



News Release

February 20, 2007

For Immediate Release

\$250,000 in technology commercialization funding available for new programs through joint initiative of University Technologies International, Calgary Technologies Inc. and SAIT Polytechnic

(Calgary, Alberta) – University Technologies International (UTI), Calgary Technologies Inc. (CTI) and SAIT Polytechnic announced today a special grant pool of \$250,000 for new programs and initiatives which support advancements to the technology commercialization and innovation sector. This grant pool is part of a larger funding package of \$1.5 million that Alberta Advanced Education and Technology (AET) awarded to UTI, CTI, and SAIT to further technology commercialization and collaboration in the Calgary region.

Proposals for grants are now being accepted with the deadline for applications being March 20, 2007. Grants will be awarded for projects which add to the breadth and depth of the technology commercialization sector. These projects will enhance the existing service infrastructure, and improve the capacity to source/develop/retain management talent. Detailed criteria are included in the attached document.

The expected outcomes from this joint initiative will be an increase in the number of advanced technology firms as well as the number of people employed in this sector, thus creating a greater critical mass in the field of advanced technology. The grants will be awarded and managed jointly by UTI, SAIT and CTI.

“Partnering with SAIT Polytechnic and CTI on this initiative allows us to encourage greater collaboration between our organizations’ and members of the technology commercialization sector in Alberta and to better leverage each organization’s collective expertise and resources,” states Paul Cataford, President & CEO of University Technologies International, University of Calgary’s technology transfer, commercialization and incubation centre.

Darren Massey, Vice President of Innovations and Technology Commercialization for CTI says, “This initiative allows us to take a positive step towards supporting and enhancing the commercialization of technology in Calgary in order to encourage further growth of this already thriving sector.”

This funding will provide the essential resources to develop a critical mass of expertise, tools and resources to manage and build effective advanced technology start up companies, to encourage entrepreneurship and to make industry more aware of the knowledge and technology resources at their disposal.

“This joint partnership supports a critical point in the innovation cycle - technology commercialization,” said Doug Horner, Minister of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology. “This funding will help increase Alberta’s capability and capacity to commercialize technology and will help build a stronger Alberta by encouraging growth and productivity in value added sectors.”

“We recognize that research is not the end outcome; we need follow through to realize a self-sustaining economic cluster based on technology. We can start to achieve this through services, infrastructure, management and capital development,” claims Alex Zahavich, Director of Applied Research and Innovation Services, SAIT Polytechnic.

This partnership will focus on collaboration and complementary programming to ensure there is no duplication of services among our interdependent organizations and programs.

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About UTI

University Technologies International is the technology transfer, commercialization and incubation centre for the University of Calgary. We are recognized internationally for our expertise and success in protecting, marketing and commercializing technology and innovation. UTI serves a wide variety of research-based clients in post-secondary institutions, government laboratories, industrial research and development installations, and private facilities.

www.UTI.ca

About CTI

Calgary Technologies Inc. is a business incubator whose mission is to accelerate the success of the advanced technology community by helping companies to build, grow, and connect. CTI provides a breadth of programs including physical facilities, business networking and cluster development, business coaching and mentorship, and access to capital. **www.Calgarytechnologies.com**

About SAIT

SAIT Polytechnic is Canada's premier polytechnic. This institute of advanced technology based in Calgary provides relevant, skill-oriented education to foster the career ambitions of our students and to support the nation's economy.

SAIT is in the vanguard to meet the growing skilled labour shortage. Faculty and staff work closely with business, industry and the government to enhance our capacity to provide relevant, applied programming suited to the needs of the workforce.

SAIT is establishing itself as a leader in applied research and innovation by setting the standard for academic excellence in learning and applied research. Applied Research and Innovation Services facilitates applied research and technology development projects between SAIT employees, students and industry. The department serves as industry's point of contact for institutional expertise and resources for innovative projects - projects that enable the advancement and adoption of technology in industry, offer professional development and qualification enhancement for faculty and staff, and real-world learning experiences for our students. **www.SAIT.ca**

About Alberta Advanced Education and Technology

Alberta Advanced Education and Technology ensures an accessible, affordable, high quality post-secondary education system and strong research capacity system builds a culture of knowledge and innovation in Alberta.

Responsive to the ongoing learning needs of Albertans, Advanced Education and Technology attracts investment and research in knowledge-based industries. Through knowledge-transfer, growth and productivity in value-added sectors and increasing support for community education and literacy programs, Advanced Education and Technology nurtures an environment which supports the development and work of highly qualified people to help build a stronger Alberta. **www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca**

Criteria for Grant Applications

Applicants are asked to prepare a grant application outlining how the Project proposes to address the following:

1. How the Project supports enhancement to the breadth and depth of the technology commercialization sector by:
 - a. enhancing the capacity of the service infrastructure,
 - b. improving the capacity to source/develop/retain management talent,
 - c. supporting development of capital resources
2. How the Project supports commercialization efforts of either: the University of Calgary; Mount Royal College; SAIT Polytechnic; or other members of the private and public sector.
3. How the Project builds relationships and fosters collaborative commercialization efforts among the various technology commercialization agencies and partners.

Funding may not be used for:

1. Direct investment into individual companies
2. In-direct investment into an investment fund
3. Supplemental funding for existing programs/initiatives
4. Any entity which is "for profit" in nature

While there is no cap for funding for any specific initiative, Applicant's must recognize the \$250,000 pool will be allocated in such a way as to provide maximum benefit for the region. It is expected that most grants will be between \$20,000 and \$50,000. Projects are expected to be substantially completed in 2007 and in no case extend beyond one year from date of grant.

Application Process:

1. Each Applicant shall submit a proposal that **MUST** include a completed **Application Form** (contact Peter Santosham at 270-2440 for an application form).
2. The deadline for applications is March 20, 2007
3. Grant awards will be announced by April 3, 2007. If required, the governing body reserves the right to request further information or a formal presentation on the Project.

Each Applicant is required to:

1. Outline the Project, its goals and objectives, the target audience and the benefits to the targeted group.
2. Outline in detail the proposed sources and uses of funding, such outline to be constructed on a "reimbursement of expenses" basis whereas the maximum interim drawdown on a grant shall not exceed \$20,000 without providing proof of prior expenditure.
3. Provide a timeline for the Project showing each step from initial planning to Project completion and subsequent reporting. The timeline should show how the Project will be completed on or prior to April 3, 2008.
4. Outline the entity which will be used for a funding vehicle.
5. What technologies (life science, advanced engineering, ICT, alternative energy, energy) the Project is expected to work in.
6. Outline what the measurable outcomes are expected to be.
7. Outline how the Project is new or incremental to existing programming or initiatives.
8. Outline how the Project builds relationships and fosters collaborative commercialization efforts among the various technology commercialization agencies and partners.