

Ontario's Regional Economic Development and Innovation Newsletter

Issue #101

February 14, 2005

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
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[Trends for Global Technology, Media and Telecom Sectors](#)

Deloitte's Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) industry group has announced its top predictions for the global TMT sectors in 2005, forecasting a number of significant advances and new trends, along with some serious challenges and issues within each of the technology, media and telecom sectors. The report suggests that 2005 will be an incredibly diverse year in the world of technological advancements. Among the trends indicated are the mainstream development and application of nanotech, an increase in the threat level and frequency of electronic viruses, electronic ID versus digital crime and many others.

Towards an Integrated Knowledge Ecosystem: A Canadian Research Strategy

Canadian Association of Research Libraries

The government spends billions of dollars every year to promote research in Canada but it needs to give more attention to the way that the results of research are disseminated into society. The principal investigators describe a profound transformation occurring in the way research is conducted and disseminated. New technologies are radically changing the modes of research communication, speeding up the research process, and facilitating new types of research. However, this is also creating a whole host of challenges for those involved in disseminating research. In a knowledge society, where the dissemination of research is as important as its generation, it is critical that Canada respond quickly to this transformation.

INNOVATION & RELATED POLICY

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Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions FOR-RIS: Experiences and Ideas for Developing Foresight in a Regional Innovation Strategy Context

European Commission, Community Research

In 2003 DG Research established an expert group on regional foresight. Five working groups were created to prepare “blueprints” for how to initiate foresight actions in European regions. The blueprints are meant to be concrete descriptions (or roadmaps) of foresight actions related to a clearly identified and concrete regional need. Each working group has prepared a blueprint structured around a specific regional policy issue. The present blueprint, produced by the ‘FOR-RIS Group’ is intended for application of foresight in a context of RIS/RITTS projects conducted in a large number of European regions.

On the Future Role of Universities and Research Institutes in the Knowledge Economy

Robin Cowan, Universiteit Maastricht

In recent decades our understanding of innovation has moved from a linear model to a systemic model, which sees an innovation system as a complex network

containing many and varied links between different types of knowledge agents. Universities and research institutions are now described as (key) as nodes these systems. For specialized research institutions this is a natural role. For universities it is not; it represents a very dramatic shift in their place in society. At the same time, and perhaps as a consequence of attempts to insert universities as these central nodes, universities are being forced to adopt new ideas regarding success, excellence, and funding. This implies a very fundamental change in the way universities see themselves. Similarly, there is a growing commodification of knowledge within industry, as more and more complex operations are out-sourced. As attention is focused on "technology transfer" as a central mechanism of knowledge flow from universities to industry, this commodification is being pushed into the university sphere as well.

CLUSTERS & REGIONS

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Dynamic Cities and Creative Clusters

Weiping Wu, Virginia Commonwealth University

This paper focuses on how urban policies and the clustering of creative industries have influenced urban outcomes. The set of creative industries include those with output protectable under some form of intellectual property law. More specifically, this subsector encompasses software, multimedia, video games, industrial design, fashion, publishing, and research and development. The cities that form the basis for the empirical investigations are those where policy induced transitions have been most evident, including Boston; San Francisco; San Diego; Seattle; Austin; Washington DC; Dublin (Ireland); Hong Kong (China); and Bangalore (India).

The Importance of Proximity and Location

Maryann Feldman, Barak Aharonson and Joel Baum, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

This chapter considers the importance of spatial proximity and geographic location for the creation and use of knowledge. The motivation is to provide an understanding of the forces that contribute to the agglomeration of innovative activity and subsequently affect the growth of the firms, industries and cities. This chapter reviews the body of research which examines the role of proximity and location to knowledge creation and highlights the importance of industry life cycle, the composition of activities within an agglomeration and the effect of existing industrial structure. Firms located in geographically bounded knowledge-rich environments realize higher rates of innovation, increased entrepreneurial activity, and increased productivity due to the localized nature of knowledge creation and deployment. The ability of firms to derive economic value from knowledge is dependent on the firms' capabilities and strategic use of resources. However the

local environment shapes the firm's competencies, ability to absorb and utilize knowledge in the development of new products and access to resources. Thus, the capabilities of firms and regions weave a tapestry of knowledge creation and commercial success.

STATISTICS

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[BIOTECanada: State of the Industry 2004](#)

BIOTECanada

This is an annual survey of BIOTECanada members for the latest information on revenues and the issues they face in commercializing products. The report states that there are over 450 Canadian biotechs in areas such as vaccines, stem cell research and plant biotech. In 2003, \$1.9 billion was invested into the Canadian biotech sector, the majority of which went to public companies, leaving \$242.4 million for private biotech companies. On the research and development side, Canadian biotech firms demonstrated their commitment to R&D by undertaking an investment of \$2.8 billion in 2003, an increase of 115 per cent over \$1.3 billion in 2001. Canada's leading role in the production of genetically-modified (GM) crops makes it the third largest biotech crop producer behind the US and Argentina. Between 1996-2003 the global area of GM crops increased 40 times to almost 700 hectares.

[Indicators for Benchmarking Innovation in Atlantic Canada](#)

Wade Locke et al, CSIIC

This report presents a set of forty indicators of innovation in Atlantic Canada for purposes of benchmarking. In the context of this paper, innovation refers to the complex set of social and economic processes that produce knowledge and convert it into wealth and other forms of social value. Benchmarking, on the other hand, pertains to monitoring of behavior within an innovation system and is designed to assess performance and affect the allocation of resources within that system to permit strategies to be translated into actions that will optimize the flow of innovation activities from that system. The overall portrait of innovation in Atlantic Canada shows that the region is failing to keep up with central Canada in key areas of R&D investment. These investment shortfalls will have consequences on knowledge spillovers in the region and on the region's capacity to attract and retain highly qualified talent.

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Workshop 2 for Medical Devices Manufacturing Special Interest Group

London, Ontario. 24 February, 2005

NRC's Integrated Manufacturing Technology Institute (IMTI) in London, Ontario will be hosting Workshop 2 to form a Medical Devices Manufacturing Special Interest Group (SIG). Based on the feedback from Workshop 1 in June 2004, participants will explore three topics with the help of medical experts, NRC research staff, and the input from knowledgeable industrial participants. The goal of the workshop is to create pre-competitive research platforms to accelerate the technology transfer from NRC to industry and to create collaboration opportunities among the participants. For more information, or to register for the workshop, please contact researcher Daniel Johnston at IMTI at 519-430-7081 (telephone), 519-430-7140 (facsimile), or by email at: Daniel.Johnston@nrc.gc.ca.

OECD International Conference on City Competitiveness

Tenerife, Spain, 3-4 March, 2005

This conference will be a unique opportunity for local or national government representatives, mayors and practitioners by giving them the occasion to discuss the topical issues faced by cities in their endeavours to develop the best economic and social conditions in order to attract skills and investment. This two-day event will involve five thematic sessions, each of which will be introduced by a distinguished expert speaker and followed by a panel discussion involving government leaders and practitioners. The session offered are: Globalization and City Competitiveness, Cluster-based Urban Development in Metropolitan Areas, Addressing Specialization and Networking in Medium-sized Cities, Impact of Tertiary Education on Urban Development and, Governance and City Competitiveness: The Role of Metropolitan Economic Development Agencies.

Biotechnology Management Network Event NEW!

Vancouver, 31 March, 2005

This event provides an opportunity to listen to and engage with leading thinkers concerning the management of biotechnology companies. Speakers: Dr. Jorge Niosi, "US, UK, and Candian biotechnology: clusters and the growth of the firms."; Dr. Adam, Holbrook and Dr. Richard Smith, "Innovation Systems Research Network: A Report on the Biotechnology Cluster in Vancouver"; Dr. Peter Phillips, (to be confirmed) TBA; Dr. Ian McCarthy, "Performance Measurement of Biotechnology Firms". This section is open to all Network members for the sharing of relevant information with other members.

Regionalism and Local Government Reform in Europe

Tolo, Greece, 8-11 April, 2005

The objective of this conference is to explore comparative regionalism and regionalisation, together with comparative local government and governance. Plenary speakers include a welcome from Fofe Yenimata, President to the Greek National Union of Prefectural Local Authorities (ENAE), Prof. Charlie Jeffery, University of Edinburgh and Dr. Evie Christofilopoulo, Hellenic Open University and Member of the Greek Parliament. The major themes of the conference are: The impact of structural reorganisation on local governments and local governance; Local political and administrative leadership, including the impact of directly elected mayors and other existing or new political leadership arrangements; Local economic development; The development of regional government and governance, including the influence of the European Union on regional development.

5th Triple Helix Conference - The Capitalization of Knowledge: Cognitive, Economic, Social and Cultural Aspects

Turin-Milan, 18-21 May, 2005

The 5th Triple Helix Conference will bring together researchers interested in the interaction between University, Government and Industry. The conference program will include 10 Track Sessions per day, made up of paper sessions dedicated to individual scientific contributions, workshops on selected specific themes and panels intended for industrial experts and policy makers. The organizers invite contributions on issues related to the conference theme: economics of innovation, organizational sociology, regional policy, business & management, cognitive economics, finance, law & economics, industrial economics, scientific and technology policy, and political science.

EECO Environment and Energy Conference

Toronto, 25-27 May, 2005

EECO is a biennial 'platform' where business leaders, elected officials, public policy makers and NGOs meet to examine priority business and environment risks/opportunities. This series fosters dialogue and debate on building a future of increased competitiveness coupled with environmental protection. The dynamic and strategically focused program, highly targeted and interactive exposition, and engaging social events deliver outstanding value to delegates, sponsors and partners. In addressing the region's critical business and competitiveness challenges head on, this conference will feature the EECO Forum and four informative and exciting tracks.

UK eLearning Regions and Cities Conference **NEW!**

Oxford, UK, 21-22 June, 2005

The 2005 UK eLearning Regions and Cities Conference will bring together the most up to date information in eLearning for regional authorities. The 2005 conference will also work with groupings of regional stakeholders (e.g. the RDA, representatives from LEAs and from HE and FE institutions, local LSCs, employers and workforce representatives, as well as locally based technology providers) to work on regional strategy and tactics. Policy is all very well, but what is needed is a sense of mutually aware action: more than just talk.

Dynamics of Industry and Innovation: Organizations, Networks and Systems

Copenhagen, Denmark, 27-29 June, 2005

The DRUID Ten Year Anniversary Summer Conference will be held at the Copenhagen Business School. The conference's scientific committee will consider all papers in the order in which they arrive with respect to novelty, academic quality and the proposed paper's relation to the theme of the conference.

Clusters 2005 **NEW!**

Toulouse, France, 27-29 October, 2005

This conference will bring together academic and industrial decision makers and their municipal counterparts with a view to fostering debate and discussion about best practices with respect to the creation, management and development of technology clusters.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & COMMENTS

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Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think will find it of value. We look forward to collaborating with you on this initiative. If you would like to comment on, or contribute to, the content, subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact us at onris.progris@utoronto.ca.

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