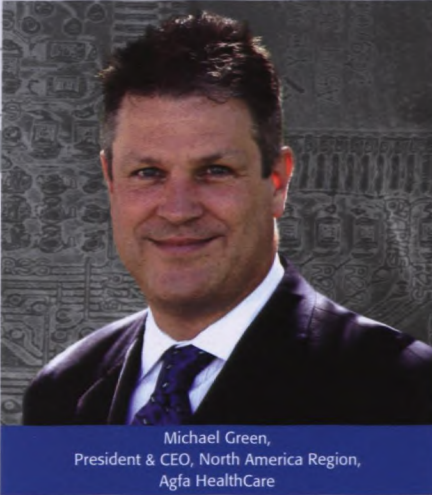


Bolstering Investment in Health IT: Agfa HealthCare in Canada



Michael Green,
President & CEO, North America Region,
Agfa HealthCare

AGFA HEALTHCARE, A LEADING PROVIDER of diagnostic imaging and health IT solutions, has begun construction of a new global research and development facility in the Research and Technology Park at the University of Waterloo in south-western Ontario.

Scheduled to open in 2011, the new facility will help Agfa HealthCare deliver on its commitment to supply industry-leading technology to the healthcare community and improve the delivery of patient care in Canada. "Through our growing partnership, Canada and Agfa HealthCare continue to advance the technologies and systems that will define health care throughout the 21st century," says Michael Green, President & CEO, North America Region, Agfa HealthCare.

Agfa HealthCare, part of Belgium's Agfa-Gevaert Group, has more than a century of diagnostic-imaging experience and has been a pioneer in the health IT market for decades. The Group has sales offices and agents in more than 100 markets worldwide. The company's Waterloo office is the site of its global research and development arm, producing Agfa's industry-leading Picture Archive and Communication (PACS) software, IMPAX™ and other advanced software solutions for hospitals and healthcare facilities.

Canada's healthcare IT business environment fosters innovation and growth

In recent years, Canada's healthcare sector has attracted increasing IT investment from both public and private agencies, and today represents a significant and valuable opportunity for IT developers. Canada's 10 provinces and three territories, supported by the federal agency Canada Health Infoway (CHI), are committed to facilitating healthcare IT in an interoperable environment. Central to this commitment is CHI's national initiative to create electronic health records for all Canadians by 2016. Equally attractive to IT investors are Canada's deep pool of skilled workers, generous scientific research and experimental development tax credits, and world-class post-secondary institutions keen to collaborate on leading-edge projects.

"Canada's mature and competitive economy has all the attributes required to foster innovation in this sector," says Michael Green.

Agfa HealthCare: Leading innovation through collaboration

In 2009, Agfa HealthCare earned a \$29.6-million grant from the Ontario government, to support the expansion of the company's R&D and regional operation centres in Toronto and Waterloo. The grant was part of a total investment of nearly \$200 million in Agfa HealthCare's Ontario operations, creating 140 new jobs.

In the same year, Agfa HealthCare introduced the Agfa HealthCare Institute: a new initiative that leverages collaborative partnerships with world-class vendors, academic institutions, government and healthcare providers. The company currently works in co-operation with several partners, including the University of Waterloo, the National Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Digital Media Network, on projects that drive innovation and commercialization in health informatics.

Expanding opportunities for research and development

The 2011 opening of its new R&D centre on the campus of the University of Waterloo will extend Agfa HealthCare's capacity to develop and refine the next generation of enterprise-wide healthcare solutions. The University of Waterloo Research and Technology Park is one of many across Canada designed to incubate and nurture new technologies.

"The brilliant talent at the Waterloo R&D centre and the continued support from government and local partners have allowed us to accelerate our growth plans and bring progressive healthcare innovations to the next level, for the benefit of Canadians," says Michael Green.