

Launch of Transcontinental Virtual Laboratory Creates a Platform for Canadian and Chinese Companies to Conduct Collaborative R&D and Exploit New Global Markets

Prompt Stimulates the Development of New Remote Research Collaboration Facility

SHANGHAI, China and MONTRÉAL, Canada, November 7, 2008—Prompt Inc. and the Shanghai Research Center for Wireless Communications (WiCO) today announced the launch of the ‘Remote Research Collaboration Facility (RRCF)’, a transcontinental virtual laboratory that provides researchers and developers in Montréal (Canada) and Shanghai (China) with remote access to microelectronics and telecommunications equipment—located half a world away.

Leading researchers, government, academic and industry officials from Québec and China, gathered today at WiCO’s world-class research and development facility in Shanghai to participate in the first intercontinental experiment between researchers at École technologique supérieure (ETS), and WiCO. The live demonstration proved that microelectronics equipment located in Shanghai could be managed by students located more than 11 thousand kilometres away, showcasing the research capability available through the RRCF and how it will benefit innovators in both countries.

In addition to facilitating new research and development collaboration, RRCF creates a highly cost-effective and efficient way for Canadian and Chinese corporations to demonstrate new technologies to prospective customers on the other side of the globe. It is an opportunity that companies aim to capitalize on, including Montreal-based Wavesat, a global leader in semiconductor solutions supporting multiple Broadband protocols such as WiMAX, XG-PHS and LTE; and ZTE, the world’s second-largest telecommunications-device supplier in China.

“We have helped to create a virtual research environment that promises to stimulate practical—and profitable—research results for both university researchers and companies such as Wavesat and ZTE”, says Dr. Charles Despins, President and CEO of Prompt. “It demonstrates how the Prompt partnership model can directly impact the growth of Québec-based companies, by stimulating new commercial opportunities and facilitating access to new global markets.”

“The RRCF creates an international customer interaction centre for Wavesat, enabling us to demonstrate and promote our innovative broadband solutions to prospective customers in China’s telecommunications industry,” says Mr. Raj Singh, President and CEO at Wavesat. “We look forward to the positive impact on our product development and the opportunity for greater reach into lucrative Asian markets.”

Dr. Yves Beauchamp, CEO of ETS, participated in the demonstration at WiCO in Shanghai. “ETS is very excited about this outreach to China,” he said. “It creates tremendous opportunities—and benefits—for our staff, students, industry partners and Chinese collaborators.”

Dr. François Gagnon, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at ETS, helped to direct the experiment from Montréal. “This initiative allows students to tackle industrially-relevant research challenges, while experiencing an entirely different culture,” he said. “It provides them with hands-on experience that allows them to hit the ground running when they graduate and join companies.”

“A key part of WiCO’s mission is to create a profitable and efficient platform for our researchers and domestic partners to develop technologies and joint projects with international collaborators,” said Ms. Linda Chen, Director of International Relations for WiCO. “This virtual laboratory allows us to capitalize on the expertise of Québec-based universities and companies, while collaborating on the development of advanced technologies that will benefit companies in China.”

The RRCF is made possible by financial support from Wavesat; International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada; the Ministry of Science and Technologies (China); the Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade of Québec; and the Science and Technology Commission of the Shanghai Municipality.



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The logo for 'prompt' features the word in a lowercase, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a green square containing a white graphic of several curved, overlapping lines that resemble a signal or a network.

About Prompt Inc.

Prompt is a non-profit corporation that stimulates industry-university R&D partnerships to increase the competitiveness of the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector in Québec. With financial support from the Government of Québec and the private sector, Prompt aims to enable new R&D initiatives that add value to Québec-based companies, increase the benefits of public investments in research, and bolster the provincial innovation system. The partnerships facilitated by Prompt are financed by the private sector, the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada. As these initiatives often receive additional funds from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and other granting agencies, and scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax credits from provincial and federal governments, the value of every dollar invested by a company can generate a return of more than seven. For further information, please visit www.promptinc.org.

About Wavesat

Wavesat is a global leader in mobile broadband, providing advanced semiconductor solutions to the world's leading carrier and mobile device manufacturers to deploy future-proof broadband services and products. With award winning technology, Wavesat delivers silicon that enables customers to deploy multiple Broadband Wireless technologies such as WiMAX Wave2 and XG-PHS today and to migrate seamlessly to future 4G technologies such as LTE. Wavesat is a principal member of the WiMAX Forum®. Wavesat was awarded the 2008 Frost and Sullivan Mobile Broadband Wireless Access Excellence in Technology Award and was recognized as one of Canada's Top Ten Technology companies for 2009. For more information, please visit www.wavesat.com.

About École technologie supérieure (ETS)

Created in 1974 to meet the needs of industry, the École de technologie supérieure (ETS) is part of the Université du Québec network. ETS is a university that specialises in applied engineering and technology, and offers graduate, postgraduate and doctorate courses. Its activities are concentrated on cooperative teaching, higher education training and on research, and it is particularly interested in the development of new technologies and their transfer to industry. Additional information is available at: www.etsmtl.ca.

About Shanghai Research Center for Wireless Communications (WiCO)

The Shanghai Research Center for Wireless Communications (WiCO) is a non-profit organization co-founded by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology (SIMIT), Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality (STCSM), Southeast University (SEU) and Changning District Government in November 2003. WiCO consists of a group of well-educated and active researchers and experts and is focused on the R&D of the key technologies for future broadband wireless mobile communications. WiCO has successfully

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undertaken many key research projects from the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), the National High Technology Research and Development Program of China (863 Program), the European Union Framework Program, CAS, STCSM and the telecommunications industry. Through these initiatives, WiCO has established broad R&D collaborations with many national and international academic and industrial partners in the areas of wireless mobile communications. For more information, please visit www.shrcwc.org.

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