Ontario's Regional Economic Development and Innovation Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS   [Table of Contents]

Canada Completes Reports on First-Ever Federal-Wide Foresight Exercise

Canada's first-ever Foresight exercise, involving 13 federal government departments and agencies, has yielded a set of eight reports that could ultimately influence new directions in S&T governance, cross-agency collaboration, and large-scale R&D programs. Coordinated by the National Research Council (NRC)'s Office of Technology Foresight, the pilot project involved a combination of Foresight practices and tools, ultimately culminating in a candidate list of 12 R&D projects under the umbrella themes of Geo-Strategics and Bio-Systemics.

Transform Automotive L.L.C. Invests More Than $15 million in First Canadian Manufacturing Facility on London, Ontario

Sterling Heights, Michigan based TransForm Automotive will invest $15 million USD to construct its first Canadian automotive manufacturing plant. The facility will be located on 10.6 acres in the Forest City Industrial Park, London, Ontario, and will

manufacture transmission components for the global automotive industry. London was selected as a result of its geographic location, the highly educated workforce, and the proper existing infrastructure to support the company's needs.

EDITOR'S PICK

Community Participation and Multilevel Governance in Economic Development Policy

David A Wolfe and Tijs Creutzberg, PROGRIS

This paper surveys alternative mechanisms for governance at the local and community level in order to best formulate economic development and business attraction strategies. New theoretical insights in economic development theory include a greater emphasis on the role of innovation, the influence of regions and localities in knowledge creation and learning, and a greater emphasis on *governance* as opposed to *government*. The gradual diffusion of these and other ideas has contributed to a new policy paradigm for economic development that, far from calling for more state intervention, supports a change in the mode of intervention. Rather than a national top down approach, this new paradigm is regionally and locally focussed, and depends on the cooperation and collaboration of all levels of government, as well as the involvement of non-state organizations.

INNOVATION & RELATED POLICY

Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Their Role in Economic Development

Andrew Reamer with Larry Icerman and Jan Youtiem, EDC-US Department of Commerce

As states deal with the economic and structural consequences of globalization more and more are turning to technology transfer and commercialization as a tool to stimulate high value-added development. This report provides an overview of these strategies, a typology of approaches, and a geographic analysis of the primary locations of program implementation. The authors draw several lessons from the data and present some suggestions for consideration in the development of tech transfer programs in the future.

Searching Low and High: What Types of Firms Use Universities as a Source of Innovation?

Keld Laursen Ammon Salter, DRUID

This paper examines the factors that influence whether firms draw from universities in their
innovative activities. The authors explore the effect of "structural" variables, such as

firm size, age and R&D expenditures, on the propensity of firms to draw knowledge from universities, as well as the role of search strategies. Results suggest that firm size and R&D expenditures are positively associated with university linkages. Firms that use many other external sources of knowledge also tend to use university research more intensively. The findings suggest that firms with more "open" search strategies will tend to draw on the resources of universities more often.

Competing in the Global Economy: The Innovation Challenge

DTI

This report looks at the contribution that innovation can make to driving up UK productivity and to achieving the vision of the UK as a key knowledge hub in the global economy. Building on progress made in previous innovation-focussed white papers it proposes action on those policies that will encourage UK businesses to increase their investment in new products and services with the aim of continuously increasing the value added.

Extending Access to SR&ED Tax Credits: an International Comparative Analysis

ITAC

A comparative analysis of the research and development tax credit programs of 13 countries illustrates that Canada's Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program may be in need of reform. This paper shows that more recently created programs, such as those in the Netherlands and Norway, may do a better job of providing incentives for R&D.

REGIONAL INNOVATION & CLUSTERS

Research Funding: Key to Clusters

J Adam Holbrook and Bruce P Clayman, CPROST

This paper examines the conditions for successful cluster development in the context of the Canadian government's *Innovation Strategy*. They conclude that clusters develop where creative individuals "cluster" themselves and, as a group, provide the synergy to develop an economic and social entity that is greater than the sum of its parts. A key to attracting this type of talent is investment in R&D. However, though such investment is *necessary* it is not, in itself, sufficient for a city to develop a knowledge-based economy.

Conference Highlights - Clusters 2003

Manon Bourgeois and Mireille Brouchu

This Conference was about best practices and the experience of regions and cities that have been working and are still working towards the design, implementation and

nurturing of technology clusters. To this end, the conference brought together university and civic leaders who are working with other institutional leaders and industry executives to shape a common vision and mobilize their communities. Representatives from more than 60 clusters from 18 countries came to share their experience and exchange ideas. This report briefly presents the highlights of this conference, followed by a summary of each presentation.

EVENTS

Tech Expo 2004 NEW!

Ottawa, 5 February, 2004

Publicly funded science and technology can provide Canadian firms with significant competitive advantage. Once again Federal Partners in Technology Transfer has joined forces with the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program, the Canadian Technology Network, Communications and Information Technology Ontario and others, to present TechExpo 2004. Take the opportunity to discover technologies and collaborative projects in universities and government labs, hear from government departments, meet organizations that provide services in support of tech transfer and IP, and more.

Licensing Converging Technologies - Bridging the Gap

San Francisco, 11-13 February, 2004

This meeting will address the convergence of three technologies and how they will affect numerous industries, from electronics and new materials science to pharmaceuticals and patient specific therapies. What are these technologies? How are they converging? How will it affect the future of our business endeavors? What are the implications for licensing and intellectual property? The conference will examine the impacts of nanotechnology, biotechnology and information and communication technologies on a variety of industries and across a range of applications.

Urban Impacts of the Information society: Facts, Fiction and Policies Telecities and MUTEIS conference
The Hague, 17-19 March, 2004

The "information revolution" and the emerging Information Society entail fundamental changes in social interaction and relationships, and modifications in the socio-economic and spatial organization of activities. The main driver in this process is the rapid development and application of Information Society Technologies (ISTs). The main inhibitors are the fictions that emerged from the discussion of the New Economy. Better knowing the drivers and inhibitors is crucial for contemporary urban management. This conference will explore the urban economic and social impacts of

information society technologies (ISTs), as well as the way new technologies urge local governance in cities to change their policies. Academics and senior city managers, planners and researchers will discuss practical case studies, experiences and state of the art research under the following themes: urban policies for and patterns of IST adoption, spatial behaviour in the context of global IST developments, patterns of digital infrastructure and use, and the relationship between IST, productivity and competitiveness.

New Directions in Technology Management: Changing Collaboration Between Government, Industry and University

Washington D.C. 3-7 April, 2004

This Conference of the International Association for Management of Technology will discuss new directions in technology management and their influence on innovation and the creation of economic growth and prosperity. Special attention will be give to the necessary mechanisms of knowledge generation, science and technology policy, and the collaboration required to accomplish national and organizational objectives. Best practices in technology development and utilization will be presented. The academic institution's role in preparing the needed human resources for the technological environment of the 21st century will also be addressed.

The Europe of Knowledge 2020: A Vision for University-based Research and Innovation

Liege (Belgium), 25-28 April, 2004

This conference will explore the issues raised by the Commission's communication published in February 2003 on "the role of universities in the Europe of Knowledge". The conference will address in a series of parallel sessions that address the following issues: the creation and certification of knowledge, the changing nature of research teaching, P3s, the role of universities for research in the regions and the challenge of inter-disciplinary research. This conference aims to produce an agreed roadmap to help European universities to realize fully their ambitions in the 21st century.

Smart City Summit 2004

Ottawa, 27-28 April, 2004

The Smart City Summit combines Ottawa's Business and Technology Trade Show with a major business and technology conference that draws international attention from business and government. It is also Ottawa's premier mega-networking and business development event, catering to technology and business decision-makers and federal, provincial and municipal government attendees from across Canada. In just three short years, the Summit has evolved into a dynamic local and international marketplace for business innovators encompassing a major conference, trade show, keynotes, networking, and innovation awards.

MERIT Workshop on Information Technology, New Industry and Labour Market Dynamics NEW!

Maastricht, 3-4 June, 2004

The aim of the workshop is twofold. First, to develop a perspective on the changing way in which goods are being produced, production processes are being organised and jobs are being occupied as a result of the adoption of IT. Second, it aims to investigate the consequences of IT diffusion and the determinants of adoption empirically at the firm level, its impact in the labour market both from a theoretical and empirical point of view and its macroeconomic consequences.

Regionalization of Innovation Policy - Options and Experiences

Berlin, 4-5 June, 2004

Globalization leads to a greater relevance of regional factors for innovation processes. There is a growing consensus in the academic field, as well as among politicians, that innovation policy should include this regional dimension, i.e. regional innovation systems. But it is still not quite clear how this could or should be done in practice. In general, there are two approaches to the regionalization of innovation policy. One strategy is attempting to improve the quality of the innovation system in certain regions. The main questions here concern appropriate instruments for such a strategy and the selection of regions. A second strategy that may be complementary to the above-mentioned one is to scale down national innovation policies in such a way that they take into account the various regions (for example, by focusing measures on certain clusters). In some countries, interesting attempts at such a policy that are worthy of investigation have been made (for example, the BioRegio or the InnoRegio program in Germany). This conference will bring together scholars working in the field of innovation systems and policy at the national and regional level.

DRUID Summer Conference on Industrial Dynamics, Innovation and Development

Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-16 June, 2004

This conference aims to promote the general understanding of the interplay between industrial dynamics, innovation and development; investigate arrangements organized at various scales to enhance and utilize knowledge geared towards economic development; examine the role of entrepreneurship and innovation at various stages of economic development; the geographical reach and development consequences of knowledge spillovers; and to consider the implications for managerial strategy and public policy. Participation in the conference is restricted. Potential participants must supply a detailed abstract of at least 2 pages to *summer2004@druid.dk* no later than January 30, 2004.

The 4th Congress on Proximity Economics Proximity, Networks and Co-ordination

Marseilles, 17-18 June, 2004

This conference is geared towards all of the scientific community interested in the proximity concept, as it relates to everything from industrial organization to networks of public health.   The call for proposals, which is open until October 31st, 2003, will give priority to either theoretical or empirical communications likely to produce a better understanding of the conceptual links between proximity, networks and co-ordination.

Hydrogen & Fuel Cells 2004 Conference and Trade Show NEW!

Toronto, 25-28 September, 2004

As society shifts towards the Greener World, it is increasingly important that the team-work necessary to achieve and meet our challenges and objectives be effectively integrated, shared and understood across disciplinary and business boundaries. In planning for the September 2004 Meeting in Toronto seven such inter-related themes have been identified: Hydrogen technology progress, fuel cells, economics & policy, renewable hydrogen, demonstrations, investment & marketing options, and climate change. We invite you to submit abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations to be presented to an international audience of hydrogen and fuel cell industry leaders. Submission deadline: March 17, 2004.

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