



Ontario Centres of Excellence

Where Next Happens

# Getting to the Next Level

**“We at Van-Rob recognize the importance of partnerships that the Ontario Centres of Excellence helps to foster, and have worked with OCE on a number of projects that benefit our company, benefit Ontario's students and ultimately benefit Ontario's competitiveness.”**

**Kornel Farkas,  
Manager of Research and Development,  
Van-Rob Stampings Inc.**

When you have been around for nearly 30 years and won awards for your products, you work hard to stay on top. Van-Rob Stampings Incorporated of Ontario has not only made its name in longevity and a reputation for quality, it counts among its customers the top automobile manufacturers in the world. The senior staff at the company also realize the importance of innovation, research and involving the next generation.

That is the kind of attitude that feeds Ontario's innovation and competitiveness, and the kind

of approach that draws together Van-Rob and the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE).

OCE is one of the few publicly funded institutions that makes connections from university research to marketplace. It helps make sure that innovative science and technology can have what is needed to become profitable new businesses.

“It made sense for us to go to the Ontario Centres of Excellence when we wanted to optimize the design of an automotive door hinge to extend its fatigue life expectancy and to get away from premature service failures,” says Van-Rob Research and Development manager Dr. Kornel Farkas. “We have worked with OCE before, and knew we'd get assistance with just the right partners for what we wanted to do.”

Making the connections, OCE linked Van-Rob with a researcher at Ryerson University and was able to provide the necessary support services to formalize a relationship for a collaborative research project. Van-Rob hired a student as well.

The result was a prototype method to incorporate the changes Van-Rob was looking for, and a change in the design process has achieved the goals for all involved. Not only was the company able to produce a better product, the overall process change has lowered the cost of production.

“This has helped us secure more markets in the United States, and reinforce those we already have,” says Dr. Kornel.

The change in technology allows this rapidly expanding automotive industry leader to continue growth and contribute to the Ontario economy. The OCE project also helped to bring attention to the relevant research at Ryerson University. Perhaps even more importantly, four students involved with the research have found permanent employment with Van-Rob after graduation, bringing highly qualified personnel to the company who already have experience with its innovative approach.