

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ATLANTIC INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS ANNOUNCED FOR FREDERICTON**

**FREDERICTON (N.B.) – July 4, 2002** – Five innovative Fredericton projects have been selected for funding under the Government of Canada’s Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF). The projects will help boost Atlantic Canada’s capacity to compete in the global, knowledge-based economy.

Valued at \$40 million in total for New Brunswick, the projects will contribute to the growth of new and emerging industries such as telecommunications and aquaculture and to the competitiveness of traditional manufacturing industries.

More than \$15 million in AIF funding for these five projects was announced today at the Wu Centre on the University of New Brunswick campus by the Honourable Andy Scott, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of State for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

“New Brunswick’s companies and institutions are among the most innovative and forward-thinking in the world,” said Mr. Scott. “They demonstrate what we are trying to achieve with the Atlantic Innovation Fund – to stimulate partnerships among universities, research centres and industry leaders with the goal of moving more of our cutting-edge research from the labs into the marketplace.”

Although not able to attend the news conference, Minister Byrne stated, “Atlantic Canada is seeing growth in a number of new and emerging sectors and our traditional industries are increasingly adopting new technologies that are help them to better compete outside the region. I am confident these projects will lead to the development of new business opportunities and export markets, and the creation of good quality jobs for Atlantic Canadians.”

The following projects will receive AIF funding:

- The University of New Brunswick will receive \$6.4 million to partner with other universities and private sector firms to improve existing and develop new communications networks and services that would see improvements in radio software, wireless communications systems, data traffic analysis and information access controls. Total value of project: \$11 million.

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- The University of New Brunswick's Institute for Materials Visualization and Analysis will receive \$3.3 million to expand on its technology which helps a wide range of industries transform traditional materials into new products, processes and uses. Total value of project: \$9.8 million.
- Mathis Instruments of Fredericton manufactures and sells the TC Probe, the world's first rapid non-destructive thermal conductivity testing device. The company will receive \$2 million to expand the functionality of its patented sensor technology so it may be adapted for use by pharmaceutical, chemical and petroleum industries, among others. Total value of project: \$13.5 million.
- The New Brunswick Research and Productivity Council, which provides R&D and technical services to industry and government clients, will receive \$1.2 million to develop a new fish pathogen diagnostic tool for the aquaculture industry, that is more specific, sensitive and user-friendly than existing technologies. Total value of project: \$2 million.
- Precision Hydrogen Inc. (PH2) is developing technology at its Fredericton office related to the separation of hydrogen from natural gas, which would be stored and later used to run a fuel cell. The company's new subsidiary, Atlantic Hydrogen will receive \$2.2 million to develop industrial applications of the PH2 process, for example, for use in gas stations and power plants. Total value of project: \$4 million.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minister Byrne officially announced that a total of 47 projects throughout Atlantic Canada will receive total funding of \$155 million through the Atlantic Innovation Fund's first Request for Project Proposals. Overall, the 47 initiatives, including the ones announced today, represent total project costs valued at nearly \$400 million.

The project proponents have leveraged additional funding from a variety of private sector and public sector sources, including contributions from national funding programs such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Technology Partnerships Canada.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minister Byrne also announced that he would be initiating a second round of AIF funding by issuing a Request for Project Proposals in the coming weeks.

The \$300-million Atlantic Innovation Fund is a five-year Government of Canada initiative that is administered by ACOA. It is designed to build the economy of Atlantic Canada by increasing the region's capacity to carry out leading edge R&D that directly contributes to the development of new technology-based economic activity in the region. Specifically, the Fund is aimed at increasing the R&D being carried out in Atlantic research facilities leading to the launch of new ideas, products, processes and services.

**Backgrounders on the projects are attached and are also available on ACOA's web site:**  
[www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca](http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca).

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