

News Release

FOR RELEASE
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CANADA-MANITOBA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP INVESTS IN VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Improved manufacturing processes and new technology development will strengthen the productivity and competitiveness of Manitoba-based transportation suppliers through a new supplier development program. The Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is contributing \$1.5 million towards the Vehicle Technology Centre project.

The Honourable Jim Rondeau, Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines on behalf of Greg Selinger, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, made the announcement today.

“This is a unique step forward in maintaining Manitoba’s competitive edge in what is an already sophisticated manufacturing community,” said Rondeau. “We have a sound base on which to build and develop advanced technologies which will significantly benefit our vehicle manufacturers.”

“This project will encourage local manufacturers and suppliers to work together to identify opportunities for new technology and other improvements,” said Minister Skelton. “Better parts and subsystems will translate into more sales and more jobs for Manitoba manufacturing workers.”

The Supplier Development Program is a cost-shared initiative with local Original Equipment Manufacturers in the transportation equipment and agribusiness manufacturing sectors. Original Equipment Manufacturers such as those companies that manufacture intercity buses, transit buses, motorhomes, fire trucks and truck bodies are encouraged to partner with one or more of their suppliers to develop new technologies. These technologies will enhance Manitoba’s competitiveness in design, environmental and manufacturing technologies, product lifecycle management, advanced materials structures and systems.

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The program is being delivered through the Vehicle Technology Centre (VTC). The VTC was established in 2002 to assist local manufacturers in the transportation equipment sector to meet their technology development, testing and related needs. Since its inception, the centre has identified and filled gaps between companies, government and service providers to ensure that existing resources and access to services were effectively utilized.

Under the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the governments of Canada and Manitoba are working together and in partnership with community stakeholders on two strategic priorities – building our economy and sustainable communities. These priorities strengthen the skills of Manitoba workers and promote economic growth and diversification in the province. For more information on this and other projects funded under EPA, visit: <http://www.epa.gov.mb.ca>.

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