



For Immediate Release
February 4, 2000

"Supporting and funding key research activities, attracting and keeping key scientists and training the next generation of knowledge workers will ensure Alberta's place in the new knowledge economy."

Dr. Lorne Taylor
Minister, Innovation and Science

Government invests \$22.3 million in provincial research initiatives

EDMONTON - Alberta universities and research institutions have been awarded a total of \$22.3 million through the 1999-2000 Alberta Science and Research Fund, supporting 29 research projects worth \$105.6 million.

Projects receiving funding this year include activities in the areas of energy, biotechnology, health, technology commercialization, information and communications technology, climate change and science awareness and education. Organizations receiving the funding include the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, The Banff Centre, the Alberta Cancer Board, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, the Netera Alliance and the Edmonton Space and Science Centre.

"The number and quality of applications received this year serve as a testament to the high level of research underway in this province," said ASRA Chairman Dr. Robert Church. "Strategic investment in the projects approved this year will maximize leverage from other funding agencies and help ensure Alberta's leadership in these important emerging fields."

"Research is the key to innovation, and innovation is the key to sustainable prosperity for Alberta in a knowledge-based economy," said Minister of Innovation and Science Lorne Taylor in making the funding announcement. "The projects we are funding through this year's Science and Research Fund will have an impact on our economy today in terms of jobs and opportunities for researchers and students, but just as importantly, it represents an investment in the future of the province and its people."

The Alberta Science and Research Fund was established in 1997 to support important strategic science and research initiatives that will produce human, social, environmental, or economic benefits for Albertans. The Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA) accepts applications, conducts peer reviews and assessments, and makes recommendations to the government on how it can best invest its research dollars. Emphasis is placed on projects where the provincial investment will be leveraged or matched by other public or private funding sources.

Information on the specific projects funded through this year's Science and Research Fund is attached. A copy of this news release and background materials can be found at www.innovation.gov.ab.ca.

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For more information, contact:

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Background

1999 - 2000 Alberta Science and Research Fund Allocations

Emphasis is placed on projects where the provincial investment will be leveraged or matched by other public or private funding sources. Projects selected for 1999-2000 funding will leverage three dollars for every dollar invested through the fund.

University of Alberta

Assessing Fluid Flow Characteristics in Bioturbated Media

Sector:
Total Project: Energy
Total ASRA: \$190,000
\$125,000

Flow Cytometer for Detection and Evaluation of Disinfection of Human Protozoa, Giardia and Cryptosporidium in Drinking Water

Sector:
Total project: Health
Total ASRA: \$646,000
\$131,000

U of A Research Transition Facility

Sector:
Total project: Technology Commercialization
Total ASRA: \$3,572,000
\$1,500,000

Sources, Deposition and Bioaccumulation of Mercury in Alberta

Sector:
Total project: Health
Total ASRA: \$610,000
\$305,000

Equipment Infrastructure for Olefin Polymerization Laboratory

Sector:
Total project: Tech. Comm.
Total ASRA: \$546,237
\$ 91,500

Development of a Wear/Surface Protection Program

Total project:
Total ASRA: \$1,225,000
\$ 499,800

Fundamental Geomechanics for Geological Sequestration of Greenhouse Gasses

Sector:
Total project: Climate Change
Total ASRA: \$821,000
\$627,000

Infrastructure for Shallow Geophysical Studies

Sector:
Total project: Energy
Total ASRA: \$1,836,000
\$ 776,000

A Diode Laser Based Gas Sensor for Environmental Monitoring

Sector:
Total project: Health
Total ASRA: \$264,500
\$ 58,500

Research Infrastructure for Experimental Computing

Sector:
Total project: Information and Communications
Total ASRA: Technology
\$2,742,000
\$1,322,500

Atom Manipulation Facility (Phase I)

Sector:
Total project: Information and Communications
Total ASRA: Technology
\$1,886,000
\$ 425,000

Polymeric Organic Materials for Applications in Information and Communications Technology

Sector:
Total project: Information and Communications
Total ASRA: Technology
\$1,367,000
\$ 259,000

University of Alberta/ Devonian Botanic Garden

Development of the Alberta Plant Diversity and Conservation Centre

Sector:
Total project: Agriculture
Total ASRA: \$3,291,000
\$ 100,000

University of Alberta/University of Calgary

Alberta Software Engineering Research Consortium

Sector:
Total project: Information and Communications
Total ASRA: Technology
\$5,517,000
\$1,800,000

University of Calgary

Biotechnology Training Centre

Sector:
Total project: Biotechnology
Total ASRA: \$853,000
\$493,000

Canadian Process Tomography Consortium

Sector:
Total project: Energy
Total ASRA: \$3,190,000
\$ 435,000

Translational Molecular Biology Research in Breast Cancer

Sector:
Total project: Health
Total ASRA: \$1,832,000
\$ 525,000

Galileo Educational Network Association/ University of Calgary

Constructing Knowledge Communities in Face-to-Face and Virtual Environments

Sector:
Total project: Awareness and Education
Total ASRA: \$4,945,000
\$ 600,000

Netera Alliance

Alberta Advanced Networking Infrastructure 2002

Sector:
Total project: Information and Communications
Total ASRA: Technology
\$27,200,000
\$ 1,800,000

Banff Centre

The New Media Institute Human Centered Interface Design project

Sector:
Total project: Information and Communications
Total ASRA: Technology
\$7,717,500
\$ 600,000

Alberta Science Literacy Association/ Science Alberta Foundation

Science Education Outreach Project

Sector:
Total project: Awareness and Education
Total ASRA: \$4,134,000
\$ 270,000

Edmonton Space and Science Centre

Scientist 2010 Computers

Sector:
Total project: Awareness and Education
Total ASRA: \$3,500,000
\$ 100,000

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

Carbon Dioxide Sequestration in Geological Media in Alberta

Sector:
Total project: Climate Change
Total ASRA: \$800,000
\$240,000

Alberta Research Council/Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

Sustainable Development of Coalbed Methane: Phase IIIA

Sector:
Total project: Climate Change
Total ASRA: \$3,650,000
\$1,500,000

Project totals:
ASRA funding total: \$82,335,237
\$14,583,300

Note: The preceding S&R Fund project list shows the 24 projects approved in December 1999. The list below details four projects which were approved in May, 1999.

Alberta Cancer Board/ University of Alberta
Medical Cyclotron Facility

Sector:
Total project: **Biotechnology**
Total ASRA: \$6,654,800
\$2,200,000

University of Alberta

Centre for the NMR Evaluation of Human Function and Disease

Sector:
Total project: **Biotechnology**
Total ASRA: \$12,355,730
\$ 4,382,865

University of Calgary

Nutraceutical Treatment of Mental Disorders

Sector:
Total project: **Biotechnology**
Total ASRA: \$926,957
\$588,757

Electron Probe Microanalyzer

Sector:
Total project: **Biotechnology**
Total ASRA: \$1,611,000
\$ 180,000

Canadian Petroleum Association

Flaring Technology Research Program

Sector:
Total project: **Energy**
Total ASRA: \$1,719,000
\$ 373,000

Project Totals:
ASRA funding totals: \$23,267,487
\$7,724,622

For more information, contact:

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