
News Release

February 18, 2014

Government of Canada Supports Emerging Technologies

Support Will Help Businesses Thrive in Windsor-Essex

ESSEX — The Honourable Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board and Essex MP Jeff Watson, on behalf of the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of State (Science and Technology) (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario), today announced an investment in several local companies through the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP).

“Our government understands the important role that science and technology plays in laying the groundwork for the industries and jobs of the future,” said Minister Clement. “Science, technology and innovation are drivers of economic progress and key to enhancing prosperity and competitiveness.”

“Our government is strongly committed to initiatives that support science, technology and the growth of innovative Canadian firms,” said MP Watson. “Like so many small and medium-sized businesses in Ontario, these local companies are doing some really innovative work. These businesses are critical to the Canadian economy, and our government will continue to put in place the tools that Canadian businesses need to grow, create jobs and secure long-term prosperity.”

Michael Beneteau, CEO of CentreLine (Windsor) Limited, the host of today's announcement and one of the recipient companies of IRAP funding, expressed his appreciation for the federal government's recognition of the importance of investment in digital technology. “Investment in the latest technology is a key element of CenterLine's continuing growth as a supplier of leading edge automotive solutions. We are pleased that the government of Canada has recognized the value of investment in digital technology and more specifically is assisting Windsor-Essex area companies as they strive to be best in class suppliers in a global marketplace.”



Nineteen companies in Windsor-Essex will receive up to \$1,294,608 from the NRC IRAP program to develop innovations in technology. [table provided]

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Background

Companies in Windsor Essex receiving NRC - IRAP Funding

COMPANY	TOTAL
Autoliv	\$50,000
Concours Mold	\$150,000
Sprucewood Shores Estate Winery	\$43,120
Policella Farms	\$49,366
Unconquered Sun Solar Technologies	\$20,000
Dynamant Corp	\$132,000
Centerline Limited	\$80,000
Suntrition Inc	\$20,073
Rapid EDM Inc	\$49,280
Whitfield Welding Inc	\$312,000
Standard Tool & Mold Inc	\$77,300
Jesse Garant & Associates	\$23,900
Softech Alliance Network	\$70,000
Advanced Machining Services Inc	\$49,000
Wired Solutions	\$48,816
Windsor Mold Inc	\$40,300
Brave Control Solutions	\$30,000
iDream Interactive Inc	\$27,400
Douglas Marketing Group	\$22,053
TOTAL	\$1,294,608

Quick facts

- With a focus on getting more ideas to market, the NRC works with industry to bridge technology gaps, helping build a more innovative Canadian economy that reflects today's global realities.
- In 2012-2013 NRC-IRAP worked with over 11,000 SMEs, with some 8,000 firms benefiting from expert advisory services and about 3,000 firms receiving some form of financial assistance.
- Budget 2014 proposes to provide NRC-IRAP with an additional \$40 million for the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program to help entrepreneurs realize the business potential of their ideas.
- Budget 2014 also proposes \$30 million (over two years) to NRC-IRAP for youth internships in small and medium-sized enterprises undertaking technical research and development projects.

Backgrounder

Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)

The National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) provides a range of technical and business-oriented advisory services, as well as necessary financial support, to qualified innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in Canada.

It engages in cost-shared research and development (R&D) projects with its clients. Firms helped by NRC IRAP are better equipped to perform basic R&D, commercialize new products and processes, and access new markets.

The program is delivered by a diverse field staff of professionals and over 240 industrial technology advisors in more than 100 communities across Canada.

In 2012–13, NRC IRAP worked with over 11,000 SMEs, of which some 8,000 benefited from expert advisory services and close to 3,000 received some form of financial assistance.

Economic Action Plan 2014 proposes to provide the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program with an additional \$40 million. This increases total funding to \$100 million. Delivered by NRC IRAP, CAIP aims to establish a critical mass of outstanding accelerator and incubator organizations in Canada to help entrepreneurs realize the business potential of their ideas.

Budget 2014 also proposes \$30 million (over two years) to the NRC IRAP for youth internships in small and medium-sized enterprises undertaking technical research and development projects. This initiative helps young graduates transition to their first job and gain valuable workplace experience.