

## **Government of Canada grants \$306,000 in funding to the Quebec Photonic Network**

**Montréal, Quebec, May 13, 2010** – The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, is pleased to announce the awarding of \$306,000 in non-repayable funding to the Quebec Photonic Network (QPN), which will be holding a commemorative event on Friday, May 14, 2010, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the invention of laser technology.

The QPN's action plan calls for the organization of networking activities and trade missions that are expected to help more than 20 Quebec small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) integrate the supply chains of major international contractors. This financial assistance will enable companies to take part in these missions and thereby break into new markets, which is sure to result in considerable benefits. Indeed, in addition to stimulating the growth of the optics and photonics sector, expansion into foreign markets promises to generate positive long-term spinoffs, particularly in terms of job creation and sales growth.

“Canada Economic Development sees it as essential to lend its financial support to this strategic sector through the Quebec Photonic Network. Having the industry's active forces joined together under a single banner projects an image to the world of a sector that is better structured and more competitive, to the immense benefit of our SMEs. The 50th anniversary of the laser is a reminder that many exceptional contributions have been made by Quebec in the optics and photonics sector. And it is so that our companies may continue to prosper and innovate that we have chosen to support an organization that contributes to the economic development of Quebec,” explained the Minister of State.

The Quebec Photonic Network, with its 52 member companies, is committed to furthering the province's optics and photonics industry. The organization leads and fosters the development of this industrial cluster through research, technology, manufacturing, marketing, investment and entrepreneurship.

— 30 —

Sources:

Jean-François Lauzon  
Communications  
Canada Economic Development  
Tel.: 514-283-0306  
E-mail: [jean-francois.lauzon@dec-ced.gc.ca](mailto:jean-francois.lauzon@dec-ced.gc.ca)

Simon Bachand  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Honourable Denis Lebel  
Canada Economic Development  
Tel.: 613-996-6236  
E-mail: [simon.bachand@dec-ced.gc.ca](mailto:simon.bachand@dec-ced.gc.ca)

Canada Economic Development is online at [www.dec-ced.gc.ca](http://www.dec-ced.gc.ca). Subscribe to the Agency's press releases at <http://www.dec-ced.gc.ca/eng/media-room/mailling-list/list.html> to keep up with the latest news.