

Attention Business, Technology and Economics Editors and Reporters

15 Alberta Firms Make Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List 2007

Toronto - October 22, 2007 - Fifteen Alberta companies made *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List 2007* released today by Research Infosource Inc. Together these companies accounted for \$718.4 million in research and development (R&D) spending in Fiscal 2006, posting a large increase of 19.3% from \$601.9 million in Fiscal 2005. This was the largest and only positive increase in spending across the provinces over the period. In total, Canada's top corporate R&D companies invested \$11.4 billion in R&D activities in Fiscal 2006, a decline of -3.8% over Fiscal 2005. This spending drop comes after a two-year upturn in R&D spending – Fiscal 2005 (4.9%) and Fiscal 2004 (3.0%).

"It seems that many Alberta companies are getting the message. They are investing in their competitive future", said Ron Freedman, CEO, Research Infosource Inc.

#16 – EnCana Corporation jumped 7 spots from #23 position last year with a huge increase in R&D spending in Fiscal 2006 of 44.9% to \$140.5 million from \$96.9 million in 2005.

#29 – Suncor Energy Inc. lost ground with a drop in rank of 10 spots from #19 with \$74 million in spending in 2006, down -31.5% from \$108 million in 2005. Revenue during the same period climbed 42.7% to \$15.8 billion from \$11.1 billion.

#30 – Imperial Oil Limited jumped 8 spots from #38 last year with a 7.4% increase in R&D spending, going from \$68 million to \$73 million in 2006.

#35 – Syncrude Canada Ltd. leaped up 15 places from #50, with a huge 53.0% increase in spending to \$67.9 million in 2006 from \$44.4 million the previous year.

#44 – NOVA Chemicals Corporation fell 3 spots this year from 41st place last year, declining their R&D spending by -4.5% from \$60.6 million in 2005 to \$57.8 million in 2006.

#46 – Nexen Inc. new to the Top 100 list placed in 46th position with \$53 million in R&D spending in 2006, down -1.9% from Fiscal 2005.

#55 – Shell Canada Limited maintained their #55 position this year with a 7.3% increase in spending to \$44 million from \$41 million in 2005.

#60 – Westaim Corporation gained 1 spot this year going from \$37.7 million in 2005 to \$39 million of R&D spending, an increase of 3.6% over last year.

#65 – BioMS Medical Corp. jumped onto the Top 100 List from 122nd place last year with \$35.2 million in R&D spending in Fiscal 2006, from \$10.6 million – a tremendous gain of 232.8%.

#66 – Petro-Canada also moved up in ranking to #66 from #80 last year, increasing their R&D spending by 47.8% to \$34 million in 2006, from \$23 million in 2005.

#76 – Western Oil Sands Inc. new to the Top 100 List, placed in 76th position with an outstanding gain of 347.2% over Fiscal 2005, with R&D spending going from \$5.6 million in 2005 to \$25.1 million in 2006.

#80 – Isotechnika Inc. gained 2 spots despite reporting a decline in spending of -1.9%, moving their R&D spending down to \$22.2 million in Fiscal 2006.

#84 – Resin Systems Inc. moved onto the Top 100 List from #139 last year with a huge gain of 146.4% with their R&D spending reaching \$21.8 million in Fiscal 2006.

#94 – Penn West Energy Trust also new to the Top 100 List this year, placed in 94th position, also with a significant gain of 68.4% in spending over 2005, bringing their R&D spending to \$16 million in Fiscal 2006.

#99 – Trican Well Service Ltd. moved onto the Top 100 List from #114 last year, with \$14.8 million in R&D spending in Fiscal 2006, an increase of 32.2% over 2005.

By industry sector, the Communications/telecommunications equipment sector accounted for 26% of total R&D spending in Fiscal 2006, followed by Pharmaceutical/biotechnology sector (17%), Telecommunications services (14%), Aerospace (8%), Energy/oil and gas (8%), Software and computer services (6%), Automotive (6%), Computer equipment (4%), Mining and metals (4%), Forest and paper products (3%) and Electronic parts and components (3%).

Regionally, British Columbia's 12 top 100 companies accounted for \$646.5 million in R&D spending or 6% of the total for Fiscal 2006. This represents a decrease of -2.8%. In the Prairies, 15 Alberta companies spent \$718.4 million for 6% of the total. Alberta was the only province reporting positive spending growth, with a huge increase of 19.3%. Manitoba's single entry on the list spent \$35.7 million in R&D, and declined by -19.5% over last year. The 39 companies headquartered in Ontario accounted for just over half (53%) of all R&D spending with \$6.1 billion in Fiscal 2006, falling by -4.3%. Quebec's 32 companies spent \$3.9 billion in Fiscal 2006, down -6.3% over 2005 and accounting for 34% of total R&D expenditures.

The complete *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List 2007* is available on the Research Infosource website, www.researchinfosource.com. An in-depth *Canada's Top Corporate R&D Spenders Report 2007*, 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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