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Connexion. Collaboration. Prospérité.

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# *Information Sheet*

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## **An Increased R&D Advantage for Canadian Business**

Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) is in Quebec City to address an audience of local entrepreneurs and academic officials. The event takes place on Thursday, November 26, 2009, at FPIInnovations.

NSERC is launching a new Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation, a five-year plan with immediate actions designed to accelerate innovation in Canada by increasing industry-academic R&D collaboration.

According to Dr. Fortier, "NSERC is ready to shift Canada's research engine into high gear. We are taking immediate steps to build stronger and faster bridges between industry and academia, remove speed bumps to facilitate collaboration and develop highrises of excellence by focusing significant resources to accelerate R&D in areas of priority to industry and to our country."

The Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation is NSERC's largest plan created with industry's needs in mind. It commits to doubling the number of industry-academic partnerships NSERC supports by 2014. NSERC's five regional offices will focus their efforts on helping match R&D-performing companies with suitable research partners in universities and colleges across Canada. Policy and program changes have been made to provide more and better opportunities for industry to find just the right student, professor or research team to work with, and to break down traditional barriers to successful collaboration.

NSERC has a long tradition of fostering successful industry-academic partnerships that have led to business growth and job creation, and have contributed to a stronger economy. Just one of many regional examples involves researchers at the Université Laval who have worked with the peat industry to help address the problem of environmentally unsound harvesting practices. The partnership has helped place Canadian producers at the forefront of sustainable development of peatlands.

"We are fortunate to have one of the most advanced academic research systems on the planet. Increased R&D partnership with Canada's post-secondary institutions will give Canadian businesses the competitive edge they need to excel in today's global economy," said Edwin



Natural Sciences and Engineering  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences  
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

Bourget, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, Laval University, and Member of the Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation Advisory Committee.

The Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation was developed in direct response to needs expressed by industry through broad consultation involving more than 230 industry representatives, 150 participants from academia and 30 representatives from federal science-based departments and agencies. NSERC made particular efforts to include in the consultations small and medium-sized businesses that had never used NSERC programs.

‘Companies can easily double or even triple their innovation capacity by employing post-secondary research resources. I am much encouraged by the fact that NSERC has now made it easier for businesses—SMEs as much as large enterprises—to tap into Canada’s tremendous base of university talent that can help businesses achieve more productivity, competitiveness and prosperity,’ said Pierre Lapointe, President and CEO of FPInnovations, a not-for-profit world leader in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector’s global competitiveness.

NSERC is a federal research granting council that invests more than \$1 billion annually in people, discovery and innovation at universities and colleges across Canada. NSERC is one of Canada’s largest sources of grants for public-private R&D partnerships, investing more than \$310 million each year to support over 1,500 industry-academic partnerships and the training of tens of thousands of students. NSERC’s suite of innovation programs covers the full spectrum of R&D and allows industry to work with university and college-based researchers and students to find solutions, innovate and grow.

For further information, please visit [www.NSERCpartnerships.ca](http://www.NSERCpartnerships.ca), or contact:

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