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Harper Government Helps to Kick Start Canadian Entrepreneurial Businesses

* Reuters is not responsible for the content in this press release.

Fri Feb 3, 2012 9:00am EST

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, Feb 03 (MARKET WIRE) -- The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, and Jacques Gourde, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, for Official Languages and for the Economic Development Agency for the Regions of Quebec, are pleased to announce that the Government of Canada has pre-qualified 36 innovations that it may buy and test as part of the second round of the Kickstart program, also known as the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program.

"Our Government is focused on creating conditions to promote jobs and economic growth," said Minister Ambrose. "That is why we're committed to supporting Canadian entrepreneurs who help to keep the Canadian economy moving."

"The Kickstart program is ensuring that Canadian small and medium-sized businesses can grow and prosper," said Parliamentary Secretary Gourde. "We are proud to continue our encouragement of Canada's tremendous entrepreneurial spirit through this successful program."

Successful businesses will see their pre-commercial innovative products and services tested within government departments, and will be given valuable feedback from users participating in the pilot program.

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) will work with government departments to match innovations with the right test departments, and will be entering into negotiations with the selected companies to put contracts in place to test their innovations, should a suitable department be found. This will facilitate Canadian companies in moving their innovations into domestic and international markets.

In March 2011, 19 innovations were announced as part of the first round of the CICP. An additional eight innovations were subsequently announced in July for a total of 27 innovations selected in the first round.

"Twenty-one of the innovations from the first round have been successfully matched with government departments which brings these Canadian companies one step closer in moving their innovations into domestic and international markets," said Minister Ambrose. "We're committed to building the jobs and the industries of the future by creating the conditions for continued success of industries that are the foundation of Canada's prosperity."

Launched in 2010 as part of the Economic Action Plan, the CICP is a \$40-million pilot program created to help Canadian businesses by testing their innovative products and services within the Government of Canada before taking them to the marketplace.

Federal departments will test innovations that fall within four key areas: environment, health, safety and security, and enabling technologies.

For further information on the program, please refer to the CICP background.

PWGSC news releases are also available on our Internet site at <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/medias-media/index-eng.html>.

Background

Kickstart / Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program

Launched in 2010, the Kickstart / Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program initiative (CICP) is a \$40-million pilot program that is a part of the Government of Canada's commitment to promote Canada's economic growth and support entrepreneurs.

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Tue, Feb 21 2012



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6:48am EST



Western journalists killed in Homs shelling
6:04am EST

As part of the Economic Action Plan, Kickstart was created to bolster innovation in Canada's business sector, was designed to help companies bridge the pre-commercialization gap for their innovative products and services by:

- awarding contracts to entrepreneurs with pre-commercial innovations through an open, transparent, competitive and fair procurement process;
- testing products or services and providing feedback to entrepreneurs on their performance;
- providing innovators with the opportunity to enter the marketplace with a successful application of their new products and services; and
- providing information on how to do business with the Government of Canada.

Kickstart targets innovations in four priority areas:

- environment;
- safety and security;
- health; and
- enabling technologies.

Kickstart has two complementary components. The first identifies Canadian innovations to test within federal operations in order to support businesses as they move their innovations to commercialization. The second builds on current efforts by the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) to improve small and medium enterprises' (SME) access to federal procurement activities, and enables companies to showcase innovative products and services to potential government users.

Proposals related to the opportunity to test innovative products and services are accepted through competitive Calls for Proposals. The first round of Calls for Proposals was successfully announced in October 2010, and the second was announced in July 2011.

Public Works and Governments Services Canada (PWGSC) continues to work with all stakeholders to ensure that SMEs receive the vital government support needed to thrive in today's evolving economy.

OSME, through its network of headquarter operations and six regional offices, assists SMEs as they navigate through the government procurement system. It is strengthening access to government business for SMEs by collaborating with industry associations and individual businesses on training, providing information, developing support tools, and recommending procurement policy changes. OSME is also working with SME organizations to identify and pursue opportunities that encourage the introduction of innovative products and services to the marketplace.

First Round of Calls for Proposals

On February 4, 2011, the Innovation Selection Committee (ISC), in the final stage of evaluation of the CICP competitive procurement process, met to validate the ranking of proposals based on the independent reviews of the National Research Council Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). Members of the ISC, 70 per cent of whom are from the private sector, were chosen based on their experience in investment and entrepreneurship, knowledge of innovation and commercialization trends, and knowledge of international business practices.

In March 2011, 19 innovations were announced as part of the first round of the CICP. An additional eight innovations were subsequently announced in July for a total of 27 innovations selected in the first round.

To date 12 first round innovators have been awarded contracts:

2G Robotics, Waterloo, Ontario; Amika Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario; Breviro Caviar Inc., Pennfield, New Brunswick; CTV Corp., Sainte-Julie, Quebec; DataGardens, Edmonton, Alberta; Edgewater Computer Systems Inc., Ottawa, Ontario; ERACTS Inc., Toronto, Ontario; Inversa Systems, Fredericton, New Brunswick; LED Roadway Lighting Ltd., Halifax, Nova Scotia; MDA Systems Ltd., Richmond, British Columbia; Sage Data Solutions Inc., Ottawa, Ontario; Virtual Marine Technology Inc., St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Victoria, British Columbia.

Second Round of Calls for Proposals

On November 9, 2011, the ISC, in the final stage of evaluation of the CICP competitive procurement process, met to validate the ranking of proposals based on the independent reviews of NRC-IRAP.

There are now 35 pre-qualified Canadian innovators that form a part of the CICP's second round:

3833364 Canada Inc, Gatineau, Quebec; Adventure Lights Inc., Beaconsfield, Quebec; Aeryon Labs, Inc., Waterloo, Ontario; Akoostix Inc. of Nova Scotia, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; Alain Coulombe, Montreal, Quebec; Aurora Control Technologies Inc, North Vancouver, British Columbia;

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B-Temia Inc., Quebec, Quebec; Ballard Power Systems Inc., Burnaby, British Columbia; Biopeak Corporation, Kanata, Ontario; CDVI Americas, Laval, Quebec; Clinemetrica Inc., Westmount, Quebec; Desiree Stockermans, Great Village, Nova Scotia; Edgewater Computer Systems, Inc, Ottawa, Ontario; IntelliView Technologies Inc., Calgary, Alberta; LBi - Lab_Bell inc., Trois-Rivieres, Quebec; MANTECH INC., Guelph, Ontario; Mawashi Protective Clothing Inc., Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec; Morgan Solar Inc., Toronto, Ontario; National Optics Institute, Quebec, Quebec; OnLogics, Ottawa, Ontario; Oracle Telecomputing Inc, Carleton Place, Ontario; Plurilock Security Solutions Inc., Victoria, British Columbia; Privacy Analytics Inc, Ottawa, Ontario; Pro-Oceanus Systems Incorporated, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia; QSDM Inc., Mississauga, Ontario; Reach Technologies Inc., Victoria, British Columbia; Resolution Optics, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Rheolution inc., Montreal, Quebec; Scotia Weather Services Incorporated, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; SunCentral Inc., Richmond, British Columbia; Solana Networks Inc., Nepean, Ontario; Tektrap System Inc, Gatineau, Quebec; Temporal Power Ltd., Mississauga, Ontario; Wedge Networks, Calgary, Alberta; Xiphos Systems Corporation, Montreal, Quebec.

For descriptions of the innovations: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/initiatives-and-programs/canadian-innovation-commercialization-program-cicp/pre-qualified-innovations#5>

PWGSC will be working with government departments to match innovations with the right test departments, and will be entering into negotiations with the selected companies to put contracts in place to test their innovations, should the right department be found. Marking the first sale for these innovations, these contracts will also facilitate Canadian companies in moving their innovations into domestic and international markets by having the Government of Canada as a first client "reference."

Ce texte est également disponible en français.

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