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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Federal and Provincial Governments invest in Western Research

**EDMONTON, AB** — Western Canada's growing information technology sector got a boost today with an important investment in TRILabs, Canada's largest and most successful not-for-profit information and communications technology research and development consortium. Funding for this announcement includes a \$10 million federal investment in TRILabs from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) and \$7.5 million from the Alberta government, over five years.

"Canada's New Government is supporting research, development and commercialization – key drivers that are stimulating economic diversification in the West," said Mr. Rahim Jaffer, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Strathcona, on behalf of the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. "This investment will ensure TRILabs can continue moving innovative ideas into the marketplace while generating new jobs, skills development opportunities and significant economic growth in Western Canada."

Funding announced today at TRILabs' head office in Edmonton will support the core operations in Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg. University professors, graduate students, industry and staff researchers will work together to conduct applied research in the field of information and communications technology.

"Information and communications technology plays a key role in expanding Alberta's economy," said Doug Horner, Minister of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology. "This technology is important in health, education, energy and virtually every industry in our province. TRILabs is a key contributor to Alberta's innovation system, bridging basic research with commercial applications and helping entrepreneurs to turn research into competitive products and services for world markets."

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Canada 

 TRILabs

Alberta

The federal and provincial funding agreements will help ensure the 50 members (including 37 industry members) comprising the TRLabs research consortium benefit from the organization's continuing efforts to develop new technology, advance knowledge in the information and communication technology sector, and train university students for leadership roles in Canadian industry.

"This investment in TRLabs enables us to continue to provide our members with an important service that feeds job creation and future prosperity in this key industry," said TRLabs President and CEO Dr. Roger Pederson. "The new technology and highly skilled university graduates we produce are more important than ever in a sector that enables productivity in all other economic sectors, grows at twice the rate of the broader economy, and is Canada's largest research and development spender and employment generator."

TRLabs partners include major multinational and national corporations from the information technologies and telecommunications field; the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta, Calgary, Regina, Saskatchewan; the Governments of Canada, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan; and 37 companies, the majority of which are small and medium-sized enterprises.

The investment in TRLabs being announced today at events in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Saskatoon includes \$10 million from the federal government, \$2.4 million each from the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and \$7.5 million from the Government of Alberta for a total of \$22.3 million.

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**A stronger West. A stronger Canada.**



## Backgrounder

### Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)

- Western Economic Diversification Canada works in partnership with the provinces, industry associations and communities to stimulate and diversify Western Canada's economy, as well as to represent the interests of the West in national economic policy.
- WD is announcing a \$10 million investment in TRILabs that will support the core operations of the laboratories in Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg over a five-year period (2006-2011).
- WD has invested more than \$27 million in TRILabs, in addition to the \$10 million announced today, which was directed towards core operations and other specialized initiatives.
- WD's investment, made through its Western Diversification Program (WDP), supports the Government of Canada's commitments to invest in research, development and technology commercialization; support small and medium-sized enterprises; and promote a diversified and expanded business sector.
- The underlying objective of the WDP is to create a stronger West and a stronger Canada. Several guiding principles are used to help assess how initiatives contribute to this objective, including:
  - increased economic activity that improves the viability, prosperity, and standard of living for individuals and communities across Western Canada.
  - increased economic research in the areas of community economic development, leading-edge technologies and entrepreneurship to provide a sound base for economic development in areas of importance to Western Canada.
- Other elements that are considered when determining the relative merit of proposals include: the measurable impact on the western Canadian economy, viability, long-term benefits, and the participation of other stakeholders.

## **Alberta Advanced Education and Technology**

- Alberta Advanced Education and Technology provides leadership and makes strategic investments in science and technology to help achieve sustainable long-term prosperity and an excellent quality of life for Albertans. Technology priorities include expanding research capacity and scientific excellence, developing, attracting and retaining highly qualified people, attracting corporate investments, and supporting initiatives to develop Alberta innovations into competitive products and services for world markets.

## **TRLabs**

- Since its inception in 1986 as a not-for-profit entity, TRLabs has evolved to become Canada's largest Information and Communications Technology (ICT) applied research consortium. It operates a tripartite partnership between industry, academia, and government, with activities spanning Western Canada, particularly Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- TRLabs' headquarters are in Edmonton, and it has physical laboratory locations in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. The five labs employ university professors, graduate students, industrial partners and staff researchers.
- TRLabs creates innovative technologies and trains students to enhance ICT expertise and improve Canada's global competitiveness. Activities focus on applied research, application development, prototype development, technology demonstration, testing, verification and certification, and pre-commercialization assistance.
- Over the last 20 years, TRLabs has trained 840 students, commercialized 310 technologies and issued and/or filed 160 patents.