



newsletter

SEPTEMBER, 2003

Regina Research Park boosts province's economy

The tenants of the Regina Research Park (RRP), one of Saskatchewan's two research parks, contributed \$152 million to the economy of Regina and \$194 million to the provincial economy in 2002. This was an increase of over \$53 million from 2001, according to an independent study by Insightrix, part of the Innovation Consulting Group, a Saskatoon-based research firm. The Regina Research Park was also directly responsible for approximately 830 positions in the park; another 1,100 jobs in Regina and the province are indirectly attributable to the RRP.

Eric Cline, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (SOCO) said, "The Regina Research Park is a great example of how Saskatchewan can compete with the world, particularly in the advanced technology sector. We all benefit from the jobs created and the money added to our economy."

The purchase of goods and services, number of employees and staff salaries were some of the measures used by the researchers from Insightrix to determine the economic impact of the park's activities, based upon a model developed at the University of Saskatchewan.

Doug Tastad, President and Chief Executive Officer of SOCO, said, "The Regina Research Park has seen significant growth in the past year and this study confirms that the tenants'

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Superior Windmill offers innovative environmental solutions

Superior Windmill Incorporated is a company dedicated to keeping our environment healthy and clean through innovative and energy-efficient solutions.

The Saskatchewan-owned company was incorporated early in 2003, founded by Paul Roy and Robert Freberg. The partners opened an office at Innovation Place this August, at 105K - 111 Research Drive.

Farming is Paul Roy's first love. He has operated a large crop farm in the Tisdale area for years. After an external steel gas tank rusted out and leaked gasoline onto the grounds, Roy sought to build a better variety of environmentally-safe tanks that could be used for farm, commercial and industrial applications. He diversified into manufacturing, and founded Northern Steel Industries, now one of Canada's largest suppliers of double wall steel tanks.

Roy's Tisdale farm has numerous dugouts that are used for irrigation and as a primary water source for the farm. He experimented for years with various products to cost effectively keep these water sources clean and viable. Windmill aeration proved to be the most economical and effective method, but Roy was still not totally satisfied. Conventional windmills did not perform consistently, particularly during low wind conditions or climate extremes. He set out to build a superior windmill.

Robert Freberg was employed in the field of electricity and electronics design and repair prior to opening his own security alarm and life safety business in Saskatchewan. Freberg grew the business into a very successful enterprise, serving both urban and rural markets across the

province. After 18 years of operation, he merged the company with one of the nation's largest security monitoring services companies. Freberg could now bring his sales and marketing expertise and strong business background to help co-found Superior Windmill.

Many months were spent researching and developing the company's windmill system, which puts oxygen back into the water through aeration. "Proper aeration can prevent the release of bacteria and the build-up of algae in the water source," says Freberg.

What makes the system "superior" is its patented innovative design, says Freberg.

"Some windmills sit very low and don't get a lot of air. Most surface winds occur at 10 to 20 feet above ground level. Our system maximizes the air because our towers go up to 20 feet.

"Our patent also includes a pump with two diaphragms, which maximizes the horsepower of the windmill. We're pumping air on the downstroke as well as on the upstroke. That allows us to pump more air, at higher volumes, increasing aeration. This has greatly expanded the applications for our windmill system."

Superior Windmill's aeration systems can be used to aerate water dugouts for crop and cattle farmers; corporate or residential ponds and lakes (like the pond adjacent to the Galleria Building); water hazards and ponds on golf courses; small drinking water reservoirs and fish hatcheries.

With its superior aeration capacities, the system can even be used to aerate lagoons and wastewater produced by livestock operations.

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Regina Research Park boosts economy

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impact is growing.”

Tastad is further encouraged by tenants' plans for future growth. “Over half of the tenants said they plan to expand in the near future, which shows tremendous confidence in the future of Regina's and Saskatchewan's technology-based economy.”

The Regina Research Park has developed knowledge clusters in fields such as information technology, environmental science and petroleum technology. The park provides specialized infrastructure, including state-of-the-art facilities and support services, to help move important discoveries from the lab into the marketplace.

Quality Forum promotes quality practices

The American Society for Quality (Saskatchewan Section) (ASQ-CQA) invites interested individuals to attend the annual Quality Forum, Tuesday, October 7, beginning at 11:30 a.m., in the Candle Room of the Atrium Building.

Guest speaker at the Quality Forum luncheon will be Robert Morgan, CEO of the POS Pilot Plant.

Ashraf Abdellatif, quality assurance supervisor with Innovation Place, says the Quality Forum is an opportunity to promote quality practices and work ethics in Saskatchewan, through the ASQ-CQA.

“The ASQ works to make quality a priority, an organizational imperative, and a personal ethic,” says Abdellatif.

Attending the Quality Forum will benefit quality assurance or safety personnel working in all sectors of business and industry, and provide many networking opportunities, he adds.

The registration fee to attend the Quality Forum is \$15.00. For more information, or to register, contact Ashraf Abdellatif at (306) 933-6746.

Innovative environmental solutions

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Aeration of dugouts and water bodies will also help reduce mosquito populations in the area, says Freberg - another huge benefit as the West Nile virus spreads across Saskatchewan.

Superior Windmill continues to research additional applications for its world class products, says Freberg. “We're looking at other opportunities. For example, we're hoping to work with a research organization such as the U of S Engineering Department to develop our next generation product. We're hoping to use our design, not only to produce aeration, but also to generate electricity that could be utilized on farms or in rural areas.”

Superior Windmill markets its aeration systems through distribution channels across the U.S. and Australia, focusing on agriculture and recreation markets. “We've also had enquiries about our product from France, where they have over two million ponds.”

The company's aeration systems are also being utilized by several fish farms in China. “Right now, they primarily use electric aeration systems, but they're doing some evaluations on our wind-powered units that are looking quite promising.”

Superior Windmill plans to expand

its export sales, and is working closely with the Saskatchewan Trade Export Partnership (STEP) and Western Economic Diversification to identify and research potential export markets.

“We want to look at new markets and new ways that our product can be used, particularly in developing countries where clean and healthy water is not readily available. Our product could provide access to clean water without the need for electricity. It's something we're pursuing quite aggressively,” says Freberg.

Opening an office at Innovation Place brings Superior Windmill close to several organizations involved in water quality research, say Freberg. “We felt the environment at Innovation Place is really conducive to what we are doing. SRC is doing research on trout farming, which is right up our alley. The Agriculture and Agrifood Canada Research Station is doing research on the impact of aeration on ponds and dugouts in the farm environment. We hope to partner and network with research agencies and government bodies that can help us to drive our product.”

For more information about Superior Windmill, check out the informative website at www.superiorwindmill.com or phone 1-888-821-5533.

Paper recycling at Innovation Place

Due to a very positive response from our tenants, we are pleased to announce that a paper recycling program has now been implemented at Innovation Place.

We hope that everyone will make an effort to participate in this worthwhile program. All you need to do is ensure your office is equipped with the necessary blue recycle bins, ensure that only *recyclable office paper is deposited into the blue bins, and our cleaning staff will ensure the paper is deposited into the proper receptacles. Simple as that!

We hope this recycling program will lessen the amount of paper going from Innovation Place to the landfill, resulting in reduced pollution and retention of our beautiful trees.

If you have any questions about this program, or if you do not wish to participate in our program because you have your own program in place, please contact Debbie Haluik at 933-6495 or email: dhaluik@innovationplace.com

*** Recyclable Office Paper includes:**

bond, typing and white ledger paper; computer paper; shredded paper; envelopes (plain & windowed); fax paper; ncr paper

Recyclable paper does not include:

carbon paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, journals, books, cardboard, cardstock or “heavily-inked or dyed” materials.

PTRC appoints new executive director

Dr. Laurier Schramm, President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Research Council is pleased to welcome Michael Monea as the new Executive Director of the Petroleum Technology Centre (PTRC).

PTRC, one of SRC's key partner organizations, is a non-profit petroleum research and development corporation, founded in 1998 by SRC, Natural Resources Canada, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, and the University of Regina (U of R).

Monea brings a strong background in the oil industry to the position and has a strong working relationship with all the founding members of PTRC. He also brings established relationships and experience in working with the industrial and governmental organizations that PTRC

serves.

Monea graduated from the U of R in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and is a Professional Engineer. He has worked in the oil and gas industry in Western Canada and the US. Most recently he was President of Flatland Exploration.

Monea is currently Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Research Council, Chair of the Saskatchewan Conservation Board and Chair of the South Saskatchewan Geological Resources Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the American Society of Photogrammetry. In addition, since April 1 he has been the Managing Director for PTRC.

24 Hour Relay exceeds fund-raising target

Organizers of the 24 Hour Relay for Easter Seal Kids are all smiles, after tallying the final results of the fund-raising event held June 7 and 8 at Innovation Place in Saskatoon.

Carrie McComber of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council says that total funds raised by the 17th annual 24 Hour Relay surpassed \$151,000 - a 60 per cent increase over funds raised the previous year.

"We saw a huge increase in funds raised this year over last year," says McComber. "Most of our 31 teams held more fund-raising events in advance of the 24 Hour Relay. They raised a lot more money. The team participation just skyrocketed."

The 2003 24 Hour Relay also benefited from the support of corporate sponsors. Labatts participated as National Founding Partner of the 24 Hour Relay Network across Canada. The corporation donated \$10,000 to the Saskatoon relay. Money Mart was the National Presenting Partner of the 24 Hour Relay Network, also committing \$10,000 to the Saskatoon relay. The Saskatoon Credit Union participated as a Sprinting Sponsor, contributing a \$5,000 corporate donation to the relay, in addition to entering a team into the event.

Top fund-raising team was Century 21,

raising a phenomenal total of \$21,528! The second-place fund-raising team was Scotia Bank, bringing in \$13,811.

Melanie Ward was the top individual fund-raiser, collecting pledges of \$3,704. Ray Lishchynsky was the second-highest individual fund-raiser, raising \$3,045.

The team who chalked up the longest distance in 24 hours was aptly named "Super Friends," one of several recreational teams.

"We were very pleased with the results," says McComber. "The great increase was certainly a pleasant surprise."

A 24 Hour Relay was also held in Regina on the same weekend, raising \$121,000, also up from 2002, says McComber.

Funds raised support three important programs of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council: Adaptive Technologies, Summer Fun and Camp Easter Seal at Manitou Beach. "It costs just under \$1,000 to send one child to camp, so we will be able to send 150 kids to camp this summer at absolutely no cost to the families, because of funds raised by the Saskatoon relay alone," says McComber.

She adds that the 24 Hour Relay has been scheduled for June 5 and 6 in 2004; circle the dates on your calendar and start planning now!

Pangaea to open "SolutionCentre" in Regina

The Minister responsible for Information Technology, Andrew Thomson, recently announced a \$3 million investment in Pangaea Systems Inc. as part of an ongoing initiative to grow the province's IT sector. The company will establish a "SolutionCentre®" in Regina that will focus on near-shore business development.

Pangaea Systems Inc. is a privately held e-Business software developer and solutions provider with core strengths in software creation, project management, and security and private consulting. The Pangaea "SolutionCentre®" will create up to 35 jobs within the first 12 to 18 months of operation. The company will work to expand the province's IT sector by attracting near-shore business and creating new outsourcing and joint venture opportunities with local companies.

Thomson said the Pangaea investment upholds CIC's mandate to facilitate growth in key industry sectors, in this case the province's promising area of Information Technology. In keeping with the "Our Future Is Wide Open" campaign and RREDA economic development strategies, this investment demonstrates the government's ability to be relevant, responsive, and responsible in fostering the growth of emerging sectors.

"This investment supports Pangaea's strategic growth plans into new geographic markets with new offerings," Pangaea Chief Executive Officer Bill Arnett said.

"Our new SolutionCentre® in Regina will support the expansion of our business into the United States and will allow us to use Saskatchewan technology and business expertise to build superior e-Business solutions for our Canadian and US clients. The investment from CIC is another indicator of market approval of Pangaea's business plan and growth strategy."

updates

Who's new to Saskatchewan's research parks?

Regina Research Park welcomes:

• **AgExpert** has opened an office at Suite 170 - 10 Research Drive. For more information, call 1-800-667-7893 or email: support@settler.com. Check out the company's website at www.agexpert.ca.

Innovation Place welcomes:

• **NumaCorp**, located at 106 - 116 Research Drive. Contact Austin Thomas at (306) 664-6862, or email: adt@numacorp.ca. Check out the corporate website at: www.numacorp.ca.

• **World Financial Group Canada** has opened offices at 201 - 15 Innovation Boulevard. Contact Dan Clermont or Dale Miller at (306) 651-5260, or email: dclermont-wfg@innovationplace.com. See the company's website at: www.worldfinancialgroup.com.

On the move...

Please note the following changes of address:

• **Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC)** has relocated within Regina Research Park from 6 Research Drive to Suite 150 - 10 Research Drive. Call Victoria Muzychuk at (306) 337-2300 or email: muzychuk@cas.uregina.ca. The corporate website is: www.parc.ca.

• **Performance Evaluation Group** has moved within Innovation Place from 208-15 Innovation Boulevard to 311-15 Innovation Boulevard. Call Matt Holinaty at (306) 668-6699 or email: holinaty@atcsk.com. See the website at www.performanceplants.com.

SaskPower seeking Environmentally Preferred Power from private sector

SaskPower has adopted a strategy to meet new load growth over the next several years using Environmentally Preferred Power (EPP). The Green Power Portfolio strategy is intended to encourage low environmental impact power, utilize waste streams as a fuel source, reduce SaskPower's emissions, monetize the value of low environmental impact power, and add small generation in step with SaskPower's load requirements.

As an integral component of this strategy, SaskPower intends to issue an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit up to 15 megawatt (MW) of Environmentally Preferred Power each year over the next three years from the private sector in Saskatchewan.

This fall, SaskPower will issue its first annual solicitation for up to 15 MW of Environmentally Preferred Power. A general Expression of Interest will be issued to identify potential projects,

followed by a formal Request for Proposals to eligible proponents. SaskPower expects to have chosen the first set of Environmentally Preferred Power projects by the spring of 2004.

Solicitations will continue annually until 2005, ultimately resulting in up to 45 MW of environmentally-progressive electrical generation. Eligible technologies include flare gas, wind, low-impact hydro, biomass, biogas, heat recovery from an existing waste heat source and solar. The first projects are expected to be in service in 2005.

A high level overview of the Environmentally Preferred Power solicitation process is available by visiting saskpower.com.

If you have questions about the Environmentally Preferred Power project, call the project leader, Brian Mohr, Senior Engineering, Independent Power Producer Options, at (306) 566-3379 in Regina.

Bio-ID announces West Nile test breakthrough

Bio-ID Diagnostic Inc., a diagnostic genomics company based in Saskatoon, Canada, recently announced that it has developed a DNA sequence based test for the West Nile Virus which is superior to any other tests on the market.

The test can be used to diagnose the condition in symptomatic patients and animals, and also to detect the virus in blood donations from otherwise well individuals. The test is based on a platform technology called MultiGEN that has been patented by Bio-ID.

"During the season of West Nile Virus infections, it is important to focus on not just identifying the virus itself, but also detecting changes in the genetic makeup of the virus that can suggest a worse outcome for the infection," says Bio-ID's CEO Dr. T.V. Moorthy. "Our breakthrough MultiGEN technology test is a superior approach that can simultaneously generate

DNA sequences from multiple segments of the viral genome. This unique ability can help to monitor the spread of the disease and may also identify patients at increased risk of developing paralysis," he added.

Bio-ID has made its West Nile Virus test kits available to Public Health laboratories in Canada and USA during the West Nile Virus season.

Changes of address or other updates can be directed to: Wonda Kirychuk, Innovation Place, 114 -15 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 2X8, or call (306) 933-6581. Email: wkirychuk@innovationplace.com.

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