

10 Alberta Firms Make Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List

Toronto- October 17, 2006 – Ten Alberta companies made *Canada Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List 2006*, released today by Research Infosource Inc. Together they invested \$519 million in R&D activities in fiscal 2005, an increase of 4.1%. In total Canada's top 100 corporate R&D companies invested \$12 billion in R&D activities, up 4.9%.

- #19 Suncor Energy Inc. moves up from 80th spot with R&D expenditures of \$108 million in fiscal 2005. This is an increase of 13.7% over the previous year's figure of \$95 million.
- #23 EnCana Corporation slips from 16th position with a 21.3% drop in R&D spending, from \$123 million in 2004 to \$96.9 million in 2005.
- #38 Imperial Oil Limited drops from 34th place with a 2.9% decrease in R&D spending, going from \$70 million to \$68 million.
- #41 NOVA Chemicals Corporation comes down from 36th spot with a 3% decline in R&D spending, from \$62.5 million in 2004 to \$60.6 million in 2005.
- #50 Syncrude moves up 8 spots from 58th with a 29.8% increase in R&D spending, going from \$34.2 million in 2004 to \$44.4 million in 2005.
- #55 Shell Canada Limited jumps from 69th place with an impressive 46.4% hike in R&D spending, investing \$41 million in 2005 versus \$28 million in 2004.
- #61 Westaim Corporation drops from 56th position despite a modest 2.5% increase in R&D expenditures, from \$36.7 million in 2004 to \$37.7 million in 2005.
- #80 Petro-Canada jumps 10 spots from 90th place with a stellar 35.3% increase in R&D spending, going from \$17 million in 2004 to \$23 million in 2005.
- #82 Isotechnika Inc. moves up from 85th place with a 22.1% jump in R&D spending, investing \$22.6 million in 2005, up from \$18.5 million in 2004.
- #92 Biomira Inc. moves onto the list from 107th place with a 24.5% jump in R&D expenditures, up from \$13.6 million in 2004 to \$16.9 million in 2005.

"R&D spending in Alberta did not match expectations for fiscal 2005", says Ron Freedman, CEO of Research Infosource Inc. "R&D investment grew by only 4.1%, which was a disappointment in light of the booming economy."

Looking at various industry sectors, communications/telecom accounted for 26% of R&D investments in fiscal 2005, pharmaceuticals/biotechnology (16%), telecommunications services also (16%), aerospace (8%), software and computer services (7%), automotive (7%), energy/oil and gas (6%), computer equipment 4%, mining and metals (3%), electronic parts and components (2%).

Examining the regional picture, British Columbia's 13 top 100 companies accounted for \$693.6 million in R&D spending or 6% of the total for fiscal 2005. This represents an increase of 14.1%. For the Prairies, 10 companies in Alberta spent \$519.1 million for 4% of the total and an increase of 4.1% with Manitoba's single entry on the list chalking up \$43 million in R&D expenditures. Ontario and Quebec based firms accounted for the lion's share of R&D spending. With 55% of the total, Ontario's 44 companies invested \$6.6 billion in R&D in fiscal 2005, up 1.7% from the previous year. Removing Nortel from the calculation moves Ontario companies' growth in R&D spending to an impressive 10.6%. The 30 companies in Quebec spent \$4.1 billion for 34% of the total and a strong increase of 7.2%.

The complete *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List 2006* is available on the Research Infosource website, www.researchinfosource.com. An in-depth *Canada's Top Corporate R&D Spenders Report 2006*, based on over 650 companies, is slated for publication later this year. Research Infosource Inc., a division of The Impact Group, is Canada's source of R&D intelligence. Drawing from an extensive database, Research Infosource Inc. publishes *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List*, *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List*, and specialized reports.

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