

Job Creation and Economic Growth Highlight First Annual TPC Report

Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC) created more than 10,000 jobs and leveraged \$1.6 billion in private-sector during its first year, according to the program's first annual report. The program also invested \$414 million in 30 projects across Canada.

In tabling the report in Parliament on December 10, Industry Minister John Manley said, "I am proud that Technology Partnerships Canada has contributed so much to economic growth and the creation of long-term jobs in Canada. These investments are building valuable partnerships with the private sector to ensure that Canada is competitive in the knowledge economy."

Making strategic investments

Technology Partnerships Canada represents an investment approach to technological development, with real risk-and reward-sharing with the private sector. Investments are fully repayable and are intended to help ensure that products with high potential reach the marketplace. Investments are made in the target areas of environmental technologies, enabling technologies, and aerospace and defence industries — areas recognized worldwide as having significant potential for growth in the coming century.

Environmental technologies support sustainable development efforts and build on Canada's expertise in this area. Enabling technologies, which include advanced manufacturing, advance materials, applications of information technology and biotechnology, are improving the ways Canadians live and work. Aerospace and defence industries employ more than 59,000 Canadians and are a major component of the knowledge economy.

Key element in jobs strategy

Technology Partnerships Canada — launched in March 1996 — is a key element in the government's strategy

to promote economic growth and job creation through innovation, positioning Canada to be a leader in the global knowledge economy of the 21st century.

For more information, or for a copy of the annual report, contact Technology Partnerships Canada, 300 Slater Street, 10th Floor, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C8, tel.: 1-800-266-7531 or (613) 954-0870, fax: (613) 954-9117, e-mail: tpc@ic.gc.ca

PEMD — Continued from page 1

goods and services is being supported by a US\$205-million loan from Canada's Export Development Corporation.)

To express the company's appreciation for the government's contribution to its success, Executive Vice President Alan R. Curleigh came to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on December 3 to repay its \$99,000 PEMD Capital Project Bidding assistance directly to International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi.

In thanking the Minister, Curleigh pointed out that the assistance, and the government backing it implies, is important not only for financial reasons but also in persuading a company's senior management and board of directors to undertake costly, extended-term activity such as capital project bidding. He noted that the PEMD assistance has benefited not just his company but also over 150 other Canadian companies that will

Continued on page 12 — PEMD

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