

**NRC CNRC***From **Discovery**  
to **Innovation...***Science  
at work for  
Canada

## NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CANADA

# BACKGROUND

*Government of Canada supports innovation for small- and medium-sized enterprises, youth employment*

### **National Research Council Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP)**

NRC's main outreach to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is through its Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) which provides support to innovative companies in Canada undertaking research and technology development projects for commercial purposes.

NRC-IRAP provides a range of both technical and business-oriented advisory services along with necessary financial support to qualified innovative Canadian small- and medium-sized enterprises. The program is delivered by a field staff of 240 business and technology experts in more than 100 communities across Canada. Working directly with SMEs, NRC-IRAP supports innovative research and development (R&D) and helps companies become commercialization-ready with their new products and services.

While the program operates three separate contribution programs — contribution to firms, contribution to organizations and a Youth Employment Program — NRC-IRAP's main contribution component is in the form of a non-repayable contribution that reimburses the labour costs of a research and development project directly to firms.

### **Putting science to work for Canada**

NRC-IRAP received an investment in Budget 2009 – Canada's Economic Action Plan – of \$200 million over the next two years. NRC-IRAP is committed to using this new funding to help the Government build a competitive advantage for Canada based on excellence in science and technology (S&T).

The funding includes \$170 million to double NRC-IRAP's contributions to firms and \$30 million to help hire more than 1,000 new post-secondary graduates via its Youth Employment Program.

The budget commitment reinforces NRC-IRAP's mandate to help SMEs take knowledge from the lab to the marketplace. The budget commitment also broadens NRC-IRAP's ability to provide S&T expertise to SMEs. NRC-IRAP estimates this will enable it to provide larger contributions to firms per project and allow it to support approximately 1,400 additional SMEs beyond the annual base over the next two years.



## **Canadian Innovation Leader (CIL) Certificate**

A Canadian Innovation Leader is a small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) that demonstrated a specific advance in research and development within its industrial sector. This advance has contributed to the wealth of the country, either from a corporate growth perspective, job creation, or through a particular investment in research and development that has improved the lives of Canadians. NRC created the Canadian Innovation Leader (CIL) Certificate Program to recognize Canadian firms that have successfully developed and applied innovative technologies, linking scientific research to commercialization, jobs, and economic growth.

### **Dehnel Particle Accelerator Components and Engineering Inc. (D-Pace)**

Dehnel - Particle Accelerator Components and Engineering, Inc. (D-Pace) is an innovative Nelson, British Columbia-based company that researches, develops, supplies and commercializes products and services to the international commercial accelerator industry.

D-Pace creates high-performance charged particle transport systems and components for the cyclotron, ion implanter, and linear accelerator segments of the industry.

D-Pace along with TRIUMF — Canada's leading centre for work in particle and nuclear physics — recently earned a Synergy Award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC). Much of this collaborative work was made possible by NRC-IRAP financial contributions.

Since 1995, D-Pace has received technical and business expertise as well as financial contributions through NRC-IRAP totalling \$43,923.