

Ideas



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION
A GPRC/PREDA Partnership

October, 2010

Celebrate! Educate! Motivate!

This issue of *Ideas* is dedicated to the theme - Celebrate! Educate! Motivate! So let's start with what you can look forward to this month.

The month of October will be a month of outstanding opportunities and celebrations.

The fun kicks off with Small Business Week, October 17-23. The Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual Proclamation Breakfast at Centre 2000 on October 18th. This will be followed by the Women in Business lunch on Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, the Chamber Trade Expo at the TEC Centre on Thursday and the Business Excellence Awards Gala at the GP Inn on Friday evening, will wrap up the week.

On that same Friday, October 22nd, the CRI will be hosting our 2010 Celebration of Innovation Awards Lunch from noon till 1:30 pm at the Holiday Inn. Grande Prairie Wapiti MLA, Wayne Drysdale will be presenting awards to this year's Innovation Voucher Recipients. As well, we will be recognizing two "Outstanding Peace Region Innovations" and one "Lifetime Achievement". The lunch will conclude with a few words from our MP, Chris

Warkentin.

Wednesday, October 27th is slated for the 2010 Celebration of Innovation Day from 8 am till 4:30 pm at the Cineplex Odeon Theatre. Enjoy an entire day of educational workshops and forums for the up-and-coming innovator and the tried-and-true entrepreneur. Plus, our keynote speaker will be world renowned innovator/aviator/motivator, Dick Rutan.

Rutan will relate stories of his Voyager flight around the world, record setting in a rocket powered airplane, and being stranded on the North Pole. He'll also share his views on believing in one's self and one's team, of setting goals and sub-goals and reaching toward the impossible.

And as if this wasn't enough, Donald Cooper returns to Grande Prairie with his transformational "Accelerate Your Business" workshop, only this time there's two days! Thursday and Friday, October 28 & 29, 7:30 am till 4:30 pm each day at the Holiday Inn. Cooper will teach you how to be a world class manager of your business, your team, your future and your bottom line.

To register or to find out more information for any CRI event go online at www.theCRI.ca.

Upcoming Events

Small Business Week October 17-23, 2010

Celebration of Innovation Awards Lunch - October 22

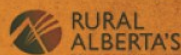
Noon - 1:30 pm
Holiday Inn, Salon B
Grande Prairie, AB

2010 Celebration of Innovation Day October 27

8 am - 4:30 pm
Cineplex Odeon Theatre
Grande Prairie, AB

Donald Cooper Workshop October 28 & 29

7:30 am - 4:30 pm each day
Holiday Inn, Salon B
Grande Prairie, AB



Innovative Business Services

Touted as Alberta's gateway to accurate, timely and relevant business information and resources, the **Business Link** is a Government of Alberta and Government of Canada funded not-for profit organization.

The Business Link was designed as a location for small businesses and promising entrepreneurs across Alberta to go to find the information, support and advice they need to succeed. It offers personal service over the phone or in person, a resource-full library, expert Guest Advisors, specialized services for Aboriginal business and immigrant entrepreneurs...or the basics in their Small Business Learning Sessions.

The website offers three main subject headings:

- **Business Information:** Information on 11 business-related topics (start-up, operations, financing, marketing, exporting, importing, e-business, innovation, legal, aboriginal business, and taxation). It identifies related government programs and services, and links to additional sources of information.
- **Business Resources:** Offers links to additional resources such as a database of government programs and services, their Info-Guides, a calendar of small business seminars and brown bag presentations that allows you to register online, a searchable library catalogue, information on the Guest Advisor Program

New Value-Added Connector Service

Article Supplied By Alberta Advanced Education and Technology

Whether it be Cold-fX, the SMART Board or an application that allows doctors to view medical scans from their iPHONE...all of these products and technologies have one thing in common...they are all examples of successful Alberta innovations that have had to go through the commercialization process.

Every innovative product or new technology has gone through the process of commercialization where access to information and resources often plays a critical role in getting products to market faster. And in Alberta this process has become easier thanks to the Alberta Innovates Connector, which is helping technology entrepreneurs and high-tech companies save time, energy and resources.

Since the Alberta Innovates Connector was launched in January 2010 it has helped technology businesses looking to develop prototypes and attract sources of venture capital, research organizations looking for the right partners to commercialize a technology and technology entrepreneurs like Nicole Wherry obtain the resources necessary to develop a new product for

"The Connector was a big value in helping me to understand what stage of development I am in and what resources and supports are available at this stage," said Wherry, the founder of Stimemed Technology Corporation, a high-tech company focused on developing new medical technologies. "The Connector advisor I spoke with took the time to understand my business needs and connect me with the right contacts and information."

Connector advisors have an in-depth knowledge of Alberta's research and innovation network and are equipped to help with simple to more complex cases including identifying the best options for addressing a callers needs and providing necessary information, connections and introductions.

The Alberta Innovates Connector is part of a provincial focus on finding ways to make it easier for people to invent, create, collaborate and generate new business opportunities that will make Alberta competitive in the global economy. Interested in learning more? Contact the Connector by telephone at 1-877-828-0444 or by e-mail at connector@albertainnovates.ca.

which allows you to discuss your business concerns with volunteer professionals, access to their regional sites, and useful links to organizations offering events for entrepreneurs and to additional sources of information.

- **Business Tools:** Gives you free on-line tools and tutorials.

You can visit their website, call them or visit them at either their Calgary or Edmonton locations to learn more. **The Business Link's** web site, Alberta's gateway to accurate, timely and relevant business information and resources.

Ideas

Robots? In Fairview?

If you think about industries in northern Alberta, agriculture, forestry, tourism, and oil and gas are likely to spring to mind. But if you look up to the skies in Fairview, you'll find a budding new industry that is destined to become a big part of our regional economy—unmanned vehicle systems (UVS).

Unmanned Vehicle Systems are very sophisticated uninhabited, unpiloted, remotely controlled robots that can be equipped to perform a variety of tasks. UVS can operate in the air, on land or on or below the surface of the water.

"Any job that is dull, dirty or dangerous is a UVS job," explains Dewar Donnithorne-Taite, President and CEO of the Medicine Hat based Canadian Centre for Unmanned Vehicle Systems (CCUVS). Donnithorne-Taite made the statement during his presentation in Fairview this September. This was his second visit to the area to promote the economic potential of UVS in the Peace.

Donnithorne-Taite's statement covers a broad range of uses from pipeline patrols to forestry surveys and spot crop pesticide spraying. Transport Canada's agency website states that UVS are ideal for high risk roles, atmospheric research, mineral explorations, police surveillance, cartography and much more.

Donnithorne-Taite, along with Peace River Economic Development Alliance (PREDA) advisor, Lloyd Sherk, who also has ties with the Centre for Research & Innovation, believes that the time for robotic systems, specifically aircraft, is now and that

Fairview is the ideal location.

"Fairview has a lot going for it," Sherk remarked. "The College, workshops, an airport off the main air routes, uncontrolled airspace, as well as lots of varied terrain for testing."

While unmanned systems have been providing useful services for decades mainly through the military, it is only recently that advances in computing, power and materials technologies have enabled increasingly rapid growth in unmanned systems applications. This growth has been triggered by a rising demand by the private sector for these applications. CCUVS in Medicine Hat now claims that 50 per cent of Canadian UVS companies are located in Alberta and that close to 25 per cent of global spending for UVS was earned in Canada. These numbers are current as of December, 2009.

It would seem than that we are just starting to scratch the surface of the UVS market. So why not robots in Fairview? With the Peace Region's excellent proximity to northern UVS markets and the ever expanding applications like energy, pipeline maintenance, surveying, mining and of course our vibrant agricultural industry with its automated machinery, monitoring and positioning applications, UVS could be the next boom for our Peace Region economy.

Dr. Rik Vandkerkhove, Dean of Trades, Agriculture and Environment, GPRC Fairview College Campus, commented that he would be excited to see a robotics industry

start in Fairview.

"The College," he said, "would be happy to participate and facilitate progress in that direction. Some of the existing trades programs could include mechanical applications relevant to the robotics industry, since many interfaces are possible in automation technologies."

Sherk is also convinced that Fairview is the place to start this new industry, and is already in discussions with interested stakeholders.



Another Successful Peace Region Innovation

Every inventor knows that inspiration can come from anywhere but it's when you act on that inspiration that you create innovation. Paul Dagesse accidentally kicked over a step stool while camping and became inspired by its honeycomb construction. Had he merely just set the stool up again, Rhinokore® would never have been.

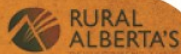
Born and raised in Manitoba, Dagesse moved to the Peace Region in 1978 to work on the rigs. The next year he went to work for TransPeace Construction in Fort St. John as a carpenter. His progression through the company was swift as after only five years he opened the office in Grande Prairie and bought out this same operation just three years later. It was at this point that the company began manufacturing polyurethane panels for the oil industry and Dagesse became very familiar with all types of insulating foams.

Fast forward twenty years to that eventful moment when Dagesse was inspired by a simple step stool's honeycomb construction and asked the question, "what if?" The answer led to years of research and design, and the development of Rhinokore®.

In 2008, Dagesse purchased the vacated Bigfoot Trailers location in Armstrong, B.C., and began manufacturing floating docks, rig mats, stabilization pads, boats, and a variety of other products all from infused, foam filled, honeycomb panels-Rhinokore®. The panels are light-weight, long-lasting and reusable allowing them to have unlimited applications.

Today Rhinokore® Composites Ltd. Has offices in Grande Prairie, Fort St. John and at their plant in Armstrong, BC. When asked what inspired him to reach this point, Dagesse replies simply, "Passion will create the perseverance to continue."

For more information on Rhinokore® Composites Ltd. go to their website at www.rhinokore.com.



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10726—106 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 4C4, Canada
Telephone: 780-539-2807
Toll Free: 1-877-539-2808
Facsimile: 780-539-2736
Email: info@TheCRI.ca
Website: www.TheCRI.ca

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Your comments and feedback are appreciated. Articles on topics relevant to innovation may be submitted for consideration.

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