

Mitacs Inc. and Mprime Network launch new era for Innovation in Canada

TORONTO, Ontario (May 12, 2011): After serving for 12 years as Canada's premiere Network of Centres of Excellence in the mathematical sciences, Mitacs announced today that it is transforming itself into two separate organizations that will work, each in their own way and focus, on supporting the country's innovation agenda.

Mitacs Inc. will concentrate on developing and supporting a suite of unique programs geared toward collaborative industry/academic research projects that address attraction, retention and training the talent Canada needs to be competitive in the global knowledge economy.

At the same time, a new organization known as Mprime Network Inc. is being launched to continue the fulfillment of one of the original Mitacs mandate as Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence in the mathematical sciences. Dr. Allen Eaves, President of Stemcell Technologies has been appointed as Chair of the Board of Mprime. University of British Columbia mathematics professor Dr. Nassif Ghoussoub will serve as its new scientific director.

"One of the characteristics of successful knowledge-based economies is their ability to incorporate sophisticated mathematical tools and methodologies in their innovation effort," said Ghoussoub. Dr. Eaves added "We are fortunate to have someone of Dr. Ghoussoub's calibre at the helm. I'm confident he will ensure that the mathematical sciences remain a key component of Canada's future innovation strategy."

Mitacs is also very pleased to welcome Brad Bennett, President of McIntosh Properties, as its new Chair of the Board. UBC Computer Science Professor Dr. Arvind Gupta will continue to serve as the scientific director for Mitacs Inc.

"Re-launching Mitacs with such a broader mandate will help ensure that we are working even more closely with our federal and provincial partners to develop knowledge-intensive and innovative economies" says Bennett. "Mitacs remains committed to working with over 600 business partners who form an integral part of our industrial network across the country."

Mitacs also announced a new strategic partnership with over 40 research organizations from across Canada. Some of the new research members include the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, the Ontario Centres of Excellence and NanoQuébec.

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Mitacs Inc. Background

- Fourteen offices located throughout Canada. Head Office in Vancouver, BC.
- Originally founded in 1999 as a Networks of Centres of Excellence, it has become Canada's leader in connecting business with academia to help solve real-world research challenges.
- Operates five signature multi-disciplinary programs: Mitacs-Accelerate, Mitacs-Step, Mitacs-Globalink, Mitacs-Elevate and Mitacs-Outreach.
- The highest rate of leverage of business research funding of any similar organization in Canada

Mitacs-Accelerate is Canada's premiere research internship program. It connects companies with over 50 research-based universities through graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, who apply their specialized expertise to business research challenges. Interns transfer their skills from theory to real-world application, while the companies gain a competitive advantage by accessing high-quality research expertise.

Mitacs Step is Canada's only comprehensive program providing business-ready skills to up and coming researchers. Step trains graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in essential business, project management and entrepreneurial skills required to succeed in their future career.

Mitacs Elevate provides a foundation of cutting-edge research, business, entrepreneurship and scientific management skills to newly-minted PhDs. It also gives companies access to a highly qualified uniquely trained pool of talent. Through Mitacs Elevate, new PhDs create and lead a major industrial research project while establishing vital connections within the local business community.

Mitacs Globalink introduces Canada as a world-leading research and innovation destination to top undergraduate students from around the world. Globalink students undertake a research project with the supervision of a professor while connecting with local, cutting-edge companies and building career-enhancing connections. The student experience is further enriched through a network of local graduate student mentors, providing meaningful educational and cultural experiences for every participant.

Mitacs Outreach is making science and mathematics compelling for future knowledge-workers by focusing on children through initiatives such as the nationally-recognized comedic stage performance *Show Math* and an online quiz game *MathAmaze*. A solid foundation in math and science is an essential building block for a career in technology, research and engineering.

Mprime Network Background

- Prior to May 12, 2011 Mprime was known as MITACS Inc. MITACS was created in 1999 as a federally-funded [Networks of Centres of Excellence](#) to harness the power of mathematical tools and methodologies in order to address the inherent complexity of modern industrial and societal problems for the benefit of Canadians.
- The only Network of Centres of Excellence for the mathematical sciences brings together academia, industry and the public sector to develop cutting edge mathematical tools vital to our knowledge-based economy.
- Works with organizations to identify their challenges, find scientists with the expertise necessary to address these challenges and provide funding towards research and innovative solutions.
- Mprime will create targeted initiatives to continue the commercializing of research outcomes and transferring the knowledge of its projects.

To improve Canada's competitiveness, Mprime research focuses on five key sectors of the economy:

- Biomedical & Health
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Information Processing
- Risk & Finance
- Communication, Networks & Security

By the numbers...

- In 1999/00, Mprime (formerly MITACS) had 93 partners and 54 Canadian academic scientists working with 303 students.
- In 2010/11, Mprime (formerly MITACS) had over 650 partners and 377 Canadian academic scientists working with 739 students.

From 1999-2011, Mprime:

- Filed for approximately 95 patents and licenses – e.g. an insertable cardiac monitor patented and licensed to Medtronic and patents for optimizing energy management and pricing
- Developed more than 100 software applications and copyrights – e.g. PROMETHEUS, Canada's Wildfire Growth Simulator and SRE, a customized Vehicle Router
- Over 25 spin-off companies employing hundreds of Canadians came out of Mprime research - e.g. GridCentric - <http://gridcentric.com/>, ExPretio - <http://www.expretio.com/>, Sombra Labs – <http://www.sombralabs.com>
- Solicited approximately \$20M in research funding from the private sector
- Built an international network in industrial mathematics with partners in Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, and the US many of whom have built their own networks modeled on Mprime.

New Mitacs Research Members

[AFMNet](#)

[AllerGen](#)

[BC Bioenergy Network](#)

[Bioindustrial Innovation Centre](#)

[Canadian Obesity Network](#)

[Canadian Stroke Network](#)

[Canadian Water Network](#)

[Communities of Tomorrow](#)

[Composites Innovation Centre](#)

[Compute Canada](#) *

[Consortium en innovation numérique du Québec](#) (CINQ)

[Consortium de recherche et d'innovation en aérospatiale au Québec](#) (CRIAQ)

[Cybera](#): Alberta Cyberinfrastructure for Innovation

[Graphics, Animation and New Media NCE Inc \(GRAND\)](#)

Health Research Internship Consortium §

[The Health Technology Exchange](#) (HTX)

[Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures Canada](#) – ISIS

[MITACS](#)

[NanoQuébec](#)

[National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly](#) (NICE)

[NeuroDevNet](#)

[Oceans Network Canada](#)

[Ontario Centres of Excellence](#) (OCE)

[Ottawa Centre for Research & Innovation](#) (OCRI)

[Partnerships for Research on Microelectronics, Photonics & Telecommunications](#) (PROMPT)

[Precarn Inc.](#)

[PrioNet Canada](#)

[Promoting Relationships & Eliminating Violence](#) (PREVNet)

[Stem Cell Network](#)

[Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute](#)

[TRLabs](#)

[Westlink Innovation Network](#)