

# Helping Businesses Grow and Succeed



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The ability to compete in today's global marketplace requires companies to embrace innovation and new paths to productivity. For some, it also means tackling urgent concerns related to climate change. Ontario Centres of Excellence offers a comprehensive suite of programs to help businesses, from start-ups to larger firms, grow and succeed.

A primary focus is meeting industry needs through collaborative industry-academic R&D programs that are industry-led and have strong commercialization potential. We ensure that industry has skin in the game by requiring matching funds and in-kind contributions.

One example is our Voucher for Industry Associations (VIA) program. It addresses sector-wide research and development challenges by connecting industry associations and consortia with Ontario's academic research institutions. With the end game always being commercialization and job creation, we have supported projects related to aerospace, mining, life sciences, smart computing, next generation networks and agri-tech.

Ensuring companies have access to supercomputing capacity and big data analytics is another important area of work at OCE. We are part of the Southern Ontario Smart Computing Innovation Platform (SOSCIP), along with IBM and a consortium of 14 Ontario post-

secondary institutions that promotes the commercialization of leading-edge technologies and applications related to high performance computing and big data. OCE's specific mandate under SOSCIP is to help Ontario SMEs increase their competitiveness through access to supercomputing capacity.

With the recent launch of Ontario's I<sup>3</sup> project, OCE is now also managing a \$22.75 million fund to provide SMEs in

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Ontario with access to new technologies, support for demonstration projects, and expertise to help grow and scale businesses. This includes access to IBM's powerful IBM Watson, BlueMix and SoftLayer platforms at select incubators across Ontario.

As another means of boosting innovation and job creation, OCE has forged inter-provincial partnerships with Alberta and Quebec. These cross-provincial collaborations address industry challenges in both provinces that can be tackled through joint research and development and have economic benefits for both provinces in the form of job retention and creation, increased productivity and competitiveness, knowledge transfer and industry revenue growth.

OCE also supports industry by helping to develop the highly skilled talent needed by Ontario companies. Under our Talent-Edge internship and postdoctoral fellowship program, students and recent grads can gain new real-world skills while applying their expertise, leading-edge knowledge

and the latest tools to solving industry problems.

For some large companies, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has now become urgent. Under a new \$74 million emissions reduction program recently announced by the Ontario government, OCE will help companies adopt leading edge technologies that cut greenhouse gases.

*Dr. Tom Corr, president and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence, has more than 30 years of entrepreneurial experience in the IT and venture capital sectors and serves on the board of a number of organizations including OneEleven (Chair), C-FER Technologies (Chair), Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (Vice-Chair), the Waterloo Research and Technology Park – Accelerator Centre and SOSCIP High Performance Computing Centre.*

*For information about these and other OCE programs, please visit [www.oce-ontario.org](http://www.oce-ontario.org).*