



Press release →

For immediate release

NanoQuébec grants \$ 400 000 to finance four innovative projects in nanotechnology

(Montreal, December 13). NanoQuébec is pleased to announce the names of the four Quebec-based companies that will each receive \$100 000 to support continuing, in partnership with universities and research institutions, the development of innovative applications in nanotechnology. It is the outcome of the request for proposals launched earlier this year by NanoQuébec and made possible thanks to the financial support of its governmental partners.

Mr. Jean Gaulin, chairman of NanoQuébec's Board of Directors, will announce the selected projects on the occasion of NanoQuébec's press conference attended by the Honorable Jacques Saada, Minister of Economic Development Canada, Mr. Michel Audet, Minister of Développement économique et régional et de la Recherche, and Mr. Georges Bossé, representing of the Montreal's Executive Committee to Montreal Metropolitan Community.

The winning firms, American Dye Source, Atomistix North America, BioSyntech and IatroQuest, have all submitted innovative projects that should generate important economic fall-out in Quebec.

A very successful competition

The competition was proposed within the framework of NanoQuébec's program supporting the development of industrial and commercial applications in nanotechnology. Quebec-based companies had to submit a research and development project having already been scientifically validated, while also creating sustainable links between researchers and the business community. Projects had to be presented in collaboration with researchers working with universities or research institutions in the province.

The competition was a huge success among the forty companies working in nanotechnology in Quebec. "We had called for proposals at the beginning of August," notes Clive Willis, NanoQuébec's Director General. Despite the short delay, nearly twenty companies, approximately half of all companies working in nanotechnology, submitted a project. This is a clear sign that these corporations are in great need of financial support to move their ideas to the market place."

The projects were also of very high calibre. "We were initially supposed to select three winners, mentions Clive Willis, but the projects were of such remarkable quality, that we chose to reallocate resources within our budget so that we could help four firms instead of only three!" Funding for these projects will be drawn from the financial support provided to NanoQuébec – \$ 300 000 from funding provided through Economic Development Canada and \$ 100 000 from funding provided by Valorisation-Recherche Québec.

And that's not all. The excellence of the other companies' projects encouraged NanoQuébec to search for more financing sources. "Without this support, claims Clive Willis, these companies might choose to stop their projects, even though they are promising."

Promising projects

The four winning companies have developed highly innovative projects in partnership with Quebec universities. Working in different sectors, these companies are creating applications that should prove to be quite interesting. →



American Dye Source is a well respected company working on the development and production of polymeric molecules. Its project, in collaboration with Professor Julian Zhu of the Montreal University, has many applications. Among other things, the technology can help develop secure coatings and inks to combat counterfeiting. **Atomistix North America** is working with Professor Hong Guo of McGill University to develop a modeling base for the development of various nanoelectronic components, a promising sector in nanotechnology. **Biosyntech** will develop its project in collaboration with Professor Buschmann from the École Polytechnique and Professor Winnick of the Montreal University. Biosyntech's project aims to develop new polymers as delivery vehicles for genes in order to induce patient cells to produce proteins that aid and accelerate the repair of orthopædic tissues. Finally, **latroquest** will head its project with Professors Grütter and Lennox, both affiliated to McGill University. The company has developed the Bio-Alloy™ technology, allowing the production of nanostructured materials that can bind with a wide variety of molecules. latroquest's current project aims to expand the spectrum of applications of its technology to develop products for various segments of the possible market such as biodetection cartridges for the biochemical defence industry, medical diagnosis, environmental surveillance, etc.

Follow-up

NanoQuébec will closely monitor the evolution of these projects. "This type of project, mentions Dr. Willis, shows the necessity to link researchers with the business community. That is also the challenge of the nanotechnology revolution, and our researchers and companies are successfully taking it up. Once again, they are demonstrating they have what it takes to become world class players."

NanoQuébec brings together all the players in Quebec in order to build the synergy necessary for the development and commercialization of nanotechnology, a domain of crucial importance for Quebec, its economy, its society and its regions. The strengths of NanoQuébec are embodied in its effective links to the research community, to industry participants, to all levels of government and by a formal accord with eight university institutions in Quebec – Concordia, Laval, McGill, Montreal, Sherbrooke, INRS, École Polytechnique, and École de technologie supérieure. On the international stage, NanoQuébec has proved effective as a player based largely on its reputation for building functional regional relationships in nanotechnology with France and the State of New York among others. ■

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