



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISTPCanada Announces 20 Joint Science and Technology Initiatives Between Canadian and Chinese Companies Valued at More than \$12 Million

Ottawa, Ontario – May 22, 2008 – International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada Inc. (ISTPCanada) today announced 20 joint research and development (R&D) initiatives involving Canadian and Chinese companies and researchers valued at more than \$12 million.

Eight of the initiatives, which are joint research projects, have a total combined Canadian and Chinese investment value of \$10.57 million. The other 12 initiatives are Partnership Development Activities (PDA) and represent a total value of \$812,000. ISTPCanada's PDA initiatives foster joint activities aimed at generating new or expanded research and technology-based partnerships between countries and may include such activities as scientific seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops, and activities that involve exchanges of scientists, technical experts and academics.

All the projects are co-funded by the federal government's International Science and Technology Partnerships Program, which is delivered through ISTPCanada and its counterpart in China, the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Canadian partners – through ISTPCanada – are awarding \$3.27 million to co-fund the Canadian side of these projects. The remaining funding is provided by China and the companies involved.

The Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade, today made the federal government announcement in Beijing with Wan Gang, China's Minister of Science and Technology.

"Today's announcement is the first result of our funded cooperation. We look forward to more joint collaboration in future calls for proposals," added Minister Emerson. "Our government is committed to fostering innovation of Canadian researchers and businesses and the internationalization of their activities by working together with our partners."

"ISTPCanada takes its mission to help build productive Canada-China partnerships very seriously and is grateful to the participating governments for having the vision and foresight to make these

partnerships a priority,” said Dr. Henri Rothschild, President and CEO of ISTPCanada, explaining that some of the projects include co-funding from other strategic ISTPCanada partners including the National Research Council’s Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) and Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE). “Together with our counterparts in China, we will make every effort to continue building strong and productive Canada-China S&T partnerships.”

The 20 joint initiatives announced today will lead to an increase of commercially-viable research and development initiatives, and contribute to the organization of scientific seminars, conferences and workshops, Rothschild said. Details of the eight research projects are:

Marine pharmaceuticals for hospitalized patients: This project will develop a harp seal oil-based total nutrition product as an alternative to soybean-based products for patients who cannot take food orally and a soybean-based product is not appropriate. The metabolism of vegetable oil-based products like that from soybean produces many biochemical mediators which are pro-inflammatory and may suppress cell-mediated immunity. A substitute nutritional product based on mammalian oils may avoid aggravating the inflammation and immune-suppression patients experience from surgery, trauma, injury and infection. Canadian researchers will carry out pharmacological studies with animal models while their Chinese counterparts will conduct safety evaluations and preparation for clinical trials. This project is led by **North Atlantic Biopharma Inc.** (St. John's, NL).

Application of high-yield-pulps in production of high quality coated paper: This project aims to increase the use of high-yield pulp (HYP) from 10-15 per cent to 50 per cent in high-quality coated papers. The goal is to produce better quality paper, with improved printing capabilities, at a lower cost. Led by **University of New Brunswick** (Fredericton, NB), project partners include **FP Innovations-Paprican, Tembec Industries Inc** and **University of Toronto**.

Well Resources Selective Asphaltene Extraction (SELEX-Asp) Process: The purpose of this project is to determine methods for field scale upgrading of heavy oil and bitumen so that the entire feedstock is used. This will allow petroleum producers to review their processes and adjust them to increase the production of petroleum production while reducing waste. The proposed process is more energy efficient and allows conventional refineries to use this new supply of petroleum feedstock. This could create new markets for Canadian heavy oil and bitumen, minimize competition and reduce environmental impacts in oil sands operations. Led by **Well Recourses Inc.** (Edmonton, AB),

the project partners include **MEG Energy Corp**, **Sunshine Oilsands Ltd.** and **Alberta Energy Research Institute**.

Microfluidic chip-based electrophoresis platform for rapid and high-resolution disease diagnosis:

This project targets the development of new approaches for disease detection at a microscopic level using microfluidic chip electrophoresis technology which has the promise of more rapid and high-resolution disease diagnosis. This research will significantly advance current capabilities of medical lab-on-a-chip technology using microfluidics. Led by **University of Waterloo** (Waterloo, ON), the project partner is **Convergent Bioscience Ltd.**

Enhancing Potato Trade by Adapting Canada's Seed Potato: This project will facilitate development of China's growing potato industry and hence open new markets for Canada's seed potato growers by (1) identifying disease-resistant potato strains with high yield, early maturity and high starch/high dry matter content suitable for the Chinese market; (2) development and evaluation of test kits to ensure virus-free seed potato production; and (3) development and evaluation of forms of seed potato that can be rapidly multiplied and shipped. Led by **Agricultural Certification Services** (Fredericton, NB), the project partners include **New Brunswick Department of Agriculture & Aquaculture** and **Potato Research Centre, AAFC**.

Evolution of Broadband Wireless Access Terminals for China: The project proposes to solve deployment and interoperability issues related to mobility networks among wireless telecommunication companies in China, and also aims to identify equipment interoperability issues between the industrial partners in Canada and China. The key issue is to create algorithms for resolving or improving handoff operations for mobiles entering or leaving wireless cell sectors between different telecommunications companies. The solutions will be tested with field trials in China and Canada. Led by **École de technologie supérieure** (Montréal, QC), the project partner is **Wavesat**.

Applying Advanced Breeding Technologies for the Chinese Dairy Industry: The China dairy genetics industry lacks a structured genetic evaluation program and this limits its ability to focus population genetics on superior breeding sires. The result is negative genetic progress in China and low milk production of cows (2100 kg/cow/year as opposed to 9700 kg/cow/year in Canada in 2005). The proposed systematic genetic evaluation system in China will allow for identification and marketing of

superior genetics and in turn, raise the cow milk production in China. This project is led by **Alta Genetics** (Balzac, AB).

Novel Linear Generator System for Oceanic Tidal and Wave Energy: This project will do research on a novel linear generator system to harness tidal and wave energy and to develop a prototype for the generator system for commercialization. The goal is to develop a simple manufacturing technique that is low cost, with low convenient maintenance requirements. The ultimate product will reduce the cost of the oceanic tidal and wave energy systems, hence making less expensive energy using tidal and waves. Led by **DynaGen Technologies Inc.** (Sydney, NS), the project partner is **Dalhousie University**.

About ISTPCanada

International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada Inc. (ISTPCanada) was incorporated with the primary objective of strengthening Canada's science and technology(S&T), business to business relations and ultimately overall economic, trade and political relations. ISTPCanada fosters and supports the development of research partnerships for Canadian companies and research organizations with international counterparts, with an emphasis on research and development projects with commercial relevance and potential products and services.

ISTPCanada was selected by the Government of Canada, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, to deliver the India, China and Brazil elements of its International Science and Technology Partnerships Program (ISTPP). ISTPCanada also supports early stage partnership development activity, such as workshops, symposia, conferences and exchanges which have the potential to foster increased or expanded international research collaboration.

Our raison d'être is to make Canadian firms more globally competitive through the increased use of international research-based alliances.

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