
News Release

For immediate release

Government of Canada renews three Networks of Centres of Excellence

Investment of \$68.8 million over the next four years to fund continued research in stem cells, water and the automotive industry.

OTTAWA, November 28, 2007 – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry, today announced an investment of \$68.8 million over four years to renew three Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCEs).

“These networks have stimulated innovation and entrepreneurship, created jobs, improved the health and well-being of Canadians, and positioned this country as a leader in the global knowledge economy,” Minister Prentice said. “The renewal of our investment in these organisations for another four years demonstrates our Government’s commitment to make science and technology a true competitive advantage for Canada.”

The three renewed NCEs and their funding levels are:

- Auto21 Network of Centres of Excellence (based at the University of Windsor), \$5.8 million per year;
- Canadian Water Network (based at the University of Waterloo), \$5 million per year; and
- Stem Cell Network (based at the University of Ottawa), \$6.4 million per year.

The decision to renew these Networks was made after a thorough evaluation of their scientific accomplishments, their future research goals, and their training and knowledge transfer activities. This review is required for any Network applying for a second seven-year funding cycle. The funding amounts are granted for four years, after which the Networks are re-assessed in a mid-term review.

“These Networks were renewed because they meet the NCE Program’s high standards for excellence,” said Suzanne Fortier, President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Chair of the NCE Steering Committee. “They have consistently delivered high-quality research, established strong partnerships, and contributed to a strong Canadian economy and society, providing benefits to all Canadians.”

Founded in 1989, the Networks of Centres of Excellence are partnerships between universities, industry, government and not-for-profit organizations. An integral element of *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada’s Advantage*, the federal government’s S&T strategy, these



nationwide, multidisciplinary and multi-sector partnerships connect excellent research with industrial know-how and strategic investment.

The NCE Program is managed jointly by the three federal granting agencies—NSERC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council—in partnership with Industry Canada.

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