



Ontario Centres of
Excellence

Where Next Happens

MEDIA RELEASE
Nov. 10, 2008

Ontario Centres of Excellence fellowship launches new business ventures

TORONTO – Thanks to an Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) fellowship, two inventors are closer than ever to realizing their dreams. One has developed a lab extraction system that could revolutionize the billion-dollar pharmaceutical and food industries, while the other has designed a game changing control device that will significantly reduce vibration and noise pollution from helicopters and wind turbines.

Ameer Taha, co-founder of Certo Labs Inc. and Smart Rotor Systems founder Kostyantyn Khomutov are co-winners of OCE's 2008 Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship. Both Taha and Khomutov will receive \$100,000 to start a business venture to bring their inventions successfully to market.

The Certo-Ex is a fully automated lab instrument that allows scientists or technicians to simply and quickly extract samples in any lab setting at a fraction of the cost and time, while also eliminating cross-contamination between samples. By allowing scientists to work with multiple samples at once, in a fraction of the time now required, it's estimated the Certo-Ex could reduce lab costs by as much as 90%. The extraction instrument was developed in part through OCE sponsored research at the University of Waterloo. The \$2.2 billion addressable market is growing at 5% per year.

Khomutov's "Active Pitch Link" system is a first of its kind technology that can simultaneously control vibration and noise produced by wind turbines and helicopter rotors, significantly cutting noise pollution and maintenance costs. The system will enable a "jet smooth ride" for helicopter passengers and crew, decreasing associated health risks and increasing pilot flying careers. For wind turbines, this innovative technology will enable installation in closer proximity to populated areas and will markedly improve component fatigue life. Khomutov believes his company could generate annual revenues of more than \$140 million. Prior OCE funding to Carleton University allowed for the initial research and creation of the smart rotor.

The Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship facilitates the transition of OCE-funded university-based research into innovative business ventures. An expert panel selects the recipients, who are judged on criteria including strength of technology, commercial viability and sound business planning. The Fellowship honours the vision of Dr. Martin Walmsley, who was instrumental in founding the Ontario Centres of Excellence program in 1987.

"Young Canadians like Ameer and Kostyantyn are helping usher in a new era of innovation with their inventiveness and entrepreneurship," said OCE president Mark Romoff. "By helping these young entrepreneurs get started and mentoring them during the critical two year start-up period, we are accelerating the process of moving their ideas to market."

About Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc.

Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc. drives the commercialization of cutting-edge research across key market sectors to build the economy of tomorrow and secure Ontario's global competitiveness. In doing this, OCE fosters the training and development of the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders and is a key partner with Ontario's industry, universities, colleges, research hospitals, investors and governments. OCE's five Centres work in communications and information technology, earth and environmental technologies, energy, materials and manufacturing and photonics. OCE is funded in part by the government of Ontario and is a key partner in delivering Ontario's Innovation Agenda.

Contact: Dominique LaCasse, director of marketing & communications, Ontario Centres of Excellence
613 726 3420 X 4270 dominique.lacasse@oce-ontario.org

