

## **The Québec Advanced Transportation Institute (ITAQ) launches a one-of-a-kind advanced transportation laboratory for the Canadian development of the automobiles of tomorrow**

Saint-Jérôme, April 29, 2009—Marie-Josée Lizotte, Director of Innovation and Technology Transfer for the Québec Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade (MDEIE), Manon Harvey, Vice-President, Finance and Corporate Services, with the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Serge Tessier, Director General of the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme, Pierre Tison, Director of ITAQ, and Hugo Marsolais, Director of Operations of ITAQ, today launched ITAQ's brand-new advanced transportation laboratory before a full room of guests from the political, scientific and industrial spheres. This \$5.4-million project was financed by the Government of Québec (\$2.1 million), the Canada Foundation for Innovation (\$2.1 million) and 22 private-sector financial partners (\$1.2 million), including Hydro-Québec Industech. It was realized in conjunction with four university institutions, namely École de technologie supérieure, Polytechnique Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke and McGill University.

"Innovation is the key to economic and social development. The creation of this laboratory is a concrete step on the part of the Government of Québec toward making the province a leader in the field of sustainable transportation," said Ms. Lizotte, Director of Innovation and Technology Transfer with the MDEIE. "By focusing on maximizing the value of innovation, we are building on this creative force that serves as our international calling card and that will secure our prosperity in the world of tomorrow."

"When we first came up with the idea of creating ITAQ, the thought of building the largest advanced transportation laboratory in Canada was just a dream. Today, this dream has become a reality. A CCTT (college centre for the transfer of technology) specializing in sustainable transportation is the perfect complement to the development-oriented mission of a post-secondary institution such as ours," said Mr. Tessier, Director General of the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme. "Today's launch is a significant and concrete step forward that will help shine the spotlight on regional niches of excellence. As a result, the Laurentides region will be taking its rightful place as a leader in advanced ground transportation."

"Today we are honouring the partnerships and all that we can accomplish working together to ensure our success in the knowledge economy," said Dr. Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation. "Our investments in this innovative and visionary project will provide high-calibre researchers access to the installations needed to do leading-edge work."

As of tomorrow, private enterprises, manufacturers, academic researchers and R&D agencies specializing in sustainable development will be able to approach ITAQ to develop, test and optimize alternative propulsion technologies for the vehicles of the future. In addition, ITAQ offers access to a team of engineers and technicians, whose fees can be subsidized by financial assistance programs.

“The creation of a Québec industry for the development of eco-friendly motor vehicles is no whim,” said Mr. Marsolais, Director of Operations of ITAQ and initiator of the project. “The new ITAQ lab is equipped with state-of-the-art technologies that can support and even drive the growth of dynamic, innovation-minded companies looking for the extra competitive edge that ITAQ can bring.”

The Québec Advanced Transportation Institute is one of two CCTTs (college centres for the transfer of technology) affiliated with the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme. The second is the Composites Development Centre of Québec (CDCQ). Both establishments belong to a Québec-wide network of more than 40 CCTTs, which cover the province’s various industrial sectors. CCTTs are committed to supporting small and medium-sized business by providing applied research and product development services. They receive support from the Ministère du Développement économique, de l’Innovation et de l’Exportation du Québec and the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec.

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