

11 Alberta Firms Make Canada's Top 100 R&D Spenders List According to Research Infosource

Toronto - October 20, 2009 – Eleven Alberta firms made *Canada's Top 100 R&D Spenders List* released today by Research Infosource Inc. www.researchinfosource.com. Together they invested \$490 million in research and development (R&D) in fiscal 2008, up 5.9% from \$462.9 million the previous year. Overall Canadian companies spent \$10.09 billion in fiscal 2008, a decrease of -0.2% over 2007.

#24 EnCana Corporation moved up from 31st spot with \$88.5 million of R&D spending in Fiscal 2008. This was an increase of 22.9% over the previous year's figure of \$72 million. Revenues also increased by 39.0% to \$32.0 billion.

#26 Imperial Oil Limited lost 4 spots this year moving down from 22nd in 2007 with a R&D spending decrease of -6.7% to \$83 million, although their revenues increased 24.6% during the same period.

#36 NOVA Chemicals Corporation jumped 6 spots from 42nd place last year with an increase of 3.1% in R&D spending from \$53.7 million to \$55.4 million in 2008.

#45 Syncrude Canada Ltd. dropped two places from #45 last year with \$50.3 million in R&D spending, a decline of -5.2%.

#48 BioMS Medical Corp. leaped up the ranking from 61st spot last year with an increase of 19.5% in spending to \$46.5 million and revenues going from \$0 to \$52.6 million in Fiscal 2008.

#51 Petro-Canada dropped 7 spots from 44th place last year with a drop in R&D spending of -23.1% to \$40 million, against an increase of revenue of 27.1%.

#66 Husky Energy Inc. leaped onto the Top 100 this year from 101 spot in 2007 with a huge 122.2% increase in R&D spending going from \$13.5 million to \$30 million in 2008, with an equally impressive increase in revenues of 59.2%, reaching \$24.7 billion.

#66 Nexen Inc. dropped 7 spots from #59 in 2007 with \$30 million in R&D spending, a decrease of -25.0% over 2007. Nexen's revenues however increased by 33.0% to \$7.4 billion in 2008.

#69 Penn West Energy Trust climbed from #87 with an impressive R&D spending growth of 46.5% to \$29 million, and a revenue growth of 101.2%.

#88 SMART Technologies ULC joined the Top 100 list this year for the first time with \$19.4 million in R&D spending and revenues of \$378.5 million in Fiscal 2008.

#93 Trican Well Service Ltd. moved up 6 spots from 99th place last year with a growth in R&D spending of 21.5% to \$17.8 million.

"Altogether it was a mixed bag for Alberta companies", said Ron Freedman, CEO of Research Infosource Inc. "Revenues were on the rise, but R&D spending was somewhat subdued in comparison, although the Province's performance was near the top nationally".

Regional Picture

Looking at R&D spending by region for 2008, British Columbia's 13 firms spent \$664.5 million, up 5.6% from \$629.3 million in 2007. In Alberta, 11 companies on the Top 100 list posted R&D expenditures of \$490 million in 2008, up 5.9% from \$462.9 million in 2007. Two Manitoba based companies (Cangene Corporation and Medicure Inc.) made the list together posting \$90.9 million in R&D spending in 2008 compared to \$53.7 million in 2007, an increase of 69.2%. In Ontario, 42 companies made the list, spending \$5.68 billion on R&D in 2008, up 2.3% from 2007's figure of \$5.56 billion. R&D spending declined in Québec, with their 31 firms down -7.5% from \$3.38 billion in 2007 to \$3.12 billion in 2008. New Brunswick-based Bell Aliant was the only firm from the Atlantic Provinces to make the list, posting \$33.8 million in R&D spending an increase of 42.7% in fiscal 2008.

Industry Sectors

The Communications/telecommunication sector dominated Top 100 spending again in fiscal 2008. Together these eleven firms accounted for 27% of total R&D spending, an increase of 1.5%. Leaving Nortel Networks out of the equation, the remaining 10 firms posted a very impressive 26.3% increase in R&D expenditures. The Pharmaceuticals/biotechnology sector was next in total spending with their 31 firms accounting for 19% of total R&D spending. Four companies in the Telecommunications services sector were responsible for 13% of Top 100 spending. The Aerospace sector accounted for 8% of spending, Automotive 7% and Software and computer services 7%.

Gainers and Losers

Ten companies on the Top 100 list posted increases of over 60% in R&D spending in fiscal 2008. Leading the pack was Allen-Vanguard with a whopping 263.5% jump in R&D spending, followed by ArcelorMittal Dofasco with a 151.9% increase in 2nd place, TELUS with 147.1 % in 3rd, Husky Energy at 122.2% in 4th and rounding out the top 5 is Cangene with 104.7%. Several well-know firms posted significant declines in R&D spending, including Ballard Power Systems, down -37.0%, QLT down -36.8%, Tembec down -29.9% and Teck Resources down -28.1%.

The complete *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List 2009* is available on the Research Infosource website, www.researchinfosource.com. 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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