

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University Researchers to receive over \$300,000 in funding
- *Springboard helps bring research to life in Atlantic Canada*

October 21, 2005, Halifax, NS – Twenty-six researchers from universities across Atlantic Canada will soon receive more than \$300,000 in Springboard funding to help advance the commercialization of their innovative research. Springboard, a network whose mission is to encourage effective technology transfer to the region, announced yesterday that 12 university research projects will receive funding under their *Patent and Legal* funding program and that 10 will receive *Proof-of-Concept* funds.

Established with funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's (ACOA) Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF), both the *Patent and Legal* and *Proof-of-Concept* funds will see \$3.6 million awarded over the next three years to a variety of projects underway at Springboard member universities.

"Developing an innovative economy is critical to Atlantic Canada's growth and competitiveness," said the Honourable Joseph McGuire, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), "And thanks to Budget 2005's renewal of the \$300-million Atlantic Innovation Fund, there is going to be more research and development capacity and activity in the region; more skilled people will be attracted to the region; and more cutting-edge research developed in Atlantic Canada will be commercialized."

The Minister added that ACOA is dedicated to improving the economic outlook of the region by funding projects like Springboard, an organization that is building a vital link between universities and the private sector in Atlantic Canada, encouraging economic growth through the commercialization of university-based research and development. "It's imperative that we make this valuable research more accessible to the entrepreneurs who want to convert ideas into tangible goods and services," he said.

Successful applicants to the Proof-of-Concept Fund receive an amount of up to \$20,000 to protect and accelerate the pre-competitive development of promising technology and support its transfer and commercialization to Atlantic Canadian companies. A total of \$200,000 per year is given out under this fund. The Patenting and Legal Fund will grant up to \$10,000 per project with a total budget of \$120,000 a year to help protect the innovations developed by researchers of key project collaborators. Both funds have been established to advance promising technologies in order to attract early stage investment and/or to build the intellectual property in anticipation of transferring the technology to a new or established company.

"These awards will encourage and accelerate the commercialization of research currently ongoing at our Atlantic universities," said Sara Jane Snook, Executive Director of Springboard.

“Early stage development is obviously very important to a project’s success so it’s great to have awards like these available to stimulate commercialization opportunities.”

Springboard will continue to award successful applicants through the *Patent and Legal* and *Proof-of-Concept* funding programs for the next two years. The next call for applications is currently set for next year with a tentative deadline of June 15, 2006.

A full list of the award recipients is attached below. For more information on Springboard’s funding programs including selection criteria, please visit the *Programs* page at www.springboardatlantic.ca

About Springboard:

Springboard is a network of 14 Atlantic Canadian universities whose mission is to encourage the effective and efficient transfer of technology among universities in Atlantic Canada and to advance the commercialization of research within both universities and the region's private sector. Springboard will bring research to life in Atlantic Canada.

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2005 Springboard Proof of Concept Fund Awards

Institution	Researcher	Title of Invention	Amount Awarded
Acadia University	Craig Bennett	Process for Commercial Fabrication of Improved Ni-Mn-Ga Magnetic Shape	\$20,000
Acadia University	John Murimboh	A novel microscale <i>in situ</i> sampling device for monitoring trace metals in natural waters	\$20,000
Dalhousie University	Dr. Biman Das	Ergonomic Wheelchair Design	\$20,000
Dalhousie University	Dr. Geoffrey Maksym	Forced Oscillation Device for Airway Function Assessment	\$20,000
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Dr. Ya-Gang Xie	A Method for the Detection of Risk Factors Associated with Myocardial Infarction	\$20,000
St. Francis Xavier University	Michael Steinitz	Oil Pipeline Leakage Sensor	\$20,000
Université de Moncton	Habib Hamam	Accès à la machine et à Internet par mouvements	\$20,000

Université de Moncton	Jamel Ghouili	Optimisation d'un système de traction électrique à pile à combustible at supercondensateurs	\$19,985.07
University of New Brunswick	Dr. Ghislain Deslongchamps	Development of Chemistry Flashware Products	\$20,000
University of New Brunswick	Dr. Paul Arsenault	Backscatter Computed Tomography	\$19,935

\$199,920

2005 Springboard Patenting and Legal Fund Awards

Institution	Researcher	Title of Invention	Amount Awarded
Dalhousie University	Dr. Biman Das	Ergonomic Wheelchair Design	\$10,000
Dalhousie University	Drs. Chris Taggart & Barry Ruddick	Use of Magnetically Attracted Particles & Magnetic Particle Collectors	\$10,000
Dalhousie University	Dr. Geoffrey Maksym	Forced Oscillation Device for Airway Function Assessment	\$10,000
Mount Allison University	Douglas Campbell	Peptide Sequence Tags and Method of Using Same	\$10,000
Mount Allison University	S.A. Westcott	Method and Preparinig Main Group Boryl Compounds	\$10,000
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Dr. Ya-Gang Xie	A Method for the Detection of Risk Factors Associated with Myocardial Infarction	\$10,000
Nova Scotia Agricultural College	Gefu Wang-Pruski	Genes and proteins in potato and their relationship to potato after-cooking darkening(ACD)	\$8,000
Nova Scotia Agricultural College	Gefu Wang-Pruski	Cinnamic acid-4-hydroxylase (C4h)	\$8,000
St. Francis Xavier University	David Risk, et al.	Roller-type laboratory sample mill and homogenizer	\$10,000
Université de Moncton	Priscille Massé	CB ₆ Pro: a formula for prevention and treatment of osteopenia as an alternative to pharmaceuticals	\$10,000
University of New Brunswick	Paul Arsenault	Backscatter Computed Tomography	\$9,138.42

\$115,138