections must be found and repaired for a television to be produced successfully. WDI's optical technology can find imperfections far more quickly. The result – manufacturers can expect lower operating costs and a 25 per cent improvement in productivity. **(2009 OCE Mind to Market Award recipient)**

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**About Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. ([www.oce-ontario.org](http://www.oce-ontario.org))**

*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 partner with Ontario's industry, universities, colleges, research hospitals, investors and governments. OCE's Centres work in communications and information technology, earth and environmental technologies, energy, materials and manufacturing and photonics. OCE is funded by the government of Ontario and is a key partner in delivering Ontario's Innovation Agenda. OCE through its Centre for Commercialization of Research (CCR), an initiative supported by the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada, also acts as a catalyst which allows innovative businesses to grow and achieve sustainable, commercial success and global competitiveness.*