



Ontario Centres of  
Excellence



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Charles Plant and Bryan Kanarens as Managing Directors respectively for the Business Mentorship and Entrepreneurship Program and the Investment Accelerator Fund. These programs represent two key components of the Ministry of Research and Innovation's Market Readiness Program. Both Bryan Kanarens with IAF, and Charles Plant with BMEP have made great strides in launching the Market Readiness Program, ensuring its early success.

Charles Plant is an experienced software entrepreneur, having served as CEO or CFO of several successful software companies including Synamics Inc, a telecommunications software firm that he co-founded. Synamics provided mass calling platforms to telecommunications companies such as Bell Canada, Rogers, Cingular, and Verizon, along with such partners as Nortel, Lucent, and Cable and Wireless. As a management consultant, investment banker, auditor and now at MaRS, Charles has worked closely with over 100 companies and brings a multi-disciplinary perspective to solving business and technology problems. Charles also serves as a part-time faculty member in the York University's Schulich School of Business MBA program.

Bryan Kanarens has served numerous clients as Director, Business Development within the Centre for Information Technology and Communications at OCE over the past 4½ years. Previously as Vice President and General Manager of WSi Interactive Corporation, a publicly traded technology incubator, Bryan was instrumental in building the company through acquisitions and the creation of new businesses. As CEO, Thomson & Associates, Bryan shared ownership of a start-up direct marketing agency focused on the development of direct response, fund raising and customer loyalty programs for clients that included Air Canada, Sears, Imperial Oil and McLean Hunter. Earlier, he held a number of progressively more senior positions with American Express, with responsibilities for quality assurance, corporate planning, marketing, and management of the merchandise and loyalty program activities.

Together, they are proving the strength of the OCE/MaRS partnership and we are looking forward to the continued success of these programs.

Dr. Ilse Treurnicht  
CEO  
MaRS Discovery District

Mark Romoff  
President and CEO  
Ontario Centres of Excellence