



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 SMEs. 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.

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NRC-IRAP received an investment in Year 1 of *Canada's Economic Action Plan* of \$200 million over 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 commitment in the Economic Action Plan reinforces NRC-IRAP's mandate to help SMEs develop technologies and successfully commercialize them in a global marketplace. It also broadens NRC-IRAP's ability to provide S&T expertise to SMEs. NRC-IRAP estimates that this new money will allow it to support approximately 1,400 additional SMEs beyond its existing base over the next two years.



National Research
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Canada

Groupe GDG Environnement Itée

GDG Environment Group is a public company (TSX VENTURE: GDG) whose mission is to enhance quality of life and environmental safety. The company intends to maintain its position as a Canadian leader in the biological control of biting flies and in the management of disease vectors such as the West Nile virus. GDG Environment Group operates four subsidiaries: GDG Environment, Groupe Bio Services (Operations), Diamond Sylvico (which provides similar services to the Cree communities of northern Quebec) and GDG Aviation, for all aerial operations of the Group. GDG Environment Group Ltd. provides services to a wide variety of clients including municipalities, private companies and Canadian government agencies.

In June 2010, GDG Environment Group signed a \$350,000 contribution agreement with NRC-IRAP that will support a project aimed at developing a biosensor able to detect and measure cyanobacterial toxin levels in lakes, commonly known as blue-green algae.