



Ontario's Business-Savvy Biomaterials Team

Ontario Agri-Food Technologies
200-120 Research Lane
Guelph, ON, N1G 0B4
(519) 826-4195
www.ontariobioproducts-ateam
info@oaft.org

New Science Team Helps Companies Bring Bio-Based Products to Market Faster



For Immediate Release:

(Guelph, ON – March 22, 2012) A new cross-university team of world-class scientists will help Canadian companies get their innovative bioproducts to market faster.

The Ontario Biomaterials A-Team (www.ontariobioproducts-ateam.ca), led by Guelph-based Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, consists of 10 scientists with complementary skills and facilities, located at seven Ontario universities. The team understands the needs of business and the importance of performing services quickly and in total confidence. The scientists have a track record of working co-operatively when the best approach involves matching facilities and expertise from more than one university. Their collective expertise includes polymer, lipid and fibre chemical engineering, fibre-polymer bonding, physical micro-structures, bio-nanoparticles, civil engineering of large structures (bridges and buildings), auto parts design and manufacture, packaging, furniture, consumer products, life cycle analysis, software design, material testing, and more.

The Ontario Biomaterials A-Team will bring together the skilled people, sophisticated equipment, speed of service and confidentiality that companies require to fine-tune and test new products before they are brought to market. Until now, there has been support for basic research into biomaterials and bioproduct development. There has also been good support for product commercialization. With the A-Team, the gap between the two has now been filled.

Companies looking for this kind of help are encouraged to contact the Ontario Biomaterial A-Team via the web site, www.ontariobioproducts-ateam.ca, or Ontario Agri-Food Technologies (OAFT) at info@oaft.org. Business Development Managers of the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE, www.oce-ontario.org) are also available to help make connections. Both OAFT and OCE can provide help in accessing public funds. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is providing seed funding for this initiative as are the scientists themselves.

The team is coordinated by Ontario Agri-Food Technologies in cooperation with the Ontario Centres of Excellence and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Industry advisors are providing guidance.

The members of the Ontario Biomaterials A-Team and their associated universities are: Dr. Roman Maev and Dr. Elena Maeva, University of Windsor; Dr. Leonardo Simon and Dr. Raymond Legge, University of Waterloo; Dr. Amar Mohanty and Dr. Manjusri Misra, University of Guelph; Dr. John Vlachopoulos, McMaster University; Dr. Mohini Sain, University of Toronto; Dr. Suresh Narine, Trent University; and Dr. Amir Fam, Queen's University. More information on all members can be found at the Ontario Biomaterials A-Team web site.

For further information contact:

Dr. Gord Surgeoner
President, Ontario Agri-Food Technologies
(519) 826-4195
info@oaft.org

Dr. Terry Daynard
A-Team Coordinator
(519) 654-6768
tdaynard@sentex.net

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